OWEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Owen County Library Board of Trustees met in regular session on September 15, 2026.

Call to Order
President Wes Petzinger called the meeting to order at 9:31am. Attending the meeting were Trustee Mark McMillen, Trustee Beckie Brown, Director Cyndi Clifton and Assistant Director Kim Hunter. Glenn Manns and Wes Petzinger attended via Zoom. Martha Hamilton was absent.

Public Comment
There was no public comment.

Approval of minutes
Trustee Glenn Manns made a motion to approve the minutes for August. Trustee Mark McMillen seconded. All voted aye.

Financial Reports and Disbursements
The general operating account and the reconciliation details were reviewed as well as the credit card expenses for the month. All expenses were in line with the approved budget.

Trustee Mark McMillen made the motion to approve the Financial Report. Trustee Beckie Brown seconded. All voted aye.

Library Statistics
On the Library Statistics Report for August, we had 2102 patrons who used all library services. 31 programs were held with 835 participants. Public computer users numbered 299. The website had 822 hits. Circulation was 4576. Inter-library loans numbered 52 for the month, and Hoopla/Overdrive/Kanopy had 808 users.

Regional Librarian Report KDLA

KDLA Programming Conference: Scheduled for November; three library programmers have expressed interest in attending.

FY2026 Audit Preparedness: Official guidance has been received, and the audit is currently underway. The first batch of documents has been sent to the auditors, with the final report targeted for completion by year-end.

New training opportunities covering board responsibilities will be available for trustees. The training will likely be hosted online and will be free of charge.

Librarian's Report

Emergency sewer repairs were done in February. Additional pre-winter maintenance is still needed, including installing a device in the sewer line and executing a side yard excavation. The Director is waiting for a callback from contractor to plan the work.

The annual statistics report was sent to KDLA. It is waiting for final review and signatures.

Audit in progress and hopefully will be completed by December.

Assistant Director's Report

GED Testing: Technical issues with Pearson VUE are resolved. The latest exam was successful, and the tester has more exams planned.

Library staff are working to expand activities for teenagers.

Students can use school bus notes to get dropped off at the library, but they must arrange their own ride home.

Presentation – Amanda Anderson

Circulation Policy Concerns Affecting Student Access. Ms. Anderson seeks clearer, written policies, especially regarding responsible party, probation timelines, and appeals.

- Ms. Anderson presented issues with the following concerns.
  - unwritten/inconsistent enforcement leading to student access denial due to household member fines/over dues.
  - Probation concerns: discretionary, no defined timeline.
  - No appeal process.

- Library responses:
  - Agreement with goals for welcoming access; acknowledgment that current enforcement matches policy regarding responsible party, but "shared address" enforcement is not in policy.
  - Honor books are available on bookmobile to ensure students leave with a book.
  - Option to change responsible party for estranged students to restore access.
  - Concern about recourse and accountability if policy is loosened; current arrears for lost/overdue items total $12,000.
  - Suggestion to examine data on who loses books (children vs. adults) before changes.
  - Outreach history: previously delivered ~200 books to middle school; attempts to continue were declined.

Business

- None. The Circulation Policy will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on October 20, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at OCPL. Trustee Wes Petzinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Mark McMillen seconded the motion. All voted aye. The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Trustee Beckie Brown

- President Wesley Petzinger