MINUTES
CITY OF DENTON
DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
Emily Fowler Central Library – May 12, 2025

After determining that a quorum was present, the Denton Public Library Board convened on Monday, May 12, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Emily Fowler Central Library at 502 Oakland Street, Denton, Texas.

PRESENT: Ellen Sullivan, Patricia Peters, Kathryn Pole, Kerol Harrod, and Eva Poole
ABSENT: Rebecca Fridley

Also present: Jennifer Bekker and Marcella Lunn

1. PRESENTATION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. LB25-034 Consider approval of the minutes of April 14, 2025.

The Board accepted and approved minutes of the April 14, 2025 meeting. Patricia Peters motioned, Kathryn Pole seconded, all in favor.

B. LB25-031 The Board received an informational report regarding the Seed Library initiative at Emily Fowler Central Library.

Lara Elio, Library Specialist at the Emily Fowler Central Library, administers the Seed Library and provided an overview of the program and the positive community response.

The Seed Library is a seed exchange program, developed in coordination with the Denton County Master Gardener Association. The library provides native flower, fruit, and seeds, which are repackaged into small envelopes with planting instructions. Community members may select seed packets each growing season. It is recommended that gardeners harvest seeds and return them to the library for reuse in the seed exchange program.

C. LB25-032 The Board received an informational report regarding the 2025 Denton Public Library Summer Reading Challenge.

Dawn Terrizzi, Adult Services Librarian at Emily Fowler Central Library, provided an overview of the upcoming literacy initiative.
Each year, the library offers a summer reading program for all ages to champion literacy, encourage a love of reading, and support lifelong

learning. The 2025 Summer Reading Challenge theme is Color Our World. The event runs June 1-July 31. Participants are encouraged to read books of their choice and track their reading by minutes read. After reading 5 hours, participants earn a free book. After reading an additional 5 hours (10 hours total), participants earn a second free book. Every 5 hours read earns participants a ticket for a prize drawing for prize packets. Four prize packs are available for each age group: young children (ages 0-5), school aged children (ages 6-11), teens (ages 12-17), and adults (ages 18+). The prize books are funded by the Friends of the Denton Public Libraries. Three special events are also scheduled throughout the summer to celebrate summer reading.

D. LB25-030 The Board received an informational report regarding the Friends of the Denton Public Libraries.

The Friends have received point of sale equipment allowing them to accept credit card payments in the bookstore and at book sales. The equipment is being set up and Friends volunteers are learning how to use it.

E. LB25-029 The Board received an informational report regarding the Emily Fowler Library Foundation.

- There have been no changes since the last Library Board meeting. Library staff is coordinating with Foundation Trustees to schedule a meeting in the new year.

F. LB25-033 The Board received a report, held a discussion, and considered approval of the library's 2025 Denton Halloween events:

- Events were accepted and approved. Eva Poole motioned, Kathryn Pole seconded, all in favor.

G. LB25-035 The Board received a report and held a discussion regarding an appeal request for a library suspension:

- Board members were presented with a summary of policy violations leading up to the suspension. The summary is attached in the minutes as Exhibit 1. Board members voted unanimously to uphold the suspension. Ellen Sullivan motioned, Patricia Peters seconded, all in favor.

3. CONCLUDING ITEMS

The Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Kerol Harrod, Chair

Rachel Reeves, Technical Services Manager
City of Denton, TX

Minutes approved on: June 9, 2025

Exhibit 1: Suspension Appeal-Incident History

Date	Incident description	Policy Violation	Staff Response
3/20/25	Child "A" threw a toy at child "B", hitting "B" in the head. Staff came into the room to deescalate as V.O. did not remove Child "A" from the situation as required by the Rules of Conduct and Unattended Children Operating Policies.	Unattended Children Operating Policy; Rules of Conduct Operating Policy (#4))	It was determined after reviewing the video footage of the incident and because V.O. had been warned multiple times and staff had met with the parent about similar instances that she would be suspended. Suspension was for the parent for not actively monitoring their child. Only V.O. is suspended. The child may continue to visit the library with another guardian.
10/9/2024	V.O. had a speaker phone conversation disrupting other patrons and the children's program. She left the program room without her child, leaving "A" unattended for over 10 minutes.	Unattended Children Operating Policy; Rules of Conduct (#4)	Staff asked her to turn her phone speaker off. She refused. Staff asked her to take the call outside of the library program and she left the child alone in the program.
10/8/24	V.O. was on the phone during a children's program and refused to move her child or tell him to move behind the line after Library staff asked all parents to make sure children were not in the performance area.	Unattended Children Operating Policy; Rules of Conduct (#4)	Staff approached V.O. after the program telling her that she had to stay with her child as a verbal warning. V.O. replied that he was safe with staff. Staff told her that children must remain with caregivers per library policy. V.O. told staff that she had already been talked to by the library and then left.
2/20/24	South Branch Manager and Director of Libraries met with V.O. to discuss concerns about not actively monitoring her child while in the library and during library programs and concerns about other rules of conduct violations		South Branch Manager and Director of Libraries presented print copies the Unattended Children Operational Policy and the Rules of Conduct Operational Policy with sections highlighted about caregiver monitoring and disruptive behavior and gave a verbal warning.
2/15/24	Staff opened the room for Toddler Time and V.O. took the stack of handouts on a table, stood in the doorway, and began handing them out to attendees. Two families refused the song sheets, but V.O. insisted and then tried to make their children take the sheets.	Rules of Conduct (#4)	Staff told her not to stand in the doorway and hand out materials as a verbal warning.

2/14/24	During the Story Time, V.O. repeatedly interrupted the librarian reading. A staff member later observed her on her phone as her child wandered away and then repeatedly slammed magazine shelving. Staff approached V.O. and told her to monitor her child for his safety. Staff walked away but then heard the slamming again.	Unattended Child Operating Policy; Rules of Conduct (#4)	Staff instructed her to monitor her child as a verbal warning.
February-2024	During two Toddler Times in February, V.O. was engaging with other parents, sharing medical information about her and her child, and asking for their personal contact information. The parents looked uncomfortable and were trying to walk away but V.O. was following them continuing to talk.	Rules of Conduct (#4)	Staff intervened and asked V.O.to allow the other patrons to leave.
5/10/23	V.O. was in the play area with her child but did not monitor the child's activity and allowed him to throw toys and push other children.	Unattended Child Operating Policy; Rules of Conduct (#4)	Staff told the patron she must keep her child with her and always pay attention as a verbal warning.
3/8/23	A parent approached staff after a Toddler Time to complain that her child "B" was being hit, pushed, and having her hair pulled regularly during Toddler Times by another child, "A". The parent said that the parent of "A" was often not paying attention to her child which allowed the behavior to continue.		Staff announced expectations before toys were brought out at later toddler times to all participants but did not give a specific warning to V.O.