LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
CAROL FITZGERALD
VIVIAN ERICKSON
CANDACE VESSELLA
DIANNA BOEHM
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Sussex County Library Advisory Board (LAB) Meeting
Minutes

Wednesday, September 16, 2026
10a - 11:30a
West Complex Meeting Room Virtual participation is available.

Attendees:
In Person: Carol Fitzgerald (CF), Vivian Erickson (VE), Candace Vessella (CV), Dianna Boehm (DB), Rachel Lynch, Alison Miller, Todd Lawson, Gina Jennings
Virtual: James Clanton,
Absent: Mary Holloway (MH)

Call to Order & Adoption of the Wednesday, September 16, 2026 Agenda. 10:00 am
Motion: DB Seconded: CF

Approval of Wednesday, August 19, 2026 minutes, with amendments
Motion: VE Seconded: CF

Announcements

- LAB board elections postponed until full board

BerryDunn Library Study Kickoff Presentation

- Gina Jennings gave remarks and explanation for need of study
  - More County taxpayer funds mean more responsibility and justification
- James Clanton from BerryDunn presented study project
- LAB comments –
  - CV - Thanked Gina and Sussex County and stressed importance of survey
  - CF – Glad this study is being done, since it's been some time since last survey.
  - DB – Looking forward to results.
  - VE – Excited for opportunity for the process and looks forward to seeing results.
- Sussex Library Directors' comments
  - Kelly Kline – Requested detailed timeline for project
  - Lauren McCauley – Echoed thanks and looks forward to process
  - Jill DiPaolo – Thanked BerryDunn and County, offered assistance for data

Sussex County Libraries

- System Updates
  - System meeting summary – updates/concerns

        - Labeling of LGBT materials in library, particularly Juvenile
        - Unattended backpacks in library
        - Discussion of public meeting procedures

- Library Advisory Board (LAB) updates
    - LAB report
        - CF – Scheduling meeting with Seaford. Delmar is busy with back to school and working on Care Community Grant for memory health
        - VE – Visited Greenwood. One more library to visit. Saw Milford deconstruction
        - CV – Lewes had a successful summer in pavilion. Rehoboth still under construction
        - DB – Visited Selbyville and South Coastal, will plan for Frankford
        - MH – not present

DDL/Steering/DE Libraries/COL

- Council on Libraries report
    - Bond Bill Construction requests. Follow up meeting 9/15/26 for vote. Rehoboth is requesting $8M for new building construction
- Consortium Director's Meeting report
    - ERate concerns
    - Brooks transit vehicle fire update
    - Delaware Fun Day
    - NOMA grand opening
    - HSCL still working on ILS considerations
    - Pilot locations for student ID cards
    - Cataloging considering raising base price of books
    - Statewide Programming Committee update
    - Discussion of Fax services and how much to charge
    - New Castle County book reconsideration request. Decided to reshelve item
    - Delaware Library Association has a Mentorship Program

Public Comment

- Members of the public will have the opportunity to comment on items related to the posted agenda.
    - Concern of people not understanding how libraries are funded and how it can affect survey

Next meeting date: Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 10:00am West Complex 1st Floor meeting room. Virtual participation is available.

Adjourn at 11:39 am
Motion: DB Seconded: CF

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.