

**SALADO PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting
5:00 p.m.
March 23, 2026

Salado Public Library
1151 N. Main St
Salado, TX 76571

1. Declaration of quorum and call to order

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Nancy Mills Mackey. Others present include Vice President Becky Michele Huppert, Secretary Dana Rojas, Member-at-Large Ray Lindner, Library Director Jeanie Lively, Assistant Library Director Julie Hoy, Teen/Young Adult Librarian April Gatliff, and Library Specialist Manuela Smith.

2. Public Forum

Citizens wishing to address the Board must sign up to speak in advance. Signup sheets will be available at the front desk and online from the time the agenda is posted until 30 minutes before the meeting begins. Speakers will have up to 3 minutes to address any agenda item. Topics not on the agenda will not be discussed, but citizens may request that items not on the current agenda be added to a future agenda. The Board may provide factual information or recite existing policy in response to inquiries but will not deliberate or make decisions on subjects not included on the posted agenda.

Stephen Sequeira spoke on agenda item #6 and requested the Board to consider changing the policy to where the challenger is anonymous; by making the details public, it may discourage others from challenging a book in the future. Charles Simmons spoke on agenda item #6 and stated the Board has not made any policy edits available to the public to solicit public opinion prior to today's meeting. He also expressed his desire to do away with a committee and only elected Board member should be involved with the Reconsideration Policy. Mr. Simmons also spoke on agenda item #5 and stated the existing Collection Policy doesn't screen books well enough and the library carries "trash literature" and requested the Board change the current Public Forum Policy to allow for commentators to have 5 minutes per speaker rather than the current 3 minute rule. Angeline Rhineheart spoke on agenda item #5 and expressed her opinion that sheltering children and young adults from reality could actually hurt them, and that books offer information on healthy relationships, which can be seen as helpful rather than harmful. Brenda Howard provided information on what the Stonewall Book Award is and how certain book awards are not literary awards and when a book receives an award, it does not necessarily mean the book is good. Ms. Howard expressed her disappointment in the fact that 1 of the 25 detransition books she asked the library to add to the collection was approved. Jasmine spoke on agenda item #5 and #6 stating that nationwide book bans normalize quietly removing books a small amount at a time and for the Board to not allow it. She expressed the fact not every family can afford to "just buy the book", how it's the parent's responsibility to screen what his/her children read, and just because a book is on the shelf, doesn't mean it's approved by the library.

3. Minutes from the February 23, 2026 meeting

Minutes from the February 23, 2026 meeting previously distributed and approved unanimously.

4 Treasurer's Report on prior month and YTD finances

The Treasurer's report was distributed. Motion to create line item for challenged books but do not fund; motion passed unanimously. Motion to increase line item for 6454-Legal Fees to \$8,000 in the current budget and passed unanimously. The report was filed, subject to audit

5. Discuss/Vote on proposed updates to Collection Development Policy

Alison Dolin spoke to the Board and expressed her opinion there should be no sexually explicit material in the children's and YA sections of the library and there are known negative effects from young minds being exposed to certain material. She expressed her opinion in that the librarians and the Board knowingly and willingly provide this material to minors and therefore support grooming children in the same way a pedophile would.

Board President, Nancy Mills Mackey, read each board member's suggestions and opened the floor for discussion. No changes were made at this time and this agenda item will be added to next month's meeting to continue discussion.

6. Discuss/Vote on proposed updates to Request for Reconsideration of Materials Policy

Paula Dolin spoke to the Board and expressed her opinion that the current Reconsideration Policy has not been properly followed and we should not make changes until we actually follow the current policy. She stated she feels the committees are biased and not objective to the actual book and materials in the book.

Board President, Nancy Mills Mackey, read each board member's suggestions and opened the floor for discussion. Secretary Dana Rojas made the motion to suspend the current Reconsideration Policy while the Board finalizing the proposed changes. The motion passed 3 to 1. No changes were made at this time and this agenda item will be added to next month's meeting to continue discussion.

7. Discuss/Update joint elections for 2026

Library Specialist Manuela Smith provided an update on the upcoming May election. All ballots have been finalized and the expected voter turnout is 20% of eligible voters will participate and 2,000 ballots were ordered. Next Monday, March 30, 2026, the voting equipment will be tested in Belton. Voting will take place at the Bell County Salado Annex Building on Event Dr. There will be a public candidate forum on April 14, 2026 at 6:00 in the cafeteria at Salado Middle School.

8. Director's report on Library operations and activities

Library Director Jeanie Lively presented the report with the library's statistics and activities. Copies of this report may be obtained upon request to the Director.

9. Library expansion report

There will be a presentation to the Task Force Committee and Board Trustees on April 27, 2026 at 3:00pm from 720 Design.

10. Friends of the Library report

Susan Starnes, FOSPL President, presented the Board with updates on the successful Candy Bingo and the new storywalk frames should be ready no later than May.

11. Agenda items for next board meeting

Public Forum

Minutes from March 23, 2026 meeting

Quarterly Investment Report

Treasurer's Report on prior month and YTD finances

Discuss/Vote on updates to, if any, to the current Collection Development Policy 2024

Discuss/Vote on updates to, if any, to the current Request for Reconsideration of Materials Policy

Election Updates

Director's report on Library operations and activities

Library expansion report

Friends of the Library report

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Dana Rojas