

**Columbia County Library System
Agenda for November 18, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.
Columbia County Library (Evans Branch) Meeting Room B & C**

Chair Connie Melear, Countywide
Vice Chair John Luton, District 4
Rusty Jarett, District 1

Vacant, District 2
Secelia Brown, District 3

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| A. CALL TO ORDER | Chair Melear |
| B. INVOCATION | Chair Melear |
| C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE | Chair Melear |
| D. ROLL CALL/QUORUM | Chair Melear |
| E. MINUTES | Chair Melear |
| a. November 06, 2025 Executive Session | |
| b. November 06, 2025 Regular Session | |
| F. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA | Chair Melear |
| G. NEW BUSINESS | Chair Melear |
| a. Service Agreement with Columbia County, GA | |
| H. EXECUTIVE SESSION | Chair Melear |
| a. Personnel | |
| I. PUBLIC COMMENTS | Chair Melear |
| J. ADJOURNMENT | Chair Melear |

Columbia County Library System
Minutes for November 6, 2025 at 9:30 am
Columbia County Library (Evans Branch) Meeting Room A

Present at the meeting included:

Chair Connie Melear	County Manager Scott Johnson
Vice Chair John Luton	Deputy County Manager Glenn Kennedy
Member Rusty Jarett	County Clerk Patrice Crawley
Member Secelia Brown	Libraries Manager Keisha Evans
	Admin Angelica Bermudez

CALL TO ORDER

County Manager Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

INVOCATION

County Manager Johnson gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County Manager Johnson led the pledge to the American flag.

County Manager Johnson explained that this Board will manage the Columbia County library system. They will enter into an IGA/Service Agreement with the Board of Commissioners and hire the regional library director. The new system will start on January 1, 2026, so this Board must meet to ensure everything is prepared by that date.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

County Manager Johnson called for the election.

Member Jarett nominated Member Melear as the Chair. All voted in favor of Connie Melear as the Chair of the Columbia County Library System.

Chair Melear nominated Member Luton as Vice Chair. All voted in favor of John Luton as the Vice Chair of the Columbia County Library System.

The Board decided to postpone electing a Secretary/Treasurer until a future meeting.

PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Melear presented the November 06, 2025 agenda.

ADOPTION OF CCLS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Chair Melear stated that the Board had received the draft Constitution and Bylaws. Member Jarrett made a motion to approve the Columbia County Library System Constitution and Bylaws. Vice Chair Luton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Melear stated that the Board needed to go into Executive Session, that the room should be cleared of the public and that everyone may come back when the meeting is called to order.

Columbia County Library System
Minutes for November 6, 2025 at 9:30 am
Columbia County Library (Evans Branch) Meeting Room A

Vice Chair Luton made a motion at 9:40 a.m. to go into executive session. Member Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Brown made a motion to adjourn from executive session at 9:52 a.m. Chair Melear seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Melear called the meeting back to order at 9:53 a.m.

County Manager Johnson stated that one personnel item was discussed but no action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joan Krupsky stated her concerns about forming a single library system.

Karin Parham stated that the Library Board should be independent of the Board of Commissioners.

Karen Phelps stated that everyone should have the right to parent and no reshelving of books.

Priscilla Bence thanked the board for the guidelines.

Susan Warren stated her concerns of a sitting commissioner and county employee making up the Library Board.

Angela Seehusen stated her concerns on lack of transparency.

Kaitlin Giddens stated she would not like the current guidelines brought forward and that this board should move in a different direction than the previous board.

Anna Moza stated that the board should review the reshelving process, it seems very vague.

Vice Chair Luton stated that the board will be voting for a Collection Development Policy in the future.

Member Brown stated that she will consider everything that was said today.

Member Jarett stated that he was glad to hear all the different points of views and will consider them.

Member Jarett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Member Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Connie M. Melear, Chair

Patrice Crawley, County Clerk



**COLUMBIA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH COLUMBIA COUNTY, GA**

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this January 1, 2026 by and between the Board of Trustees of the Columbia County Library System and the Columbia County Board of Commissioners

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Columbia County seeks to establish and maintain a countywide public library system: and

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Library System is authorized to provide comprehensive library services to all residents of Columbia County on the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed as follows:

1. The operation of the Columbia County Library System shall be entrusted to the Columbia County Library System Board of Trustees, which shall conform to the laws of the State of Georgia governing public libraries.
2. All residents of Columbia County shall have full use of all services and materials at any Columbia County Library System branch and may borrow any materials available for circulation. Patrons shall participate in the statewide PINES circulation system and have access to the Galileo statewide electronic databases.
3. All state funds provided for library service shall be administered through the budget of the Columbia County Library System.
4. The book stock and other library materials will be maintained in library facilities and enriched by purchases made with local and state funds.
5. Annual state funding is subject to fiscal year budget appropriations from the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS).
6. Columbia County shall provide facilities to house the state funded employees.
7. The Columbia County Finance Department shall serve as the fiscal agent for the Columbia County Library System to receive state-funded System Services Grants, Materials Grants, and Salary Reimbursement Grants. The Finance Department shall also process payment for all budgeted expenses of the Library System. Library funds shall be included in the annual Columbia County auditing process.
8. The Treasurer of the Columbia County Library System shall request monthly financial statement from the Columbia County Finance Department for reporting at Library Board of Trustees meetings.
9. A State Salary Reimbursement Grant in the amount of one hundred eighty-one thousand eighty-seven dollars and fifty cents (\$181,087.50) shall reimburse Columbia County for the salaries, retirement, health benefits, and FICA for the Director and two additional positions.
10. A Materials Grant in the amount of sixty thousand, seventy-five dollars and zero cents (\$60,075.00), a System Services Grant in the amount of ten thousand nine hundred and twenty-six dollars and zero center (\$10,926.00), and a Post E-rate Grants in the amount of two thousand two hundred and nine dollars and zero cents (\$2,209.00) shall supplement the County Library's local budget.
11. The Columbia County Financial Services Director shall provide the FY 2025 audit to the Library Director by March 20, 2026. The Director shall submit the audit to GPLS by March 30, 2026.
12. Columbia County shall be responsible for all expenses related to the operation of the Columbia County Library System and its branches, including but not limited to building maintenance, personnel, insurance, furnishings, utilities, and supplies.
13. The Columbia County Library System shall provide staff development training and Summer Reading Programs.
14. Columbia County IT Department shall provide internet access for the PINES interface and other technical support for the Library System.



- 15. The Library Director shall represent the Columbia County Library System at state meetings, conferences, and workshops.
- 16. The Columbia County Library System shall oversee all aspects of library operations for the three county branches. Library staff shall be leased from Columbia County and shall report to the Library Director. The Columbia County Library System shall operate in full compliance with the Columbia County Comprehensive Policy Manual.
- 17. Any party wishing to terminate this Agreement shall provide written notice to the other party at least six (6) months in advance of termination. Termination shall take effect on the first day of July in the following year.
- 18. This Agreement shall be valid from January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, these parties have caused this agreement to be executed as of December 2, 2025.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA

COLUMBIA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

By: _____
Douglas R. Duncan, Jr., Chairman
Columbia County Board of Commissioners

By: _____
Connie Melear, Chair
Columbia County Library System

ATTEST

By _____
Patrice Crawley, County Clerk
Columbia County Board of Commissioners