



UMATILLA COUNTY SPECIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

Strengthening our community libraries

PO Box 1689
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Pendleton, OR 97801

Phone (541) 276-6449

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

October 23, 2025, at 12:00 pm

District Office (425 S. Main St., Pendleton Oregon) & via Zoom

ATTENDANCE BOARD

Judy Bracher
Kathy Thew, Vice President

Nick Nash, President
John Thomas

ATTENDANCE STAFF

Heather Estrada, District Director
Dea Nowell, Technical Services Manager (via Zoom)

ATTENDANCE - VISITORS

None

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Nick Nash called the regular Board Meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

CALL THE ROLL & ESTABLISH QUORUM

Heather Estrada stated that we have Board Members Kathy Thew, Nick Nash, Judy Bracher, and John Thomas in the office, so we have a quorum. She also noted that Caty Clifton is excused.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Kathy Thew moved to approve the agenda as presented. John Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (voting for: Judy Bracher, Nick Nash, John Thomas, and Kathy Thew).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MINUTES

Board Meeting: September 25, 2025 - Judy Bracher moved to accept the September 25th minutes as presented. Kathy Thew seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (voting for: Judy Bracher, Nick Nash, John Thomas, and Kathy Thew).

ALSP Review meeting, September 22, 2025 - John Thomas moved to accept the September 22nd ALSP minutes as presented. Judy Bracher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (voting for: Judy Bracher, Nick Nash, John Thomas, and Kathy Thew).

CALENDAR UPDATE

Heather Estrada shared that tomorrow will be her first official State Library Board Meeting, and she will be attending from here via Zoom. She also reminded the Board Members that the In-Service will be on November 7th from 9 am to 3 pm at Milton-Freewater PL.

CORRESPONDENCE

Heather Estrada shared that we received a dividend from worker's comp of \$35. This is the first time she has seen this; however, it is also the first year after SDAO partnered with SAIF.

REPORTS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & BANK RECONCILIATIONS – September 2025

There weren't any comments regarding the financial statement, other than John Thomas stating he didn't see anything unusual. Nick Nash entertained a motion to accept the financial statements for September, pending audit. John Thomas moved, and Kathy Thew seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (voting for: Judy Bracher, Nick Nash, John Thomas, and Kathy Thew).

STAFF MONTHLY REPORTS

Heather Estrada reviewed a few items from her report. She noted that the December Director's Meeting would be held at Hermiston PL on the 10th or 12th. Heather noted that she hadn't seen much of Monica in the last 2 weeks since Heather had been gone quite a bit. There was a brief conversation regarding Monica and promoting the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Heather also mentioned that Dea had scheduled her virtual site visits with the libraries in November.

BOARD TRAINING: SDAO newsletter, conference, kudos, & serial communications

Heather Estrada shared a few pieces from the latest SDAO newsletter, including that she was congratulated for having received her SDAO Academy Certificate. She also mentioned that the annual conference schedule is out – it will be held February 6, 7, & 8, in Seaside; she asked the Board Members to please let her know, as soon as possible, if they were interested in attending. She also noted that Serials Communication in Public Meeting Law training topic was in the newsletter this month. There is a fuller article with FAQs and scenarios from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) website found via the link in the newsletter. Heather also stated that SDAO has finally been approved for training regarding public meetings law by OGEC for in person training – it is something for us to keep in mind should we want them to come do a training for us in the future.

OLD BUSINESS

DPIL SUMMIT SHARING, FORECAST

Heather Estrada shared that she and Cecili [Longhorn] had attended the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Summit and it inspired them both. Heather has since talked to United Way, which she hadn't previously done; and coincidentally someone who works for United Way was at Stanfield PL's Storytime 2 days later. Heather noted that they are hopefully going to have someone from United Way at the In-Service. Heather also noted that she wants to reach out to more organizations about promoting the program. She plans to order some of the welcome books to hand to people when they sign up in person. She is also thinking about doing a booth at Farmers' Markets during the summer to spread the word. Heather also shared that there were legislators at the Summit who didn't seem very worried about funding at the State level going away. She shared that she learned in an early documentary that was shared at the Summit that it is instrumental for there to be state funding for the program to be the most successful. In Tennessee, where the program started, kindergarteners who had DPIL from birth on performed 38% higher in testing than those without DPIL, and that this held through 3rd grade testing. Heather noted that there were many good reminders to continue promoting the program. [Coincidentally, a few minutes later, 2 individuals dropped into the office to see more information for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program, and Heather gave them some information.]

NEW BUSINESS

URBAN RENEWAL AREA DISCUSSION

Heather Estrada shared that is she is learning about Urban Renewal Areas (URA), and gave a 30,000-foot view that Umatilla is wanting to put one in and take away monies from us,

which is legal, but... She spoke with Rachel, the County Assessor, and she noted that this was the first time she had heard of Umatilla wanting to do this. Rachel also noted that she doesn't understand the numbers that Umatilla gave Heather. Heather also reached out to the County Commissioners and received a call back from Dan Dorran, who seemed to think that we'd get some money back, however Rachel didn't think we'd get any back. Heather shared that Dave Stockdale said there would be a chance for every special taxing district to get an ask regarding a capital project. Rachel's response to this was not through this funding. Thus, we're not sure where that money would be coming from. It is more of an ethical issue; however, it is not illegal. John Thomas spoke about Pendleton's URA and how they are ham-strung by what they are allowed to do money-wise & there are no windfall amounts. Heather noted that there is a timeline of the process: January proposing edits at meetings; January-March drafting finalization of the URA, etc.... John noted that the Secretary of State's office also has to approve this, and if it is not approved it is kicked back. He noted that establishing a URA is not easy. Heather stated that she just wants to know as much as she can and may want to speak at one of their council meetings.

ECHO CITY CHANGES UPDATE

Heather Estrada shared that Echo city staff are petitioning to take the library director out of the city manager's position. Dave Slaughter is working to re-write the job descriptions. And last month the Council tabled the decision. There is a lot going on over there. It was noted that they are also doing interviews for the city manager position. The next city council meeting may be November 18th, though not entirely sure as the normal meeting night is the 2nd Tuesday of the month and it is a federal holiday.

POLICY - Reporting Child-Elder Abuse Policy and Reporting form (review)

John Thomas noted that this seems to match up with State standards. It was noted that in terms of the form you may not have the names, but to fill in what you can and get what information you can. John noted that it is basically a note taking form, and that you still must make a report. John Thomas moved to update the date of review. Judy Bracher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (voting for: Judy Bracher, Nick Nash, Kathy Thew, John Thomas).

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Heather gave a roundup of upcoming dates: November 7 - In-service; November 11th - federal holiday; November 18th - potentially Echo City Council meeting; November 20th - UCSLD Board meeting at 5:30 pm; December's meeting will be at noon.

Nick Nash shared a bit about the grant funders that visited Stanfield PL last week. Afterward, Cecili heard that one of the funders wants to donate some unrestricted funds.

Kathy Thew shared that everything in Echo seems to be under construction. She also noted that the conversation that came up earlier about combining Echo & Stanfield libraries under one director is worth keeping in mind for the future.

NEXT DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be on November 20, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

ADJOURN

John Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:18 pm, and Kathy Thew seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (voting for: Judy Bracher, Nick Nash, Kathy Thew, John Thomas).

Respectfully submitted by Dea Nowell