

Bement Public Library District Board Meeting
January 20, 2026

Board President Mary Postlewait called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Director Donna Techau and Board Trustees Jill Lawson, Gail LeFever-Wright, Cathy Thornhill, and Kenneth Wright were present. Trustees, Bill Gallagher and Jerry Watzlawick were absent.

Gail LeFever-Wright made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Cathy Thornhill seconded the motion, and all trustees voted aye.

Old Business-The wildflower/butterfly garden and landscape is on hold until spring of 2026. The audit of library cards and patrons continues to be worked on. Director Techau is working on the Welcome Packets as time allows.

The Per Capita Grant and ILLINET Statistical Survey have been Completed. Director Techau has also completed the Library Certification. She is continuing to work on the Comptroller's Annual Financial Report (AFR) with an extension due date of February 25, 2026.

Work continues with the planning for the Semiquincentennial this July 4th. Staff members are looking over patriotic activities for kids. Honor Flight participants have been asked to come and share their highlights from their trips. A speaker will be making a presentation about America and its history. We will be handing out pocket copies of the U.S. Constitution to the first 100 visitors during the celebration.

Energy efficiency is still an issue being dealt with by the library. Director Techau has an appointment with an Ameren representative to learn more about Solar Farm subscriptions. Window insulation needs to be addressed, and a space heater has been purchased to help with the heating of the meeting room in the library.

Since we do not have the available space, Director Techau did not apply for the Sensory Room Grant. She is hoping to add things to our children's area to meet the needs of those young patrons who would benefit from sensory materials.

New Business-The State of Illinois now requires all trustees to have discrete, non-private emails. Director Donna Techau will be creating email accounts for all of the officers and the 3 non-officers on the board. Once that is done, she will send the trustees instructions concerning the utilization of the new accounts.

Director Techau brought in a staff member, Daisy Crawford, to the meeting room and read a letter from the Secretary of State praising our increase in the library programs we are offering to our patrons. Daisy has put in lots of hard work and hours to help make this increase possible. The trustees thanked Daisy for the time and effort that she has put into making these programs successful.

There have been some staffing changes. One of our staff members has decided to cut back on her hours during the week. Other staff members have been willing to pick up the extra hours.

The Library Trustees should have received their SEI forms in the mail from the Piatt County Clerk and Recorder, Jennifer Harper. These will need to be completed by May 1st. Once completed, the forms can be taken to the Piatt County Clerk and Recorder Office in Monticello. They can also be mailed to the office. The SEI forms from Champaign County have not yet been received.

The library staff found some mold in a vent. The vent was scrubbed with mold remover and staff will monitor closely.

A FOIA request was submitted to the Bement Public Library. Director Donna Techau has already responded to the request. We neither are privy to the information requested, nor do we store it.

Adjournment-At 6:10 pm, Kenneth Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cathy Thornhill seconded the motion, and all trustees voted aye.

The next board meeting is scheduled for February 17th, at 5:30 pm at the library.

Jill Lawson, Board Secretary