

Heartland Regional Library System
Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Roll Call: The Heartland Regional Library Board met at the Belle Library for the July meeting. President Carole Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:00. The following board members were present: Carole Wagner, Toleda Jett, Lerilee Huhman, Stacey Dunham, Brittany Davenport, Heather Walker, and Rachel Williams. Genna Jett, Nora Bond, and Tierney Webb were absent.

Staff members present were Director Lisa Garro, Asst. Director Lysha Thompson, and library programmer Michelle Vaughn.

Public Comments: None.

Guest Presenter: Angie Hughes, with MOCAAT, presented to the board via Zoom. She explained how the investment program was designed to assist public entities like schools, libraries, and other public services. They have 3 priorities: safety, liquidity, and yield. There are several different ways to invest, like CDs, bonds, money markets, and can do a cash flow analysis. They can handle multiple accounts and operational accounts, such as the type that HRLS uses. If the HRLS board is interested in using their services, the board would need to present a resolution to join the MOCAAT organization. Ms. Hughes was very helpful in answering questions and offered help if other questions came up later.

After the Zoom meeting with Ms. Hughes ended, the board discussed the pros and cons for joining. It was favorably viewed by all and it was decided to sign the resolution to get the process started as quickly as possible.

Approval of Minutes: Rachel made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and Heather seconded the motion. All approved.

Financial Reports: The financial reports were approved after a motion was made by Lerilee and seconded by Toleda.

Approval of monthly expenditures and transfer of funds: Following the discussion, Stacey made a motion to approve the monthly expenditures and transfer of funds and Heather seconded. The motion passed.

Director's/Asst. Director's/Librarians' Reports: Michelle gave the programming librarians' reports. She shared the stats for the month and noted that attendance of programs has been great. The end of summer library program (SLP) celebration will be held at each branch with prizes given away. As soon as the SLP wraps up, planning the fall programming and school visits will begin. One upcoming event planned is a hair braiding class. See Miller and Maries county stats sheet for July for more details.

The Assistant Director's report:

- Visit to Eldon branch found a new tree in the children's section and a new magazine rack. A welcoming experience for all patrons.
- A visit to the Belle branch found it busy during story time. Also, a fantastic job serving patrons.
- A list of donations for the SLP was given.
- Upcoming: SLP wrap-up, MU Extension nutrition classes, back-to-school open houses, book sale

The Director's report:

- ❖ Thorough report on the work with LibraryMarket and website development
 - Nearing completion of the branding phrase
 - Working on the calendar – to improve navigating to find programming, etc.
 - A “sandbox” was created to experiment and practice using the calendar
 - Next will be conducting a comprehensive audit of the current website.
 - Logo review is almost complete, and focus will shift to developing the main navigation menu and organizing online resources
- ❖ State Aid reports are due at the end of July. Purchases were listed.

**See the Director's Report for July 2026 for more details.

Communications: Stacey shared a recent text she received that stated the Eldon Library has a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Old Business: Lisa received a purchase agreement from Hard Times for the agreed upon HRLS adjoining property. After reviewing the document, there were several errors: address was incorrect, no date, stated personal rather than commercial real estate, did not include paying for the survey, and no signature section. Lisa will ask Ms. Geerling, owner of Hard Times, to make the corrections and resubmit it to the board.

New Business: None.

District Board Reports: None.

Committee Reports: None.

HRLS Policies: The board will review the Library of Things Release and Use Agreement and discuss next month's meeting. The board will also review the Administrative Policies and will vote on it at the next meeting. Next item discussed was the holiday closings as this policy recently came up with staff. It was decided to leave the wording in the policy the same which states if an employee misses the chance to take off for a holiday because they aren't scheduled to work, they get another day off.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Reminder that at the August meeting both Maries and Miller boards will meet at 5:45 to vote on the tax levy prior to the HRLS meeting in Iberia. Stacey made the motion to adjourn at 7:36 and Brittany seconded. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted, Lerilee Huhman, HRLS secretary