

PIKES PEAK LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AUGUST 20, 2025 5 PM
LIBRARY 21C - VENUE



VIRTUAL MEETING (ZOOM)

CALL IN: 1-253-215-8782 OR 1-312-626-6799 OR 1-669-900-6833 OR 1-346-248-7799
MEETING ID: 858 9408 7095
PASSCODE: 285387

*Anyone interested in making a public comment at this meeting must sign up before 5 p.m.
Please arrive or log in (if attending virtually) early. Meeting room doors will open by 4:30 p.m.*

The virtual meeting will open by 4:45 p.m.

*The Board President will invite agenda-related public comment(s) before Business Items are discussed.
One hour of public comment for items not on today's agenda will occur before the end of the meeting.
One public comment per person.*

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President Julie Smyth, Vice President Aaron Salt, Secretary/Treasurer Scott Taylor, Erin Bents, Angela Dougan, Debbie English, Dora Gonzales

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Teona Shainidze-Krebs, Chief Communications & Marketing Officer Denise Abbott, Chief Human Resources and Organizational Development Officer Timothy Allen, Director of Programming Melody Alvarez, Chief Facilities and Security Officer Michael Brantner, Director of Strategy & Innovation Becca Cruz, Director of Regional History & Genealogy Michael Doherty, Executive Assistant Laura Foster, Director of PR, Marketing and Promotions Amy Gillentine, Director of Adult Education Sandy Hancock, Kimberly Hincapie, Controller Kim Hoggatt, Friends of PPLD Board of Directors President Rita Jordan, , Chief Operations Officer (COO) Heather Laslie, Deputy CEO Tammy Sayles, Ruth Holley Library and Sand Creek Library Manager Sara Sharples, Chief Information Technology Officer Dan Stone, Public Services Administrative Specialist Nicole Taylor, Senior Director of Development and Foundation Executive Director Courtney VanCleave, Internal Communications and Special Projects Manager Jeremiah Walter, Director of Security Tess Warren, Randi B., James Gleason, City Councilmember Nancy Henjum, Courtney Leigh, Jon Manuell, Legal Counsel Debbie Menkins, County Commissioner Lauren Nelson, Angelique Peralta, Andy Thompsen, Terry Zarsky, Danielle, Leigh, Karin, Kathleen

CALL TO ORDER

President Julie Smyth called the August 20, 2025 regular meeting of the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees to order at 5:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEMS TOO LATE FOR THE AGENDA

None

CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESENTATIONS

Introduction of new staff and staff promotions

Chief Communications Officer Denise Abbott introduced Director of PR, Marketing & Promotions Amy Gillentine.

Literacy Matters Presentation

Programming Director Melody Alvarez, Adult Education Director Sandy Hancock, and COO Heather Laslie provided an overview of literacy ratings across the PPLD service area.

REPORTS

Internal Affairs Committee

Internal Affairs Committee Chairperson Erin Bents stated the committee met and held an Executive Session to discuss the potential property purchases on tonight's agenda.

Public Affairs Committee

Public Affairs Committee Chairperson Debbie English stated that the committee did not meet.

Governance Committee

Governance Committee Chairperson Angela Dougan stated the committee met and reviewed the Board bylaws, a decision on tonight's agenda.

Trustee comments

Debbie attended the Foundation Pickleball event.

Julie Smyth welcomed County Commissioner Lauren Nelson as a new Joint Appointment Committee (JAC) member.

Julie Smyth shared that the JAC continues the trustee appointment process and will meet in September.

Friends of Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) Report

The Friends of PPLD report was included in the board packet. Friends of PPLD Board of Directors President Rita Jordan shared they have accepted over 150 boxes of donated materials, and continues to accept donations for the book sale October 9 – 12, 2025 at East Library. \$720 worth of books were sold at the EA Summer Adventure party.

Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) Foundation Report

The PPLD Foundation report was included in the Board packet. Senior Director of Development and Foundation Executive Director Courtney VanCleave thanked all those who made the Pickleball Tournament a success.

Financial Report May, June and July 2025

The May, June and July 2025 Financial reports were included in the Board packet. Controller Kim Hoggatt stated 94.8% of revenue has been collected for the year.

Public Services Report

The Public Services report was included in the Board packet. Deputy CEO Tammy Sayles thanked the Facilities department for increased ADA accessibility at Palmer Lake Library. High Prairie Library collected 173 lbs. of food for the Fresh Start Center.

RH&G has completed uploading John Bates WWII film. Training is underway for the transition to the new ILS that will launch in December. An announcement to the public will be released in September.

Support Services Reports: Communications; Facilities, Safety & Security; Human Resources; Information Technology, Strategy & Innovation

The Support Services reports were included in the Board packet. There were no questions.

CEO Report

The Strategic Plan Q2 report was included in the Board packet. CEO Teona Shainidze-Krebs shared that PPLD is working with the ClearGov platform that will make the budget process more transparent and accessible and will also support Strategic Plan reporting.

The Contact Us Q2 summary was included in the Board packet.

'How Visitors use the Library', a document highlighting how PPLD utilizes library resources and services was included in the Board packet. This was compiled by the Strategy & Innovation department.

Reconsideration Decisions

Secret XXX – was mis-shelved when the challenge was but cataloged correctly. Was returned to Adult non-fiction area. 5

librarians agreed to retain in Adult non-fiction. CEO agreed. Patron will be notified and has the option to appeal the decision.

Feminist Baby – challenge that the book was not appropriate. 5 librarians agreed to retain the book, CEO agreed. PPLD is not 'locos parentis' but the resource is available to those who would like to check it out. Patron will be notified and has the option to appeal the decision.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Consent Items

Minutes of June 25, 2025 Board of Trustees meeting

Accepted as written.

Public comment regarding Decision items

Seven comments were made by members of the public: Sean Brennan, Elizabeth Carter, Joe Pelka, Ismet Sahin, Veronica Baker, Katie Csukas and Jackie Ostrom. Comments made include stating that the Board doesn't seem to be following any of the recommendations in the Facilities Master Plan, asking how PPLD can afford to purchase property when the Rockrimmon lease was not renewed, that the Board has a credibility problem, and being upset at the appearance of cutting back on Board attendance and meetings, that purchasing Ruth Holley and Ute Pass Libraries goes against what they believe was the reason

the Rockrimmon lease was not renewed, that it appears the Board's goal is to be less open to the public, thanking the Board for the purchase of Ruth Holley Library, asking what is being done about a library in the northwest area of Colorado Springs, that they believe the Board is banning books and that the public is being lied to, that the Board's financial priorities are upside down and that the Board should pay attention to the rumors in the community.

New Business

DECISION 25-8-1: Purchase of the Ruth Holley Library property

CEO Teona Shainidze-Krebs thanked the Foundation for donating \$1 million and the Price Family for their donation of \$200,000 for the purchase of the Ruth Holley Library. The breakdown of funding, included in the motion for this decision, was read. Debbie English shared that as the Foundation Board has undertaken a review, it was determined that funding was available for donation in support of a one-time capital project. Ms. English also stated that the Board is considering options in the northwest area of Colorado Springs however discussions and negotiations remain in Executive Session until it is time for public disclosure. Scott Taylor commented that he is concerned about the deferred maintenance list.

Motion: Debbie English made a motion that the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees approve the contract as presented for the purchase of the Ruth Holley Library property, subject to PPLD's receipt of \$1 million in funding from the PPLD Foundation ? and agreed upon by the PPLD Board President and Chief Executive Officer:

Second: Erin Bents seconded the motion.

Discussion: There are two decision items for each property purchase per the guidance of PPLD's attorney. Funds will be raised for renovations to Ruth Holley Library. Aaron Salt stated that pursuing a bond issue on an upcoming ballot may be the best way for PPLD to proceed. Julie Smyth shared that the purchase of Ruth Holley could not be considered without the Foundation donating \$1 million. Dora Gonzales approves the focus on improving literacy in the Ruth Holley service area as critical thinking is a result of strong literacy.

Vote: President Julie Smyth asked for a vote by roll call:
Aaron Salt – aye
Angela Dougan – aye
Debbie English – aye
Dora Gonzales– aye
Erin Bents – aye
Scott Taylor– aye
Julie Smyth – aye
With all trustees voting aye, the motion passed 7-0.

DECISION 25-8-2: Source of the remaining funds for the purchase of the Ruth Holley Library property

Motion: Aaron Salt made a motion move that the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees approve the source of the remaining funds for the purchase of the Ruth Holley Library property as \$200,000 from the Price Family donation to Ruth Holley Library, \$400,000 from PPLD's Capital Contingency Fund, \$600,000 from PPLD's reserves, and \$48,000 from Colorado Trust interest.

Second: Debbie English seconded the motion

Discussion: none

Vote: President Julie Smyth asked for a vote by roll call:
Aaron Salt– aye
Angela Dougan – ay
Debbie English – aye
Erin Bents – aye
Scott Taylor – aye
Julie Smyth – aye
With all trustees voting aye, the motion passed 7-0.

DECISION 25-8-3: Purchase of the Ute Pass Library property

CEO Teona Shainidze-Krebs explained that although the appraisal for the Ute Pass Library property was \$490,000, it is currently being offered to PPLD at the price of \$400,000. Purchasing Ute Pass Library will allow for an expansion of hours as a

hybrid location, expanding access from 28 hours a week to up to 120 hours a week. The hybrid model would require an application for members and would allow for expansion of operations outside of staffed hours. Ute Pass, Palmer Lake and Calhan Libraries are all being considered to pilot this program. Owning the Ute Pass Library property will allow PPLD to increase ADA compliance and community input will be gathered regarding potential hours.

Motion: Angela Dougan made a motion that the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees approve the contract as presented for the purchase of the Ute Pass Library property:

Second: Debbie English seconded the motion.

Discussion: Replotting of the property is required, and boundaries of the purchased property are being assessed. Severy Road is the responsibility of El Paso County and is a top priority for clearing and maintenance due to the fire department location on this road. The \$400,000 for the purchase will be taken from PPLD reserves.

Vote: President Julie Smyth called for a vote by roll call:

Aaron Salt– aye

Angela Dougan– aye

Debbie English – aye

Dora Gonzales – aye

Erin Bents – aye

Scott Taylor – aye

Julie Smyth – aye

With all trustees voting aye, the motion passes 7-0.

DECISION 25-8-4:

Source of funding for the purchase of the Ute Pass Library property

Motion: Angela Dougan made a motion that the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees approve the source of the funds for the purchase of the Ute Pass Library property as \$400,000 from PPLD's reserves.

Second: Aaron Salt seconded the motion.

Discussion: Thanks to the administration for their hard work in keeping the amount taken from reserves to a Minimum.

Vote: President Julie Smyth called for a vote by roll call:

Aaron Salt – aye

Angela Dougan – aye

Debbie English– aye

Dora Gonzales – aye

Erin Bents – aye

Scott Taylor – aye

Julie Smyth – aye

With all trustees voting aye, the motion passes 7-0.

DECISION 25-8-5:

Board of Trustee Bylaws

A red line and clean copy of the Board of Trustees Bylaws were included in the board packet.

Motion: Angela Dougan made a motion that the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees approve the Board of Trustees Bylaws as presented.

Second: Erin Bents seconded the motion.

Discussion: Scott Taylor asked that the word 'consecutive' in Article II Section 8, subsection (b) be removed, changing the statement to a trustee's absence from three (3) regular meetings within the calendar year. Article IV, section 9 should be changed to read in-person attendance at regular meetings is expected, no more than two (20 Trustees should be remote at any one meeting. This does not apply to committee meetings, special meetings, and virtual meetings. Scott Taylor recommended keeping remote attendance to two occurrences each year instead of 1/3 of the regular meetings. Trustees must be on camera and actively participating in the meeting.

Debbie English clarified that although the Board of Trustees may move to recommend removal of a trustee, only the appointing authority, the Joint Appointment Committee, can remove a trustee.

Scott Taylor recommended the bylaws return to the Governance Committee in September to review concerns mentioned in this discussion.

Motion: Scott Taylor made a motion that the Pike Peak Library District Board of Trustees return discussion of the

PPLD Board of trustees Bylaws to the Governance Committee for further review.

Second: Debbie English seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed with six aye votes, and one nay vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT NOT RELATED TO TODAY'S AGENDA

Karla Powers shared that she met with the city auditor to review the PPLD audit and the city auditor agreed with Forvis Mazars that PPLD is in a moderately strong financial position. This individual believes that assessment goes against the decision to not renew the Rockrimmon lease.

President Julie Smyth read a statement from the Board thanking the PPLD Foundation for committing \$1 million to the purchase of Ruth Holley Library.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, President Julie Smyth adjourned the regular meeting of the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees at 7:27 p.m.

The full packet of materials for this meeting of the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees is available at <https://ppld.org/board-trustees>