Whitman County Library

Board of Trustees Meeting

Public Meeting at the Colfax Branch of the Whitman County Library

September 15, 2026

Present: Cindy Alred, Heather Lustig, Blaine Golden, Colin Haffner, Steve Greene, Catalina Flores, Christy Hughes, and Naomi Slavish

Chairperson Lustig called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Minutes of the August meeting and Resolutions 26-24, 26-25 (Accounts Payable and Payroll), 26-26 (Policy 2.2 Amendment), and 26-27 (Policy 7.2.7.3 Amendment) were approved by a vote of the Board.

Reports

August financial documents were presented to the board and a brief explanation about them was given. Finance Manager Steve Greene reviewed various expenditures including Summer Reading costs, the Enduris insurance payment, down payment for the new ADA door, carpet cleaning, window cleaning, the elevator contract, and new "Library Parking" signs. Kanopy changed billing methods, resulting in a higher expense than normal, with future costs being less. The upcoming JCLC conference expenses and their grant coverage were discussed.

Director Christy Hughes reported on library and director activities. She gave an overview of WCL's presence at the Palouse Empire Fair, and shared her experience at the IMLS conference. An update was given concerning the ADA door installation, grants for the Palouse and Garfield WCL branches, and the completed painting of The Libey Gallery and The Center. A discussion regarding the installation of color printers at various branches included Finance manager Greene's explanation of the cost analysis and Tech System Manager James Morasch's research for the project. A grant was received to assist the Colfax High School Library's collection; Board Member Blaine Golden and CHS Volunteer, Sara Golden will travel to Portland to pick up the books. Whitman County Public Health is hosting Community Health Focus groups at five WCL locations.

Recent conversations revealed that current council Eric Hansen is retained by the Town of Endicott for Municipal Contract Consideration discussions. Due to this conflict of interest, WCL is now consulting attorney Joshua Huber. The standardized schedule for Full Time employees has been implemented. Tech Support Specialist Javad Reneau will work on-site two days a week. All Town Hall events pertaining to the Levy Lid Lift have been scheduled, except Oakesdale; the individualized discussions will be a focus. Youth Services and STEM Librarian Nichole Kopp

will retire with a Retirement Reception on September 17th. Director Hughes stated that this will be a time for WCL to pause, reset, and refocus on meeting the unmet needs of the community. The position will be posted in late October. Chairperson Lustig inquired which youth services will continue in the interim. Director Hughes stated that the core, kid programming will continue, and maintained that the new Youth Services will be allowed to step into the position with new vision and focus. Citizens of Endicott reached out to express their desire that WCL continue library services in their community.

Branch Operations Manager Catalina Flores presented branch updates. On October 31st, Shelver Marva Smith will retire after 35 years with WCL. A Retirement reception will be held on October 28th from 3-6pm. Photos taken during Summer Reading programming were passed around. During Summer Reading 249 programs were held, hosting 4325 attendees, with 581 Summer Reading completers- a 9% increase from 2025. During the Branch Manager Teams meeting, a Summer Reading overview was given, with some suggestions for next year; the tote bags were very popular, however the VOX digital books did not excite youth completers or parents. Lacrosse and Endicott Branches have offered to host the next in-person Branch Managers Meeting. Branch Manager Andrea Mills welcomed her first grandbaby this month. Lacrosse and St. John both need subs, and completed applications have been turned in for the positions. The August WCIF Wellness Grant WCL Staff Hydration Wellness Challenge had 42 participants. September's WCIF Wellness Grant 15-15 Challenge is underway. Chairperson Lustig drew the week 1 winner- Staci Day. Branch Operations Manager Flores stated that staff expressed appreciation for accountability provided by these Wellness Challenges.

Branch Operations Manager Flores gave an overview of August's Library usage and statistics. August saw a 14% increase of overall usage compared to August 2025. Traditional circulation saw a decrease, database usage saw an increase, and Libby use saw an increase. In-person program attendance decreased by 4%, and Newsletter interaction decreased. Social Media use increased by 37%. There was an overview of Summer Reading statistic compared to 2025. Board Member Cindy Alred observed the popularity of The Reptile Lady. Branch Operations Manager Flores expounded on The Reptile Lady programs and attendance in Albion, Uniontown, and Colton.

Continuing Business

Policy Update to 7.2.7.3 and Vote on Bylaw Policy 2.2 were approved by the Board before Reports were given.

An update was given on discussions with lawyer Joshua Huber concerning Municipal Contract Considerations content for upcoming renewals. The Town of Endicott provided a proposal, which was passed out and read by the board. Discussion commenced concerning the terms of the proposal, the timeline, and attorney Huber's advice.

The Friends of WCL will send out postcards as informative mailers for the upcoming Levy lid Lift ballot measure. The mailers will be send to all households with registered voters in the annexed communities.

New Business

Director Hughes reviewed Youth Services Librarian Kopp's upcoming retirement, and opened the floor to the Board for suggestions and input for Youth Services, moving forward. Board Member Alred inquired how staff will fill in until the new staff member is hired. Director Hughes related that she and the Youth Services Assistant will run the core children's programming that is not already run by volunteers. Chairperson Lustig asked if STEM and outreach would continue to be the focus of the new Youth Services Librarian. Discussion commenced concerning the previous focus of Youth Services Librarian Kopp's outreach and programming. Director Hughes reiterated that WCL will pause, reset, and refocus on meeting the unmet needs of the community during this process. Board Member Golden commented that the new Youth Services Librarian may be a fresh set of eyes, to better see the community's needs. Board Member Haffner suggested programs focused on music and robotics. Chairperson Lustig would like someone who can relate to teens.

Due to conflict of interest, attorney Joshua Huber has been consulted, rather than Eric Hansen. The Board approved the same budget for legal costs.

Board Member Alred requested more information on the grant that was awarded to Colfax High School Library. Board Member Golden expounded on the terms and process. Chairperson Lustig thanked Director Hughes for finding the grant.

Executive Session began at 5:02.
Executive Session ended at 5:20.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 PM by Chairperson Lustig.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, October 20th, at 4:00 PM at the **Colfax** branch of the Whitman County Library.

Steve Greene, Finance Manager

Heather Lustig, Chair