



**Sussex County Library Advisory Board (LAB) Meeting
Minutes**

**Wednesday, October 15, 2025
10a -11:30a**

West Complex Meeting Room Virtual participation is available.

Email Rachel Lynch at Rachel.lynch@sussexcountyde.gov for login information.

Attendees: Candace Vessella (CV), Rachel Lynch (RL), Sandy Winterbottom (SW), Alison Miller, Carol Fitzgerald

Virtual Attendees: Celeste McTighe (CM), Catharine Kramer, Melissa Johnson, Sue Keefe, Lea Rosell, Lisa Petrecca, Bonnie Elliott, Gail Bruce, Karen Johnson-Kemp, Katie McDonough, Laney Hassett, Rachel Lawson

Call to Order & Adoption of the Wednesday, October 15, 2025, Agenda. 10:01

Motion: SW Seconded: CM

Approval of September minutes

Motion: SW Seconded: CM

Announcements:

- Rachel Lawson new director of Seaford Library
- Office of management and budget meeting November 12, 2025. Candace will speak to members representing libraries. Will provide information sheet regarding state standards not keeping up.

Sussex County Libraries

- System Updates
 - Discussed website compliance by April 2027. Christine Karpovage at DDL will handle compliance and retroactive fixing.
 - Discussion on how libraries can align with literacy and funding opportunities
 - Kelly Kline looking into marijuana tax monies for libraries.
 - Does not have much to report as most recent meeting cancelled.
 - Looking at strategies for monies asks. Possibly grant-style focusing on areas most affected by marijuana arrests
 - Maddie, independent funding consultant is doing individual interviews regarding funding with their consultant. Currently data gathering.
 - B&T (book vendor) is closing. Currently using Ingram and Brodart is not ready for new clients
 - Milton library 150th anniversary gala 10/18/25
- Library Advisory Board (LAB) updates
 - CV – Will send update of outreach to Sussex County Council members. Met with Councilman Hudson to inform on history of county funding. Encourage emphasizing messaging to council members about libraries' importance, being considered when developing new funding revenues such as Impact Fees.
 - Will send documents for advocacy
 - CM -- No updates at this time

- SW –Checks in with libraries and they report they are fine. Asks how she can do more to help or better way to find out needs.

DDL/Steering/DE Libraries/COL

- Council on Libraries report
 - Discussion on state budget and standards and ask strategies, documents
 - Literacy and role of libraries discussion. Find place in statewide Literacy Emergency
- Consortium Director's Meeting report (in place of Public Library Steering Committee Meeting)
 - Announcement:
 - Signing of Literacy bill. 9/22 @ 1:15 @ N Georgetown Elementary
 - LibPas:
 - Open office hours:
 - Preliminary program number posted
 - Pre-fill and LibPas open hopefully mid-October
 - Other:
 - 08/2026 self checkout machines not supported (no windows 11)
 - Have pilot of different, smaller model in schools. No receipt printer
 - Submitted to state request to add AV equipment to DDL supported/supplied technology
 - Ben considering contracting AV companies as AV is not his forte.
 - Rose retiring 12/01/2025

Next meeting date: Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 10:00am West Complex 1st Floor meeting room. Virtual participation is available.

Adjourn at 10:28

Motion: SW Seconded: CM

This Agenda is subject to change to include the addition or deletion of items, including Executive Sessions, which arise at the time of the Meeting. Agenda items listed may be considered out of sequence.