

**Strathcona County Library Board**  
**Minutes**  
February 23, 2026  
Strathcona County Hall Meeting Room L-1

**Board Members in Attendance**

Amy Koskela (Chair)  
Paul Ryzuk  
Olubusayo Disu  
Marla Tonita  
Keely Cronin  
Audrey Powell  
Lisa Petraschuk  
Donna Smith  
Councillor Glen Lawrence

**Library Staff**

Sharon Siga (Chief Executive Officer) (Zoom)  
Shelley Reason (Facility and Administrative Assistant - Minutes)

**Regrets with Notice**

Rebecca Gagnon

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at **6:32 pm** by the Chair.

**1.1 Acknowledgement of Meeting Location**

Marla Tonita made the land acknowledgement for January.

**1.2 Select Board Member to Present Land Acknowledgement at the next Board Meeting**

Audrey Powell will present the land acknowledgment for March 2026.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

An agenda item was added (7.8 Fort Saskatchewan Public Library Board Joint Meeting) and 8.3 Public Presentations was moved to 8.1.

**MOTION 16/2026**

That the Strathcona County Library Board approve the agenda as amended.

Moved by Olubusayo Disu

**CARRIED**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION 17/2026**

That the Strathcona County Library Board approve the minutes of the January 26, 2026 Library Board Meeting.

Moved by Donna Smith

CARRIED

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**4.1 Committee Assignments**

**MOTION 18/2026**

That the Strathcona County Library Board approve the appointment of Olubusayo Disu to the Policy Committee and Audrey Powell to the Public Advocacy Committee.

Moved by Lisa Petraschuk

CARRIED

**5. Consent Agenda Items**

**MOTION 19/2026**

That the Strathcona County Library Board accept the consent agenda items for information.

Moved by Donna Smith

CARRIED

**5.1 List of Correspondence: Incoming, Outgoing and Media Releases**

**5.2 CEO Report**

**5.3 Minutes of the January 12, 2026 Friends of Strathcona County Library Society Meeting**

**6. Verbal Reports**

**MOTION 20/2026**

That the Strathcona County Library Board accept the verbal reports for information.

Moved by

CARRIED

**6.1 County Councillor Verbal Report**

Councillor Glen Lawrence reported Council has had Strategic Planning meetings to determine the direction County will be going over the next four years. More meetings are planned.

**6.2 Chair Verbal Report**

Amy Koskela invited the Board to attend the Friends of Strathcona County Library Society's AGM on March 9, 2026. Sharon Siga will send out an invite to Board members that are interested.

## **7. New Business**

### **7.1 Performance Measures for 2026 (For Information)**

#### **MOTION 21/2026**

That the Strathcona County Library Board accept the 2025 Performance Measures as information.

Moved by Paul Ryzuk

CARRIED

#### **7.1.1 Notes on the Performance Measures**

Sharon indicated we are seeing good use of the library, however, since the pandemic there appears to be a trend where patrons register for a program then don't show up, or show up even though they have not registered. When speaking to colleagues, other libraries are also noticing similar trends. This trend does not appear to be due to not offering what people want, but more about patrons making the decision to attend, or not, the day of the program. Staff cross department groups have been meeting and considering the information collected in the community needs assessment for future, new program ideas.

#### **7.1.2 Statistics Comparison Spreadsheet**

### **7.2 Draft 2026 Annual Survey and 2025 Annual Report of Public Libraries in Alberta (For Decision)**

Sharon explained the differences in the performance measures and the annual report for the Public Library Service Branch. Amy commented that the large number of volunteer hours shows community support. Amy sent a huge thank you to the volunteers.

#### **MOTION 22/2026**

That the Strathcona County Library Board approve the 2026 Annual Survey and 2025 Annual Report of Public Libraries in Alberta to be submitted to Alberta Municipal Affairs.

Made by Audrey Powell

CARRIED

### **7.3 Retreat Planning**

#### **7.3.1 Minutes of the February 3, 2026 Ad Hoc Retreat Planning Committee Meeting**

#### **7.3.2 Draft Retreat Agenda**

Some changes were made to the agenda. Donna Smith thanked Karla Mallach for her assistance. All agreed that the agenda would result in time

well used, and efforts will be made to end as early in the afternoon as possible.

**MOTION 24/2026**

That the Strathcona County Library Board approve the retreat agenda as amended.  
Made by Lisa Petraschuk CARRIED

**7.4 Trade Fair 2026**

The Board chose the time slots for the Trade Fair that they were available for.

**7.5 Donor Thank-a-thon**

Sharon will send an email after connecting with Suzanne Harris regarding volunteers for the Donor Thank-a-thon. Sharon explained the Thank-a-thon involves making phone calls to donors thanking them for their donation. Usually this takes approximately 1.5 hours on a Saturday.

**7.6 Public Advocacy Committee Meeting**

Keely explained the Committee discussed accomplishments from last year, reviewed strategies and plans going forward. County Council is proclaiming Freedom to Read week, February 22 – 28, at the February 24 Council meeting. Sharon explained the provincial advocacy strategies/plans the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries is working on.

**MOTION 25/2026**

That the Strathcona County Library Board agree to be a signing partner of the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries.  
Made by Keely Cronin CARRIED

**7.6.1 Minutes of the February 3, 2026 Public Advocacy Committee Meeting**

**7.6.2 Draft 2026 Public Advocacy Committee Work Plan**

**7.6.3 Talking Across the Political Spectrum**

**7.6.4 Talking Points for the February 26 Lunch and Tour with County Councillors and the County Executive (were distributed)**

**7.7 Set a Date for the Policy Committee to Meet: April 9, 2026, 6 – 8 pm.**

**7.8 Fort Saskatchewan Public Library Board Joint Meeting**

Sharon explained the two Library Boards meet for dinner and a tour once a year to help cement our partnership, which is unique to the province.

Tricia Wall, Director of Fort Saskatchewan Public Library has suggested instead of a dinner, that appetizers and refreshments will be provided. This will allow more opportunities for mixing and networking. Sharon will provide to Tricia the dates in May and June identified by the Board.

**8. Comments, Announcements, and Other Business**

**8.1 Public Presentations**

No public presentations

**8.2 Upcoming Friends Meeting:**

March 9, 2026 AGM

**8.3 Board Member Round Robin**

Sharon asked the Board if they would like an educational component added to the March Board meeting. All agreed.

**8.4 Next Meeting Date: March 16, 2026**

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at **8:00 pm.**



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Chair