

PIONEERLAND LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 16, 2025, 7:00 p.m. Willmar Public Library Multipurpose Room

The October 16, 2025, meeting of the Pioneerland Library System board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Eric Rudningen. Roll call was taken and introductions were made.

Admin Staff present: Laurie Ortega, Executive Director. Guest attending: Allison Broesder, Head Librarian, Madison/Canby/Dawson.

The agenda was approved on a motion by VanOrt, seconded by Winter.

Minutes of the June 12, 2025, Board meeting and the September 18, 2025, Executive/Finance meeting were approved on a motion by Thole, seconded by Golde.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. **The September 2025 Financial Report** was approved on a motion by Rudningen, seconded by Peterson.
2. **Bills and check registers** were approved on a motion by Rudningen, seconded by Stranberg.
3. **The 2026 Preliminary Budget** was approved as presented on a motion by Rudningen, seconded by Stafford.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

1. **New Hires:** The following new hire was approved on a motion by Thyne, seconded by Duane Anderson: Toby Rogers, Library Asst. II, Spicer/New London

POLICY COMMITTEE

1. **Animals in the Library** policy was approved on a motion by Stafford, seconded by Mertens.
2. **Work from Home** policy was approved on a motion by Fritsche, seconded by Stafford.

OLD BUSINESS – No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. MN Paid Leave: The PLS Director is recommending going with National Insurance Systems (NIS) Alera Group to implement MN Paid Family Leave rather than the MN state plan. While the payroll tax % for the Alera Group is slightly less than the state plan, the primary reason for this recommendation is that the Alera Group has significant experience implementing PFML in other states and will likely be able to provide more support. On a motion by Stafford, seconded by VanOrt, the board approved NIS Alera Group for implementation of PFML.

DIRECTORS REPORT

- A) 2026 Health Insurance:** The 2026 health insurance renewal came in calculated to a 12% premium increase. Open enrollment information will be sent to staff as soon as we are able, and preliminary budget numbers revised once enrollment information has been received.
- B) Union Negotiations:** An ‘Intent to Negotiate’ notice from AFSCME on behalf of the head librarians group has been received. The PLS Negotiations Committee will be notified as to meeting dates etc. as this process moves forward.

C) E-rate application: No update to report. With the federal government shutdown, the review process is most likely at a standstill.

OTHER

- A.** The next board meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m. (Finance @ 6:30)
Executive/Finance meetings: November 20 & December 18 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:25 p.m.
Recording secretary, Laurie Ortega