
DERBY PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 25, 2026

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Danielle Gabor at 6:30 pm.

Roll Call: Danielle Gabor, Jamie Hollon, Maria Sargent, Dustin Sharp, Vanessa Schoon Smith, Susan Swaney and Susan Topping were present. Eric Gustafson, Library Director, Hannah Adamson, Assistant Director and Tami English, Office Manager also attended.

Approval of Agenda: Susan Topping moved to approve the agenda as written. Jamie Hollon seconded and the motion approved unanimously.

Public Forum: None

Approval of February 28, 2026, meeting minutes: Vanessa Schoon Smith moved to approve the minutes as amended. Susan Swaney seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Correspondence and Communications: None

Financial Reports: February 2026 expenses aligned with budget projections. State funding for the year was received at a higher level than originally anticipated; it was noted that these disbursements fluctuate annually based on state allocations. The recent adjustment to Hoopla checkout limits has proven effective, resulting in an approximate savings of \$2,000 for the first month.

Susan Swaney moved to approve the February 2026 financial report as presented. Jamie Hollon seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Director Report:

Statistics remain strong in February.

In preparation for upcoming facility enhancements, the library has begun a comprehensive reorganization of the nonfiction collection. This "tidying" process is designed to optimize the collection and ensure the layout is streamlined for future adjustments to the library's floor plan. A significant component of these changes involves the repurposing of the current computer lab, which is slated to transition into a dedicated meeting space. To maintain essential digital access for patrons, the computer workstations will be relocated to a new designated area within the library. These strategic shifts are intended to maximize the utility of our physical footprint and better accommodate the evolving needs of the community.

Recent data shows a shift in patron demographics, with computer use rising in the teen area while declining in the children's section. To address this immediate demand, the library is exploring a short-term plan to move several computers into the teen space. This reallocation will ensure our technology resources are positioned where they are being used most frequently.

State taxation discussions from last month have stalled legislatively.

The library is currently coordinating with the city to assume management of High Park rentals from the Derby Recreation Commission (DRC), with the transition anticipated for early fall. This expanded oversight will include the Zimmerman shelter, gazebo, open shelter, and the amphitheater. In a related effort to enhance the library's internal rental appeal, the Frank Fanning Room has transitioned to a quarterly art rotation schedule to maintain a refreshed aesthetic. The inaugural exhibition features work by Steve Marler of the Derby Photo Club; notably, the program has already garnered significant interest, with a two-year waitlist of local artists eager to display in the space.

Committee/Special Reports:

The Gathering Space and High Wall Galleries have been transformed for the "Full Steam Ahead" exhibition, a district-wide showcase featuring vibrant works from kindergarten through 2nd-grade students across all nine elementary schools. The community is invited to a special artist reception on Thursday, April 16, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This event coincides with the first Third Thursday celebration of 2026, offering a chance to meet these young creators and their teachers.

The lobby display case currently features a diverse collection of 3D artistry from the Derby High School Art Department, showcasing both traditional techniques and new curriculum. Available through the end of April, this exhibition highlights the technical skill of students across several disciplines, including professional-grade metalwork from the new Fundamentals of Jewelry class and whimsical needle-felted animals from the Fundamentals of Fibers course. Visitors can also explore interactive hand-built clay whistles, advanced "Unity Challenge" sculpture sets, and expert wheel-thrown vessels. This partnership with the DHS Art Department provides a unique opportunity to celebrate the innovation and craftsmanship of our local student artists.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Executive Session: none

Adjournment: Susan Topping moved to adjourn the meeting. Dustin Sharp seconded. There was a unanimous vote to approve.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Danielle Gabor, Chair

Susan Topping, Secretary