



OKLAHOMA

Department of Libraries

Minutes

ODL Board Meeting - *Special*

November 14, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.

Oklahoma State Capitol

2300 N Lincoln Blvd

Senate Conference Room 230

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

All participating members of the Board were in person at the above meeting location. The meeting was open to the general public and was conducted under the provisions of the Open Meeting Act as provided in SB 1031 approved by the Governor on February 10, 2021.

Public access to the complete Board Packet:

<https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/libraries/documents/agendas/Board-Packet-20251114.pdf>

Order of Business: The Board may discuss, table, defer, or vote to approve or disapprove or take appropriate action with respect to any agenda item. The sequence of the agenda may be changed at the Board's discretion.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Compliance with Open Meeting Act

Chair Ronda Smith called the meeting to order at 10:08am and saw a quorum. Roll was called as follows: Chair Ronda Smith, present; Vice Chair Kristen Ferate, present; Steven Gray, present; Maren Lively, absent; Katherine Neal, absent; Teresa Sutter, present; Geetika Verma, present; Natalie Currie, present.

Guests and staff present: Madalynn Martin from the Office of the Attorney General, Tara McCleod, Nancy Hooper, Sadie Bruce, Marcia Hull, Holly LaBossiere, Courtney Rutledge, Adrienne Butler, Laura Sikes, Mica Andrews, Tim Houston, Cassie Spindle, Ida Fae Bointy

2. Consideration and possible action on minutes for the special board meeting held September 12, 2025

Chair Smith asked if anyone had questions about the minutes. Director Currie pointed out a typo on page 4 of the minutes. The word budget had been misspelled. There were no other questions.

Vice Chair Ferate motioned to accept the minutes with the amendment, and Gray seconded. Votes were as follows: Chair Smith, yes; Vice Chair Ferate, yes; Gray, yes; Lively, absent; Neal, absent; Sutter, yes; Verma, yes. The motion passed.

3. State Aid for Fiscal Year 2024

- a. Overview of process used to determine State Aid eligibility



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Director Currie explained that state aid to libraries acted as the state's primary vehicle to help with library funding. The largest portion of funding for library services comes from either city sales tax, or for library systems, property taxes. State aid provides a way to help fill funding gaps through appropriations to ensure adequate library services are maintained.

Director Currie advised the board that ODL consultants review reports submitted annually by public libraries to determine eligibility for state aid. The ODL consultants then provide recommendations to administration on whether the eligibility criteria were met. After review, administration makes a final determination. In 2019, an appeals process was introduced that allows libraries to request the Board reconsider eligibility determinations.

Director Currie introduced Madalynn Martin, the board's legal counsel, and encouraged the members to ask questions and consider the rules when reviewing appeals.

Madalynn Martin clarified for the members policy for the Board within OAC 405:25-1-3, which is to promote, support, and implement the development and maintenance of adequate public and special library facilities and services throughout the state in whatever forms and by whatever means may be most beneficial and feasible, utilizing maximum economy and effectiveness while disseminating all available funds.

- b. Consideration and possible action on appeal from the Apache Public Library which was determined not to qualify for State Aid for SFY 2025 based on OAC 405:25-1-3(3)(H)

According to Director Currie, the Apache Public Library was determined not to qualify for state aid for SFY 2025 based on not fulfilling the requirement to submit the State Aid Annual Report by the August 15th deadline.

Director Currie introduced Ida Fay Bointy, the Apache Public Library director, and invited the board members to ask any questions that would help them make a determination.

State Data Coordinator Sadie Bruce explained she had worked with the Apache Public Library director to complete the annual report, and that most of it was finished on time. However, some data had not been entered and there were edit checks within the document that had not been cleared. These errors blocked the submission of the report



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before the deadline. Gray and Sutter asked if there was any grace period to submit the report after the deadline. Director Currie and Bruce clarified that there was no grace period.

Sutter confirmed that the director, Bointy, was the only library employee. Sutter asked about the library's funding and how the state aid would be used. Bointy explained that the library had a very small budget and received funding through the city. Bointy stated that the library predominantly used state aid to order books and new materials, as well as children's programming.

Gray motioned to approve the Apache Public Library appeal, and Sutter seconded. Votes were as follows: Chair Smith, yes; Vice Chair Ferate, yes; Gray, yes; Lively, absent; Neal, absent; Sutter, yes; Verma, yes. The motion passed.

- c. Consideration and possible action on appeal from the Addie Davis Memorial Library which was determined not to qualify for State Aid for SFY 2025 based on OAC 405:25-1-3(2)(E)

According to Director Currie, the Addie Davis Memorial Library was determined not to qualify for state aid for SFY 2025 based on a lack of youth programming noted in their annual report. The State Aid Rules for Public Libraries require that all libraries offer programming for youth under 18 years of age to be eligible. The Addie Davis Memorial Library annual report listed zero hours of youth programming.

Paul Hierl, the current director of the Addie Davis Memorial Library provided a statement for the board that explained the lack of documented youth programming. The previous library director left in April 2025. Hierl did not assume the position until August 2025. Hierl was unable to find documentation or records of any kind that verified youth programming occurred during the reporting period. However, a robust youth program was established once he assumed the director position.

Bruce clarified for the board that the Addie Davis Memorial Library's previous director suffered serious health conditions prior to leaving her position. Additionally, due to unknown issues with the city, the previous librarian's computer had been impounded. These unusual events contributed to the lack of documentation that proved the library had offered children's programming throughout the year. Bruce further explained that



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she had firsthand knowledge of the library regularly providing youth programming in the past, and it would be unusual if that had changed. The problem was the lack of evidence proving it.

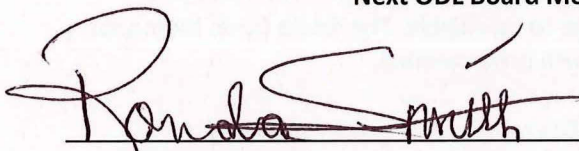
Library Consultant Courtney Rutledge corroborated Bruce's assertion that the Addie Davis Memorial Library had a strong history of youth programming. Rutledge attested to having personally viewed a group of children leaving the library after attending some children's programming during the prior reporting period.

Vice Chair Ferate motioned to approve the Addie Davis Memorial Library appeal, and Gray seconded. Votes were as follows: Chair Smith, yes; Vice Chair Ferate, yes; Gray, yes; Lively, absent; Neal, absent; Sutter, yes; Verma, yes. The motion passed.

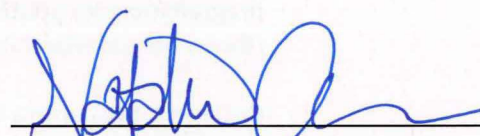
4. Adjournment

Vice Chair Ferate motioned to adjourn, and Vice Chair Ferate seconded. Votes were as follows: Chair Smith, yes; Vice Chair Ferate, yes; Gray, yes; Lively, absent; Neal, absent; Sutter, yes; Verma, yes. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:41pm.

Next ODL Board Meeting: Friday, December 12, 2025 at 10 AM



ODL Board Chair



ODL Director, Secretary Ex Officio