

Bement Public Library District Board Meeting
June 16, 2026

Board President Mary Postlewait called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Library Director Donna Techau and Board Trustees Jill Lawson, Cathy Thornhill, Jerry Watzlawick, Gail LeFever-Wright, and Kenneth Wright were present. Trustee Bill Gallagher was absent.

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

There was no one from the public in attendance.

Old Business

250th Anniversary Celebration of the United States of America: Commemorative coins and a banner have been purchased by the library. The banner will be used in Bement's Fourth of July Parade. Daisy Crawford and Kids Club members will be handing out candy, pocket copies of the Constitutions, and the commemorative coins as they march along the parade route. Episodes of the American Revolution by Ken Burns are still being shown weekly at the library. Free light snacks are provided.

Summer programming has begun. Wednesday attendance is lower than usual. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday attendance has been good.

The IMLS250 conference is being held June 22-25 in Cincinnati, Ohio. This conference will be addressing ways to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our country. Library Director Donna Techau is prepared to attend this conference, and she submitted paperwork for a \$1,000.00 stipend to cover staffing costs, in addition to her normal conference expenses. Director Techau will also be doing a video interview while at the conference.

The writing for the following policies, AI policy, trustee orientation and training, and staff onboarding is still in progress.

Library Director Techau has yet to receive an estimate from Design Glass and Aluminum for better seal/insulation on the front entryway. As a result, she has decided to drop them. Staff member, Bruce Nesbitt, will work on the doors. This is a necessary step of the continued consultation on energy efficiency for the library.

Update on Securitas estimate and State Grant monies: Library Director Donna Techau is still awaiting word about the issuance of state grants before she can look into implementing Securitas video surveillance.

Appropriations/Levy document review: Library Director Techau completed the Annual Appropriations Ordinance and Levy Budget. Board members reviewed both documents. A motion was made by Gail LeFever-Wright and seconded by Jerry Watzlawick to approve the Annual Appropriations Ordinance and Levy Budget. A roll call was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

The new coffee station and donation box was set up for the main room of the library. People are using it and seem to be enjoying having it available for them.

New Business

Library Director Donna Techau received a letter from Alexi Giannoulas-Secretary of State and State Librarian on June 11, 2026. The letter stated that he was pleased to award the Bement Public Library District a 2026 Illinois Public Library per Capita Grant in the amount of \$3,326.90. He also added that as Secretary of State and State Librarian, "I commend you for taking advantage of this grant that will greatly benefit your community." This grant will be used for children's programming at our library.

Amazon Wish List: A link will be placed on the website by Director Techau that people can utilize in order to purchase items that the library wants.

Staff Day: Reaching Forward South: all employees attend? This is a huge program that will take place in March or April. Performers come to show what can be done at one's library. Libraries are shutting down and taking their staff members to see this program. Director Techau is proposing to take some of her staff to it next year.

Youth Services Conference: children/youth programmer attending: This conference will be held in Bloomington in March. The Education Budget will be utilized in order to send our children/youth programmer, Daisy Crawford, to this conference. Daisy will be able to interact with other children/youth program presenters there.

On-site LEAP training: provided free by IHLS. The library will be closing 1 afternoon for this onsite free training on a Tuesday afternoon 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the end of September.

Annual Director Evaluation: A copy of this annual evaluation was handed out to each board member. The board secretary, Jill Lawson, will deliver Bill Gallagher his evaluation. The completed evaluations are to be returned at the July board meeting.

Review of plans while the director is on vacation in August: Library Director Donna Techau and board members read through the outline she had made concerning the coverage plan for the library during her upcoming absence in August.

With no further business, Kenneth Wright made a motion to adjourn at 5:57 p.m. Jerry Watzlawick seconded the motion, and all trustees voted aye.

The next board meeting is scheduled for July 21st at 5:30 p.m. at the library.

Jill Lawson, Board Secretary