

HERRICK DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES

March 26, 2026 | Holland, Michigan | 4:30 PM

Members Present

Marroquin, Kleinheksel, Kool, VanAllsburg

Members Absent

Becker, Hillen, Petzak

Staff

Vredeveld, Public Services Assistant

Suszek, incoming Library Director

2026-21 | Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Kool, 2nd by VanAllsburg, the meeting was called to order at 4:31 PM.

2026-22 | Consent Agenda

Motion by Kleinheksel, 2nd by Kool, the consent agenda was approved.

2026-23 | Citizen's Comments

There were no citizens present

2026-24 | Friends of Herrick District Library

The Friends have a meeting Friday, April 10. Advertising has begun for the Annual Book Sale, scheduled June 16-20 (Friends only on June 16, Bag Sale on June 20).

2026-25 | Director's Report: March 2026

Personnel

Nicole Adams Thatcher will join the team as Youth Services Librarian at the Main Library on April 5. She brings an educational background with a specialization in reading.

Lakeland

At the most recent Lakeland Board meeting, the Lakeland board approved the recommendation of outsourcing delivery services to Same Day Delivery. This decision follows the upcoming retirement of long-time Business/Delivery Manager Terry Cross at the end of April. With additional drivers nearing retirement, ongoing recruitment and retention challenges, and variable fuel and vehicle costs, outsourcing with a five-year price guarantee was the most sustainable option. Same Day Delivery currently provides delivery for Kent District Library and has experience with library delivery operations. This change will take effect on May 1, 2026.

While a final decision has not yet been made, the Cooperative's ILS (Computer System) review committee has recommended that Lakeland move to a new integrated library system (ILS). The recommended platform is Polaris (an Innovative product), which is expected to improve workflows, simplify the staff interface, enhance the patron experience, and strengthen reporting. Because the system is web-based, it should also be more secure, easier to manage, and more flexible. If approved, the transition is anticipated to occur over the next 12-18 months.

As we evaluate what a new ILS would mean locally, we anticipate potential impacts—especially related to Bibliocore (our website platform). There may also be workflow and cost considerations for Collections, including both improvements and potential updates to custom programs that support efficient processing. We will factor these needs into next year's budget planning and to our goals for the year.

Patron Interactions

Staff have managed several difficult patron interactions over the past months. We continue to work closely with Community Action House, Community Mental Health, and the Holland Police Department to respond appropriately and prioritize safety. These situations can be challenging, and we continue to support staff as they navigate the challenges.

Programs & Initiatives With March is Reading Month, staff have had a very full schedule of school visits, outreach events, and in-library programs. Highlights from February and March include:

- Levitate: a music and arts celebration in partnership with the Holland Museum and Park Theatre. The event was a strong success.
- The Seed Library is available again for patrons.
- The Winter Reading Program ended with 891 finishers—a 56% increase over last year.
- Youth Art Month featured artwork by local students.
- Knitting for Holland concluded with 687 handmade scarves, hats, and mittens distributed through the library.
- The North Branch Story Project concluded with three evenings of celebration, as local elementary authors signed their books and celebrated their accomplishments.

Thanks

Gary Dewey resigned from the Herrick Library Board effective as of the end of February. Gary joined the board in 2008 and has served as the Vice-president and President of the board. We are grateful for his many years of service and support of the library. Thank you, Gary!

Final Director's Report

This is my final Director's report. What an incredible team we have at Herrick. This team is thoughtful, creative, innovative—and consistently focused on the needs and priorities of our community. I want to again express my gratitude to the Board, management team, staff, and community for the opportunity to serve alongside you. It has been a pleasure. Thank you.

2026-26 | President/Trustee Comments

Trustee Kleinheksel thanked Director Kooiker for her 43 years of service. Trustee Kool mentioned the massive transformation the library has undergone in his 12 years on the board, which is due to Diane's leadership. Trustee Marroquin mentioned that the staff is second to none, which is also due to Diane's leadership.

President Marroquin mentioned that MLA Advocacy Day is April 28.

2026-27 | Committee Reports

Committee Reports –Finance Committee met on March 12, 2026, next meeting is May 7, 2026 Policy/Personnel next meeting is April 9, 2026.

2026-28| Banking Authorization

Upon a motion by Kool, 2nd by VanAllsburg, the board approved the transfer of the banking authorization from current director Kooiker to incoming director Suszek.

2026-29| Gifts

Upon a motion by VanAllsburg, 2nd by Kool, gifts to the library for the present month were accepted with thanks.

2026-30 | Adjournment

Upon a motion by Kool, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Sara DeVries, Board Clerk