Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: July 21, 2026
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: EOLS Administrative Offices, 14 E. Shawnee Bypass, Muskogee, Oklahoma

1. Call to Order

Mike Jackson, Board President, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Allan Rau, Dianne Myrick, Glen Clark, Julie Orcutt, Karen Martin, Kelly Trumbull, Lynnsey DeMontigny, Melissa West-Earp, Mike Jackson, Nancy Farrier, Pam Smith, Peggy Glenn, Shannon Vann, Stewart Stidham, Sue Ann Ghormley, Todd Franke, Yolette Ross

Late Arrival: Amber Hunt - 1:05 p.m.

Absent: Tim Thompson, Wren Stratton

3. Public Comment / Open Forum

Kate Adams, president of Warner Friends of the Library, addressed the Board regarding the community's loss of access to the Warner Public Library and the benefits the library provides. She expressed the group's support for the proposed partnership between Eastern Oklahoma Library System and Connors State College and read a letter of gratitude to those who helped identify a solution for the Warner Public Library.

Other Warner Friends of the Library members present were Shawna Baker, Jean Hill, Ronelle Baker, Rose Olson, Joyce Bennight, Lois Morton, and Joyce McCoy.

Jana Pavlock and Sandra Simpson attended on behalf of the Westville Friends of the Library. Pavlock requested that Westville Library hours be ~~increased~~ restored from 40 to 48 hours per week and discussed growth in the Westville community. (Correction identified in September 20, 2026 review of July meeting minutes.)

4. New Board Members

Seibold introduced the new Board members: Lynnsey DeMontigny, City of Eufaula; Dianne Myrick, City of Kansas; Julie Orcutt, City of Haskell; Melissa West-Earp, City of Jay; and Stewart Stidham, City of Checotah.

5. Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed the minutes from the May 19, 2026, meeting, the Personnel Actions Report, and Staff Development Day scheduled for October 23, 2026.

Motion: Shannon Vann moved to approve the Consent Agenda.
Second: Peggy Glenn
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

6. Financial Reports/Grants (April and June 2026), Investments, ODL Grants

Seibold reviewed the April and June financial reports. She reported that the new auditor would begin work the first week of August and that the audit was expected to be ready for the Board in September. Martin asked about SR supplies/equipment in the reports. Seibold explained that SR stands for Summer Reading.

Trumbull asked about the increase in donations. Seibold explained that the increase primarily reflected a pledged installment from the City of Muskogee Foundation for the Imagine More Campaign. In response to Jackson's question, Seibold reported that $3.7 million had been raised to date.

Motion: Pam Smith moved to approve the financial reports.
Second: Glen Clark
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

Seibold reviewed the investment chart with the Board and explained the schedule for receiving, using, and reinvesting funds. A more detailed report outlining plans for designated funds will be presented at the next meeting.

Martin asked whether the accounts were earning interest. Seibold confirmed that the funds were invested in certificates of deposit (CDs).

Trumbull asked why designated funds had not yet been spent, including $245,000 for Warner and $400,000 for facilities. Seibold explained that the Facilities Committee had dedicated funds to work with GH2 to create system standards and begin developing work plans and/or fundraising renderings, depending on the branch. A five-year capital improvement plan will be presented at the September Board meeting. The Committee plans to spend the allotted funding during the fiscal year, except for the Imagine More funds, which will remain invested until the renovation begins.

Vann asked whether the System had received any funds from the TID-Google projects. Seibold said not yet and stated that she would provide updates as funds are received.

Smith suggested taking a conservative approach when determining how to apply the new funds. Seibold agreed.

Myrick asked about the scholarship fund. Seibold explained that the funds are available to full-time staff pursuing an MLIS/MLS degree. Three staff members are currently using the funds.

Seibold reviewed the OBO grant details with the Board and highlighted the technology improvements that will be supported by the funding.

7. Connors State College / EOLS Collaboration

Seibold provided details of the proposed collaboration, under which EOLS would serve as the library provider for Connors State College. She noted that the collaboration would increase patron counts by approximately 2,000. Chris McBeath, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Connors State College, spoke about the benefits of the collaboration for both parties and confirmed the College's commitment to the partnership.

Motion: Karen Martin moved to approve the partnership between Eastern Oklahoma Library System and Connors State College.
Second: Kelly Trumbull
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

8. Introduction and Resources

Seibold discussed topics planned for the September 22, 2026, Board meeting and stated that documents would be sent in advance for review. Topics include the EOLS Board of Trustees Bylaws, Board Policies, and Executive Director Evaluation procedure.

9. Annual Report

Seibold shared branch statistics from FY19 through FY26. Belle Brown prepared a statistics booklet highlighting the current year that Board members can use to communicate the work of their respective libraries. Copies will be provided to Board members for use in conversations with city, county, and state officials.

10. Strategic Planning

Seibold distributed strategic planning materials and reviewed an example action plan, explaining how the plans will help guide implementation of the EOLS Strategic Plan.

Clark asked about the Westville Library hours discussed during Open Forum. Myrick asked about the process for following up with groups that address the Board during Open Forum. Seibold stated that she would follow up with the Westville Friends of the Library and noted that she and Sue Ann Ghormley had already discussed the request. Seibold explained that Westville is classified as a Group One library under the system established by previous administration and Board leadership. Library groupings are based on population, usage statistics, and size, with Group One libraries open 40 hours per week. Seibold will report back to the Board at the September meeting.

11. Adjournment

Motion: Shannon Vann moved to adjourn.
Second: Yolette Ross
Result: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.