

PIONEERLAND LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 15, 2026, 7:00 p.m. Willmar Public Library Multipurpose Room

The January 15, 2026, meeting of the Pioneerland Library System board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Eric Rudningen. Roll call was taken, introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

Admin Staff: Laurie Ortega, Director

Guest attending: Andrew Bregar, Head Librarian, Willmar; Chris Yard, Head Librarian, Benson/Kerkhoven.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Stafford, seconded by Thyne.

Minutes of the October 16, 2025, board meeting and the December 18, 2025, Executive/Finance Committee were approved on a motion by Dale Anderson and seconded by Thole.

The following slate of officers for 2026 was proposed. A call for nominations from the floor was given. There were no nominations from the floor.

1. Board Chair: Eric Rudningen (City of Kerkhoven)
2. Vice Chair: Duane Anderson (Kandiyohi County)
3. Secretary: John Winter (City of Glencoe)
4. Treasurer: Bill Paterson (City of Willmar)
5. Finance Chair: Mitch Kling (Yellow Medicine County)

The slate of officers was approved unanimously as proposed on a motion by Stafford, seconded by VanOrt.

The following list of members to the finance committee was approved as presented following a motion by Stafford, seconded by Hanson:

1. Bill Thyne (Big Stone County)
2. Dale Anderson (Kandiyohi County)
3. Cheryl VanOrt (Meeker County)
4. Scott Peterson (City of Granite Falls)
5. Kurt Stranberg (Chippewa County)
6. Greg Thole (Lac qui Parle County)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. **The December 2025 (preliminary) Financial Report** was approved on a motion by Stafford, seconded by Thole.
2. **Bills and check registers** were approved on a motion by Stafford, seconded by Thole.
3. **The final 2026 Budget** was approved as presented on a motion by Stafford, seconded by VanOrt.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

1. New Hires: The following new hire was approved on a motion by VanOrt, seconded by Hanson: Kathy Peters, Library Assistant II, Litchfield.

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

The 2026-2027 union agreement was approved as presented on a motion by Stafford, seconded by Thyne. Wage and benefit changes were extended to non-union staff on a motion by Stafford, seconded by Rotunda. Changes are retroactive to January 1, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS – No old business.

NEW BUSINESS – No new business.

DIRECTORS REPORT

- A. 2026 Committee Preference forms:** Ortega requests that board members complete the committee preference form they were given and return to her. Committee appointments will be made at the February 19, 2026, Executive/Finance meeting. If you do not have a committee preference you will be assigned where needed.
- B. E-rate application update:** Ortega has received no additional information on the status of the PLS e-rate application as of today. Peterson mentioned that he believes the Willmar School District application has been approved and that we should be receiving notification soon. Ortega will watch for that email.

OTHER

- A.** The next board meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m. (Finance @ 6:30)
Executive/Finance meetings: February 19, March 19 @ 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:26 p.m.

Recording secretary, Laurie Ortega