



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular and Executive Sessions Minutes
Monday, February 16, 2026
5:00 p.m.
LINC Library Innovation Center
501 8th Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631

1.0 **OPENING OF MEETING AT 5:01PM**

1.1 Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

All Trustees were Present unless noted:

Chair Nick Nakamura

Vice-Chair Michael Wailes

Secretary/Treasurer Deana Lemos-Garcia

Trustee Jenna Evans was excused

Trustee Gerri Holton

Trustee Lisa Taylor

Trustee Patty Bodwell

Quorum was established.

Also Attending were:

Legal Counsel Bill Garcia

HPLD Staff: Dr. Matthew Hortt, Ian Holmes, Marjorie Elwood, Natalie Wertz, Niamh

Mercer, Rebecca Libersat, Kim Parker

Eaton Public Library Staff: Director Amber Greene, Daniel Carey

Northern Plains Public Library Director Lisa Bugbee

Platteville Public Library and Nantes Library Director Naomi Nguyen

Guest: James Sherman

Chair Nick Nakamura read the following statements into record:

High Plains Library District is dependent on the trust of its community to successfully achieve its mission. Therefore, it is crucial that all Trustees conduct business on behalf of the High Plains Library District with the highest level of integrity, truth, and honor, avoiding any impropriety or the appearance of impropriety.

At HPLD, we ASPIRE to help build community and be a valued community resource.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

MOTION to approve the agenda: Trustee Gerri Holton

SECOND: Secretary/Treasurer Deana Lemos-Garcia

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5:0

- 1.3 Approval of Consent Agenda
- a. January 12, 2026 Regular and Executive Sessions Meeting Minutes
MOTION to approve the agenda: Vice-Chair Michael Wailes
SECOND: Trustee Patti Bodwell
DISCUSSION: None
VOTE: 5:0
- 1.4 The Good We Do
- Dr. Hortt reported and showed photos of an interview that was done in the LINC Event Space recently. The Hispanic Women of Weld County were being interviewed, and it was broadcast live on Telemundo. The event space was seen on national television and word about Weld County and their organization was broadcast internationally. The space continues to be used very well.
- 1.5 Public Comment
- No public comment

2.0 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/ACTION

- 2.1 Member IGA Edit Recommendations (Action) - Dr. Matthew Hortt, HPLD Executive Director
- In 2020, the Inter-Governmental Agreements between branch and member libraries were updated and agreed upon. Since then, the list of services has been updated, but the body of the IGA has remained intact. This year, because of legal action that recently occurred between Lochbuie and Hudson, a *No Third-Party Clause* was added to the IGA, and because of that change, the door was opened to consider additional edits. Recommendations for edits were submitted by the Eaton Public Library, and Amber Greene, the Eaton Public Library Director, spoke to the Board about them.

She thanked Dr. Hortt for his collaboration on the IGA and added that patrons love being a part of the district and use multiple library locations, then praised the advantages of being a part of HPLD. However, there are some areas that are not working as well as they could, in Eaton's estimation. She suggested three ideas that can improve: (1) establish clearly defined service standards and give Members a voice in creating them; (2) clarify the use of taxpayer funds; and (3) implement and expand a local delivery service model, as is done with the training fund that the district provides to member libraries.

Lisa Bugbee, Northern Plains Public Library Director, also expressed her appreciation to the district, and gave an example of how the standards can be improved. The district-approved printers are large for her small building, and so smaller machines would work better for NPPL. She also thanked Dr. Hortt for guiding her through this process.

Direction to Staff will be made after this evening's executive session.

- 2.2 Policy Updates (Action) - Dr. Matthew Hortt, HPLD Executive Director
- Staff review and update policies on a regular basis. The policies being updated at this follow: For more information, you can find the policies in the [Board Packet](#).
- a. Weapons Policy
- Changes in this policy include more closely aligning the wording with the Colorado Constitution, adding local ordinances for Grover and Mead Libraries, and adding Person-In-Charge to the list who may contact police. Trustee Holton and Trustee Wailes suggested

a couple of changes, and those will be made.

- b. Genealogy Collection Policy
The only change made was for consistency in wording.
- c. Scope of Collection Policy
Per discussion at last month's board meeting, this policy now states that donated yearbooks displaying photos of minors will not be added to the collection until four years after publication.
- d. Internet Use Policy
This update contains changes to clarify the wording and update the description of the internet and libraries.

MOTION to approve the policy updates with the suggested amendments: Vice-Chair Michael Wailes

SECOND: Secretary/Treasurer Deana Lemos-Garcia

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5:0

2.3 Strategic Plan Updates (Information) - Dr. Matthew Hortt, HPLD Executive Director

- a. Construction Updates
The DSS archival shelving and elevator have been installed. Temporary Occupancy is expected to be received on April 13th, and the project is on budget and schedule. The Mead Library beam signing had approximately 50 people in attendance, and staff saw a lot of excitement in the community over it. The expected completion date is projected to be in August.
- b. Staff are continuing to work on preparing for the Workforce Development Vehicle, and the PopUp vehicle is testing routes and conducting surveys. Unfortunately, the expected delivery date of the vehicle of July 4th has been moved to October because the manufacturer has a priority federal contract that supersedes all other projects. Therefore, the plans to have it at the Stampede will not work. Because of the delay, the District will work with Employment Services to determine the next steps forward and look at using existing vehicles, such as the PopUp or Sprinter van.
Trustee Lisa Taylor added that the Weld Trust is happy to work with HPLD in terms of modifying grant timelines for recording purposes. They'll do whatever they can to make this work.
- c. Literacy
ReadCon is scheduled for April 24th, 5:30 to 8:30p.m., at LINC. There will be three authors: Leigha Huggins, Kristin Koval, and Lisa Zimmerman, and copies of their books were given to the Board Trustees.
The Signature Author event is being brought back and will be at UNC on Aug. 15th, and Danny Trejo will be the signature author.

For Information Only. No Action Needed.

3.0 DIRECTORS REPORT

- 3.1 Review Draft Agenda – Dr. Matthew Hortt, HPLD Executive Director
 - a. March 16, 2026 RS
Staff will remove action item 5.2

- 3.2 District Updates – Dr. Matthew Hortt, HPLD Executive Director
Staff are working on the Public Library Annual Report for the State Library’s Library Research Service.

Milliken Library will have a wall signing on March 25th from 3:00 to 5:00pm.

The library district will have an HPLD Staff Art Show from May 1 through May 31 in the LINC art gallery.

The Town of Erie has approached HPLD again about redrawing the boundary lines between the Erie Community Library and Rec Center.

The Greeley Creative District thanked the board for all the support that the district provided to them through sharing survey results and furniture for their new building.

The Pawnee School District and HPLD staff are continuing to communicate about the bookmobile and books.

The Town of Lochbuie Administrator and Hudson Library Director had a good luncheon meeting with Dr. Hortt. They talked through concerns and seemed to be interested in exploring how to move forward to expand services to Lochbuie.

4.0 BOARD COMMENTS

- 4.1 Chair Nakamura expressed gratitude for supporting rights and protections under the 2nd amendment
- 4.2 Vice-Chair Wailes reported on a HPLD Foundation meeting, and things are looking good. He went to the beam signing at Mead, and was surprised at the progress made on the building. He said it was great to see the community, and good things are happening there.
- 4.3 Secretary/Treasurer Lemos-Garcia thanked Lisa, Amber and Naomi for being at the meeting and for sharing their perspective on the IGA. She appreciates the District’s community involvement, such as providing space for the Hispanic Women of Weld County and partnering with the Creative District.
- 4.4 Other Board Members
- Trustee Holton said she is excited about the Signature Author event and Readcon, and is glad we are focusing on literacy and doing so much with the makerspaces, programming, and library of things.
 - Trustee Bodwell went to the Mead beam signing event and was excited to see all the community people there. She also went to Kersey and was pleased to see all the space that the location has.
 - Trustee Taylor thanked the Member Library Directors for being at the meeting. She also appreciates the care and thoughtfulness that goes into creating the policies.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR SESSION AT 5:53PM AND CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:01PM

MOTION to adjourn the HPLD Board Meeting Regular Session and move into Executive Session per section 24-6-402(4) of the Colorado Revised Statutes for the sole purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations regarding the Member Library IGA and discussing personnel matters regarding Dr. Hortt’s performance

appraisal: Vice-Chair Michael Wailes

SECOND: Trustee Gerri Holton

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5:0

5.1 C.R.S § 24-6-402(4)(e) - Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations – Member Library IGA

5.2 C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(f) Personnel Matters – Matthew Hortt’s Performance Appraisal

An executive session of the Board of Trustees of the High Plains Library District convened at 6:01pm on February 16, 2026 for the sole purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations regarding the Member Library IGA and discussing personnel matters regarding Dr. Hortt’s performance appraisal as authorized by C.R.S § 24-6-402(4). Attending were Board Trustees Nick Nakamura, Michael Wailes, Deana Lemos-Garcia, Gerri Holton, Lisa Taylor, and Patty Bodwell; Legal Counsel Bill Garcia; and HPLD staff Matthew Hortt and Natalie Wertz. During the executive session, the Board did not engage in substantive discussion of any matter not enumerated in C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4). The Board did not adopt any policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation, or take any formal action. The executive session meeting was adjourned at 7:01pm.

6.0 RECONVENING OF REGULAR SESSION AT 7:03PM

6.1 Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

All Trustees were Present unless noted:

Chair Nick Nakamura

Vice-Chair Michael Wailes

Secretary/Treasurer Deana Lemos-Garcia

Trustee Jenna Evans was excused

Trustee Gerri Holton

Trustee Lisa Taylor was excused

Trustee Patty Bodwell

6.2 Approval of Dr. Hortt’s Outside Consulting Business

MOTION to approve Dr Hortt’s outside consulting: Vice-Chair Michael Wailes

SECOND: Secretary/Treasurer Deana Lemos-Garcia

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 4:0

7:0 ADJOURNMENT at 7:04PM

There being no further business,

MOTION to adjourn the meeting: Trustee Gerri Holton

SECOND: Secretary/Treasurer Deana Lemos-Garcia

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 4:0

Upcoming meetings:

March 16, 2026 at 5:00p.m.: HPLD Board of Directors Meeting - Regular Session
LINC Library Innovation Center, 501 8th Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631

Deana Lemos-Garcia

HPLD Board Secretary/Treasurer
Deana Lemos-Garcia

Kim Parker

Recording Secretary
Kim Parker