



Northeast Georgia Regional Library Board meeting July 28, 2026 –
Cornelia-Habersham County Public Library

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Linda Erbele at 10:00 AM.

Present: Stephens County: Lynn Cox, Russell Wash; White County: Linda Erbele, Chairperson Northeast Regional Library Board, Annette Dixon, Judy Holloway, Olav Buchel; Habersham County: Wanda Dunn, Secretary; Delana Knight, Director Northeast Georgia Regional System.

Absent: Rabun County: Jan Timms, Pat Stueck, Kristi Early.

3. General reports and discussions:

- Public Service Activity and Technical Services Report: The chart showed the change in public service activity year-to-date through June 30, 2026. With the exception of Physical item circulation, which is down by 0.2% (last quarter -0.3%), all statistics showed increased usage over last year. The Technical Services Report showed a year to date positive net change of 1,016 items added to our FY2026 collections with a total of 8,955 additions and 7,939 deletions. Our system processed 91 Interlibrary loans in FY2026 (loans to and from Non-PINES libraries).
- Bookmobile: Circulation, patron registrations and programming from the bookmobile account for 3,996 circulations, 130 new patrons, and 14,997 patrons attending programs in FY2026. Additionally, 822 books were added to the bookmobile collection in FY2026. In the 4th quarter, the Bookmobile traveled 2,044 miles for an average of 681.3 miles per month.
- The Bookmobile had a tire alignment on July 17th, as well as a cooling fan replacement due to a manufacturer recall. The Bookmobile is scheduled for replacement of the review camera due to a recall, when the part arrives.
- Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Requirement: Total local governmental annual operating support for each library system shall be equal to or greater than that of the preceding fiscal year. Failure to sustain this maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement may result in the forfeiture of state grants and state-funded benefits to the library system. Libraries may apply for a one-year MOE waiver if all departments in a local government are cut by an equal percentage, resulting in the reduction of total local governmental support for the library system. The Application for State Aid which was discussed later in the agenda, asks if the Board agreed that “the FY2027 maintenance of effort (total of all regular local financial support) equals or exceeds the amount that was received by the Library System for FY2026”.



- For the first time in the Director's experience the board was not meeting this requirement for FY2027. While our system is receiving increased allocations from several of our funding agencies, the White County Board of Commissioners reduced their funding of the libraries by more than 30%, resulting in a deficit for the library system as a whole of \$10,194.00 (0.6%).
- The Application for State Aid is due on August 28, 2026. The Director will meet with the new State Librarian, Angela Stanley, on August 5th, to discuss our library system's next steps for a one-year MOE waiver.

4. New Business

A. Minutes – April 28, 2026

A motion was made to accept the April 28, 2016 minutes. (Cox, Wash)

B. Cumulative FY2026 Report, April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026

- Miscellaneous income includes telecom reimbursement (VoIP, DeepFreeze, LibData), Toccoa partnership, Toccoa employee health insurance premium, reimbursements for materials and technology, and Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS) broadband reimbursement. Due to a management vacancy at Toccoa-Stephens County Library, the System did not receive as much money from the partnership agreement as planned. That position has since been filled.
- Under expenses, the vacancy in Toccoa saved some payroll and benefits costs, but those figures were also impacted by the \$2,000 state salary supplements that were included in the State FY26 amended budget.
- NEGRLS's Cash Balance as of June 30, 2026, is \$180,231.38. The Director did not have a balance update on the CD opened on October 10, 2025, at First Citizens Bank. It had a starting balance of \$213,662.82 at 3.5% for 12 months. The checking account at Traditions Bank for the Bookmobile had a balance of \$84,554.98 as of June 30.

A motion was made and approved to accept the Cumulative FY2026 Report, April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026. (Buchel, Cox)

C. Affiliate Library Quarter 4 Cash Fund Balance Report

A motion was made and approved to accept the Affiliate Library Quarter 4 Cash Fund Balance Report. (Wash, Dixon)



D. FY2027 Budget and Salary revisions

The FY2027 Revised Budget proposal for the System Services Office included approved state grant allocations, and salary increases as approved by the Regional Library Board in April: 3% merit increases for Regional employees, and a 5% merit increase for the Director. The Toccoa -Stephens County Library Board approved a 4% merit increase for the Youth Services Coordinator.

The State Salary Grant allocation is an increase of 2.3% over last year due to the increase in state health benefits (SHBP) and Teacher's Retirement System (TRS), and a small population boost. There is no cost of living adjustment (COLA) in the state salary grant.

A motion was made and accepted to approve FY 2027 Budget revision. (Wash, Cox).

A motion was made and accepted to approve the FY 2027 Salary revision. (Dunn, Buchel)

E. FY2027 Director Salary

The Application for State Aid asked the Board to agree that "As part of the FY2027 budget, the Library System Board of Trustees approved the Library Director's FY2027 salary as a separate action item recorded in the Board meeting minutes".

A motion was made to accept and approved the FY2027 Director's salary. (Cox, Wash)

F. FY2026 Budget Certification / FY2027 Application for State Aid

A motion was made and approved the Chairman's signature on the Annual Application for State Aid and the FY 2026 Actual Budget with Certifications. (Buchel, Dixon)

A second motion was made and accepted to approve the application if a waiver is granted. (Cox, Wash)

G. Interlibrary Loan (ILL) policy proposal

The policy proposal outlines procedures already in effect, and codifies them into policy. The policy increases the cost of ILL requests from \$3.00 to \$5.00 to reflect rising postage costs.

A motion was made and accepted to codify procedures already in effect into policy. The policy increases the cost of ILL requests from \$3.00 to \$5.00 to reflect rising postage costs. (Dixon, Cox)

The next Scheduled Meeting will be October 27, 2026, at White County Library/Cleveland.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM

A vote to approve the minutes will be taken at the October 27, 2026 Regional Library Board meeting.

