



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Session Minutes

Monday, May 18, 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 Michael Wailes

Vice-Chair Deana Lemos-Garcia

Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Taylor arrived at 5:04pm

Trustee Jenna Evans

Trustee Gerri Holton

Trustee Patty Bodwell

Quorum was established.

Also Attending were:

Legal Counsel Bill Garcia

HPLD Staff: Eric Ewing, Natalie Wertz, Dt. Matthew Hortt and Kim Parker

Guest: Quentin Rockwell

Chair Wailes 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: Vice-Chair Deana Lemos-Garcia

SECOND: Trustee Patty Bodwell

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 4:0

Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Taylor arrived at 5:04pm

1.3 Approval of Consent Agenda

a. April 20, 2026 Regular and Executive Sessions Meeting Minutes

MOTION to approve the consent agenda: Vice-Chair Deana Lemos-Garcia

SECOND: Trustee Jenna Evans

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5:0

1.4 The Good We Do

Rather than reporting on accomplishments that have been made, Dr. Hortt reported on what the District is currently doing and will be doing. Today is the official start to the Summer Reading Adventure. The theme is *Unearth the Story*, and it is a super exciting time of the year.

1.5 Public Comment

No public comment

2.0 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/ACTION

2.1 Salary Survey (Information) - Dr. Matthew Hortt, HPLD Executive Director & Eric Ewing, Associate Director of Human Resources

A salary consultant was brought in to look at market rates to ensure that HPLD is competitive. The result of the survey was a 7.3% increase across the board, which went into effect on April 12th. Because the increase was within the budgeted amount, the Board does not need to take action.

Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Taylor thanked Eric Ewing for taking the time to make sure the District retains employees and stays competitive.

For Information Only. No Action Needed.

2.2 Executive Director Performance Review/Salary (Action) - Eric Ewing, Associate Director of Human Resources

Eric Ewing announced that at the last board meeting's Executive Session, Trustees discussed Dr. Hortt's salary and requested to add a vote to this meeting.

MOTION to approve the updated salary of \$213,900 per year for the Executive Director effective on April 12th: Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Taylor

SECOND: Trustee Patty Bodwell

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5:0

2.3 Proposed Member IGA Additional Language (Action) - Dr. Matthew Hortt, HPLD Executive Director

This discussion started with the legal action by Lochbuie toward Hudson. Legal Counsel's advice was to add a *No Third Party Clause* to the Inter-Governmental Agreements, and the change was drafted and approved by Legal Counsel, and then the Board gave direction to move forward with it. A letter to each of the Member Libraries has been drafted and approved by Legal Counsel. Dr. Hortt and the trial attorney who helped the District, meet with representatives from Hudson on Friday and will start taking it to each Member town board. The feedback from Hudson was that they recommend making it a separate section, rather than a *Whereas* statement, so that change will be made. Trustee Gerri Holton suggested that a due date is added to the letter.

Staff recommend that the board approve the letter and provide direction for the letter to be sent out.

MOTION to approve the IGA additional language as amended with a 60-day timeline:

Trustee Gerri Holton

SECOND: Vice-Chair Deana Lemos-Garcia

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5:0

2.4 Data Dashboard (Information) - Dr. Matthew Hорт, HPLD Executive Director

As part of the Building a Better Organization initiative, an Impact Analysis Data Dashboard has been created that uses the data from the Public Library Annual Report and includes historical data from HPLD's Gather, Get, Grow categories. Dr. Hорт presented the report and explained the figures.

For Information Only. No Action Needed.

2.5 IMLS Funding Update (Information) - Dr. Matthew Hорт, HPLD Executive Director

Federal funds for libraries are distributed through the Institute of Museum and Library Services; and in Colorado, the funds go to the Colorado State Library and then grants to libraries come from the state budget. Last year, there were changes in the IMLS including changes in leadership, and the White House proposed that all funding to IMLS be dropped this year. However, that was overturned, and Congress not only matched last year's budget but also increased it by \$1,400,000, making the total \$212,500,000.

For 2027, the proposed federal budget again eliminated IMLS funding and only included \$6,000,000 to wind down the agency. There has been an effort from libraries to advocate for Congress to act, and HPLD staff sent a letter of support to the federal representatives.

For Information Only. No Action Needed.

2.6 Strategic Plan Updates (Information) - Dr. Matthew Hорт, HPLD Executive Director

a. Construction Updates

The Library & Archive and DSS Expansion has received temporary occupancy, furniture has been installed, and punch list items are being worked on. Marketing is putting together the flyers for the grand opening, which is tentatively planned for June 27th.

In Mead, drywall and the exterior soffit are almost complete, and the ladders up to the roof have been started. It is expected to be completed in August, with an open date in September or October.

b. Workforce Development

The vehicle is still in a holding pattern, and test stops continue to be done. Interviews were done and a job offer has been made for a Workforce Librarian, and they will be working with the Pop-Up team until the vehicle has arrived.

c. Literacy

ReadCon had 90 attendees and got very positive feedback.

As was mentioned earlier, today is the first day of the Summer Reading Adventure. The Signature Author Event with Danny Trejo that will take place on August 15th is moving forward.

For Information Only. No Action Needed.

3.0 DIRECTORS REPORT

- 3.1 Review Draft Agenda – Dr. Matthew Hortt, HPLD Executive Director
a. June 15, 2026 RS

- 3.2 District Updates – Dr. Matthew Hortt, HPLD Executive Director

The Raymer Mercantile opened on April 25th. In addition to having computers and a printer in that space, this summer the Bookmobile will visit the location bi-monthly on Wednesdays from 11:00am to noon and do a storytime and an SRA program. There's also a Genealogy program scheduled. Furthermore, the Pop-Up team will be at the Northeast Weld County Fair and Rodeo.

The Milliken Public Library open house was a huge success.

LINC and other locations have lost the grant for the Aurora Mental Health ESL classes, so the classes will end in May. Hopefully, funding will be found to allow classes to begin again in the fall.

There have been six applicants for the open Board position, but two of them live in the Clearview Library District service area and so are not eligible. Applications will be accepted through this work week.

There continues to be a lot of hiring done in the District.

Staff have started to look at what land would look like in Erie for a second location, and the next step will be to start talking to developers about locations.

The Rocky Mountain Performance Group, the Baldrige group in the area, will host a *Getting Better at Getting Better* workshop at Centennial Park Library on June 4th.

4.0 BOARD COMMENTS

- 4.1 Chair Wailes shared that the Milliken event was fantastic. It is exciting for them to go from the small space to this, and there is still a lot of talk. It has taken him a year to notice all the behind-the-scenes things that go on in the District, and he appreciated the Pop-Up vehicle being there
- 4.2 Vice-Chair Lemos-Garcia thanked Matt for the SRA reminder, and she learned that there is an adult category so she signed up for it. She went to the Milliken open house; there were a lot of people, and it was very positive and amazing. Also, she thanked Kim for sending the calendar invites.
- 4.3 Secretary/Treasurer Taylor was glad ReadCon was a success and is excited about SRA and the theme. She gave a shout-out to all library staff because it is a hectic time. Also, there are a lot of opportunities for the board this summer with all the activities going on.
- 4.4 Other Board Members
Trustee Evans thanked everyone for the updates. She congratulated the Marketing team for the great reminders and publicity on SRA. She went to Milliken and loved the Maker Space. It was well organized and impressive, and they did a great job. Also, it sounds like there will be a lot of fun events to attend this summer.

Trustee Holton gave a shout-out to ReadCon, which she attended. It was amazing and there were a lot of aspiring authors there who received great information from the speakers. The speakers were engaging and inspiring, and the catering by the Kress was excellent.

Trustee Bodwell went to New Raymer and they are excited about the PCC. They were all about genealogy and the class. She went to Milliken and was impressed with the Maker Space. It was a nice layout. She thanked Lynde and the bookmobile for going to the rural areas for SRA, and she thanked James Melena for the 3' x 6' poster that the kids will put stickers on. Lynde plays a big part in that and is a big help.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT AT 6:08PM

There being no further business,

MOTION to adjourn the meeting: Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Taylor

SECOND: Vice-Chair Deana Lemos-Garcia

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: 5:0

Upcoming meetings:

June 15, 2026 at 5:00p.m.: HPLD Board of Directors Meeting - Regular Session
Erie Community Library, 400 Powers St, Erie, CO 80516

Lisa Taylor

HPLD Board Secretary/Treasurer
Lisa Taylor

Kim Parker

Recording Secretary
Kim Parker