

Bement Public Library District Board Meeting
November 18, 2025

Board President Mary Postlewait called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm, and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Director Donna Techau and Board Trustees Bill Gallagher, Jill Lawson, Gail LeFever-Wright, Cathy Thornhill, Jerry Watzlawick, and Kenneth Wright were present.

Jerry Watzlawick made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Bill Gallagher seconded the motion, and all trustees voted aye.

Old Business-As reported last month, the wildflower/butterfly garden and landscaping project will be put on hold until spring of 2026. Since the company that the library was working with on the Welcome Packets was sold, everything had to be started over. Director Techau is currently working on the packets. The audit of library cards/patrons for expired accounts was completed in October, and 35 accounts were eliminated.

The Levy Documentation has been completed and sent to the County Clerks' offices of Piatt and Champaign Counties by certified mail. The writing is underway for the Per Capita Grant that is due January 30, 2026. The ILLINET Survey has been completed and turned in.

Director Donna Techau is working on the Comptroller's Annual Financial Report (AFR), which is due at the end of the year. She has requested an extension on it and has until February 25th to complete it without penalty. She is also working on the Library Certification. This is due in March.

Staff training: Director Techau reports that the staff training day went well: a lunch was served, and our new Librarian, Desarae Berdan, provided the staff with training RE: reader advisory and customer service. The entire staff underwent state-mandated Narcan training provided by the Piatt County Health Department. The staff were queried about what types of training they would like for continuing education and to grow in their jobs. Director Techau will incorporate this feedback into planning future training. Director Techau mentioned that she plans to budget for partial reimbursement to Desarae Berdan to attend some professional conferences. She will require Desarae to request in writing which conferences she'd like to attend and to send a proposed budget for Director Techau's review and approval.

Holiday Party: The library staff members asked for the party to be a pizza party held at the library on December 9th at 5:30 pm. The staff invited any available board members to join them.

Last month, Director Techau informed the board that July 4, 2026 is the Semiquincentennial (250th Anniversary) of the United States' Declaration of Independence. She has ordered copies of the Constitution of the United States to hand out to library patrons. The board was asked to share any ideas they would have in order to help celebrate this special anniversary. One suggestion was to have war veterans who have flown on Honor Flights to Washington D.C. talk about their trip. Another was to have speakers come to the library and talk about the history of

our country. Director Techau suggested purchasing the Ken Burns 6 part series on the Civil War. More ideas can be brought up at our next meeting. Staff is also being asked to contribute ideas for this celebration.

New Business-Since the library is paying \$400 to \$600 a month on electricity, Director Donna Techau had a consultation with an Ameren representative on energy efficiency. This was an off-site consultation. The representative gave several suggestions on ways to save electricity. A few of these were to make sure to use LED lighting (we already do) and use power strips on everything to avoid 'ghost amps'. He also suggested that we purchase programmable thermostats (which we already have). Upgraded models with mobile app control can be obtained for free from Ameren. Finally, he suggested we subscribe to a Solar Farm if any are available in our area—particularly if there are non-profit requirements. He will send us further info on this.

Grants for Sensory Rooms and equipment are available through the American Library Association. Sensory Rooms are for children who need a different type of learning environment. A multi-sensory environment includes various tactile materials and equipment such as different kinds of seating for children; head phones for students to wear when they become overstimulated, etc. The deadline for these grants is December 11, 2025. As we do not have a designated room available for this, we may simply explore adding sensory materials to our current setup.

As there was nothing urgent under consideration in December, Director Techau and the board members discussed not meeting next month. Following that discussion, Gail LeFever-Wright made a motion to not meet in December unless something emergent arises. Kenneth Wright seconded the motion, and all trustees voted aye.

Adjournment-At 6:05 pm, Bill Gallagher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jerry Watzlawick seconded the motion, and all trustees voted aye.

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 20th, at 5:30 pm at the library.

Jill Lawson, Board Secretary