

**MINUTES**

**Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting – January 20, 2026**

The Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at the Central Branch, Annex Board Room, 14 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pete Browne, President  
Susan Kenney  
India Williams  
Reid Day

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Jonathan Kemper  
Laura Dominik  
Claudia Oñate Greim  
Elizabeth Warwick

**STAFF PRESENT:** Abby Yellman, Chief Executive  
Pritha Hariharan, Assistant Director / Chief Operating Officer  
Anthoy Trakas, Finance Manager  
Candice Butler-Titus, Executive Services Senior Manager  
Joel Jones, Deputy Director for Library Services  
Carrie Coogan, Deputy Director for Public Affairs and Community Engagement  
Crystal Faris, Deputy Director of Youth and Family Engagement  
Jami Hrenchir, Chief People Officer  
Melissa Carle, Director of Information Services  
Kaite Stover, Director of Readers Services  
Sage Lore, Administrative Officer

\* Full list of staff in attendance available by request

Browne called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

It was determined that a quorum was not present as only four of eight Board Members were in attendance. Since a quorum was not present, no official business was conducted, and no votes or formal action was taken.

Yellman discussed the Director’s Report regarding the following topics:

- **2026 CEO Priorities**

Yellman presented a dashboard to track priorities for the new year. Green indicates work that is on track such as the strategic plan, currently at 90% and scheduled for board adoption in February. Yellow reflects initiatives that are progressing but are not yet ready for action, such as the facilities plan, with updates expected in March. Red identifies items that have not yet begun, including the organizational culture and climate survey which are scheduled for later in the year. The dashboard also highlights ongoing priorities like external relations, legislative work, professional growth, and development. The dashboard is intended to provide transparency, manage expectations around timing, and give the board a clear snapshot of progress.

- **2026 Legislative Session**

Legislative activity is accelerating, with a growing number of bills introduced in this session. Yellman thanked the legislative working committee and executive team members for their collaborative review of proposed bills. Support from the organization’s lobbyist has been strong, playing a key role in evaluating which bills are acceptable and which raise concerns.

Yellman highlighted upcoming advocacy efforts, including Missouri Library Association (MLA) Advocacy Day on February 3, with several staff members attending. The Library is actively tracking numerous bills, including a growing number related to property taxes, as well as legislation affecting political subdivisions, the Port Authority, and Jackson County/Kansas City matters.

- **December Staff Highlights**

Recent highlights include the conclusion of the Understanding Alzheimer’s Series by Jamie Placht, and the successful Noon Year’s Eve Party hosted at the Plaza for youth patrons.

There was no old business for discussion.

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**With no quorum present and no official business conducted, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date