

PIONEERLAND LIBRARY SYSTEM
EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday, September 18, 2025, Willmar Library Multipurpose room

Members present: John Winter, Bill Paterson, Duane Anderson, Scott Peterson, Greg Thole, Dale Anderson, Bill Thyne, Mitch Kling, Kurt Stranberg, and Cheryl VanNoort. Admin Staff on site: Laurie Ortega, Director. Guest: Andrew Bregar, Head librarian, Willmar and Todd Fritsche (Bird Island) Absent: Eric Rudningen

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Duane Anderson. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Dale Anderson, seconded by Kling.
Minutes of the August 21, 2025, Executive/Finance Committee were approved on a motion by Winter, seconded by Paterson.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Finance Committee:

- 1) The August 2025 Financial Report** was approved on a motion by Kling, seconded by Thyne.
- 2) Bills and Check Registers** were approved on a motion by Stranberg, seconded by VanNoort.

B. Personnel Committee:

- **New Hires:** The following new hires were approved on a motion by Paterson, seconded by Thole: Melissa Weinand, Library Asst. II, Litchfield
Abbey Rogers, Library Asst. II, Litchfield
Callie Streblow, Library Asst. III, Granite Falls
Emma Suter, Library Asst. II, Montevideo/Granite Falls

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) RLBSS FY25 final report & RLBSS FY24 Final Payment Report:** Authorization to sign/submit the FY25 RLTA final report and the RLBSS FY24 final payment report was given on a motion by Winter, seconded by Peterson.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:

A. PFML update: PLS administration has had conversations with both MetLife and NIS (the Alera Group) regarding PFML. Both of them are on the state approved list of private providers. Employers are allowed to choose a private plan in lieu of the state plan if comparable. Both providers quoted rates slightly under the state tax rate of .88% (.79% & .78% respectively). PLS does not currently do business with MetLife and cannot meet their deadline for notification. NIS currently provides life insurance and voluntary long-term disability plans to PLS and their deadline is flexible. Ortega is leaning towards signing on with the Alera Group for at least the first year as this is so new for the state and the Alera Group has experience in PFML in other states and will likely be able to provide more support. This item will be on the agenda at the October board meeting for discussion and final approval.

B. FY26 e-rate update: No news. We are still waiting for approval of the Willmar Independent School District application which will enable the reviewer to approve PLS's application. Ortega hopes to have more information at the October meeting.

OTHER: Next board meeting scheduled for October 16, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m. (Finance @ 6:30)
Executive/Finance Meetings: November 20 and December 18 @ 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:30 p.m.

Recording Secretary – Laurie Ortega