

## **PIONEERLAND LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, April 16, 2026, 7:00 p.m. Willmar Public Library Multipurpose Room

The April 16, 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; Jason Frank, Head Librarian, Ortonville/Graceville.

**The agenda** as amended was approved on a motion by Thole, seconded by Thyne.

**Minutes** of the January 15, 2026, board meeting and the March 19, 2026, Executive/Finance Committee were approved on a motion by Thyne and seconded by VanOrt.

**The 2025 audit** was presented by David Eurlle of Westberg Eischens PLLP.

The 2025 audit was accepted by the board on a motion by VanOrt, seconded by Cacka.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

1. **The March 2026 Financial Report** was approved on a motion by Kling, seconded by Stranberg.
2. **Bills and check registers** were approved on a motion by Kling, seconded by Peterson.

#### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

1. **New Hires:** The following new hire was approved on a motion by Shuldes, seconded by Paterson: Lindsey Peters, Library Assistant II, Willmar.
2. **Incoming Director:** The hiring committee is pleased to announce that Rachelle Golde has been selected as the new PLS executive director following the upcoming retirement of current director Ortega. Rachelle is currently the head librarian for the Spicer, New London, Lake Lillian, Atwater and Raymond libraries. She will transition into her new role over the next couple months prior to Ortega stepping away in early July.

**OLD BUSINESS** – No old business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **SWWC Service Cooperative:** Motion made by Duane Anerson, seconded by Fritsche, for Ortega to move forward with contracting with SWWC Service Cooperative for management of PLS's e-rate process. Motion approved with Peterson abstaining.

#### **DIRECTORS REPORT**

- A. 2025 Year in Review:** Handout shared outlines usage statistics across Pioneerland Library System in 2025. The numbers are gathered from the annual report submitted to the state each year. Usage statistics for 2025 show an increase over 2024 in most categories.
- B. Retirement Date:** Ortega is anticipating a retirement date in early July. She will work with the incoming director to ensure a smooth handover before stepping away.
- C. OTHER**

A. The next board meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m. (Finance @ 6:30)  
Executive/Finance meetings: May 21 & July 16 @ 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:45 p.m.

Recording secretary, Laurie Ortega