

**Custer County Library Board
Minutes**

September 16, 2026

Custer County Library

The Custer County Library Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, September 16th, 2026, at 1:01 p.m. at the Hermosa Branch. Board members present were Susan Swindal, Cheryl Dillon, and Kibbon Rittberger. Katie Wiederholt and Tracy Fish attended via online conferencing. Also in attendance were Library Director Sarah Myers, Roberta Philip, and commissioner liaison, Mark Hartman. Chair Katie Wiederholt called the meeting to order and presided over the meeting.

AGENDA CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

No changes to the agenda were requested.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this meeting.

MINUTES

- ❖ **July 15th, 2026 Board Minutes:** *No changes to the July meeting minutes. Cheryl made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Susan seconded the motion and the motion carried.*

TREASURER REPORT: *The Board reviewed the July and August financial statements for the Library's General Checking Account and the County ledgers. The July and August County ledgers were presented and discussed with the board. Kibbon moved to approve the financial statements as presented. Cheryl seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

- ❖ **GENERAL CHECKING:** Balance of \$39,367.31 as of September 11th
- ❖ **COUNTY SPREAD SHEET:** Balance \$134,599.28 as of August 31st, 38.28% remaining

LIBRARIAN REPORT: *The Librarian Report is attached and is part of this month's minutes.*

- ❖ Director Meeting Updates
- ❖ Programming Updates
- ❖ Strategic Plan Updates

OLD BUSINESS:

- ❖ *No old business to attend to.*

NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ *2026 Summer Reading Recap – Sarah handed out stats and an infographic for the summer reading wrap up.*
- ❖ *Trustee Recruitment - Sarah informed the Board that recruitment will be needed for one 2027–2029 trustee position. The position will be advertised in the Custer County Chronicle and potentially through social media this fall. It was also noted that the Foundation will be recruiting new members for 2027.*
- ❖ *A.I. Website Statement – Sarah presented a draft statement for the library website outlining the library's approach to artificial intelligence. The statement was developed with consideration of ALA guidance and the library's current practices. The Board recommended having County Legal review the statement before it is posted to ensure it aligns with any applicable county guidance or practices regarding AI. No action was taken at this time.*

- ❖ Collection Development, Computer Use, and Privacy Policy Updates – Sarah presented proposed updates to the Collection Development, Computer Use, and Privacy policies to address artificial intelligence. As these are existing library policies, Sarah recommended adopting the proposed revisions while also seeking review and input from County Legal regarding any additional recommendations. Cheryl made a motion to approve and adopt the Collection Development, Computer Use, and Privacy policies as presented. Susan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - It was also noted, at the recommendation of the Commission Library Liaison, that County Legal should be utilized as a resource when appropriate for future policy review and development.
- ❖ Hermosa Building Committee – The Hermosa Building Committee met earlier in the day on September 16, 2026. The Committee recommended to the library board that Sarah approach the County Commission about initiating discussions with the Town of Hermosa regarding an extension of the lease for the current library space. Cheryl made a motion for Sarah to request placement on a County Commission meeting agenda to discuss extending the lease. Susan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - Bert proposed expanding the Hermosa Branch's public hours by adding three hours on Saturdays, from 2:30–5:30 p.m., beginning in October. The additional public hours would be accommodated within Bert's current 32-hour work schedule. Cheryl made a motion to approve the addition of three hours on Saturday. Kibbon seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sarah asked Bert to identify all locations and materials that will need to be updated to reflect the new hours.
 - Bert also requested the purchase of three new upholstered chairs for the Hermosa Branch. Sarah indicated that they could work together on the purchase. If the total expenditure exceeds \$500, Board approval will be sought. Possible Foundation support for the purchase was also discussed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ SDLA Conference in Pierre – Sept 30- Oct 2
- ❖ Closed for Native American Day – Oct 12th
- ❖ SD One Book Discussion- Oct 17th 11 am
- ❖ State Library Trustee Training- 10/23 @ Sturgis Public Library
- ❖ Updates for Hermosa -The Hermosa branch was at the Custer County Fair in August. Great participation and visibility in the public over that weekend. Hermosa will also participate in HaHa's Christmas Festival with a booth in December. Story Time will be starting soon.

NEXT MEETING: October 21st – 1:00PM at the Custer County Library

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:49 pm.



Sarah Myers
Secretary/Treasurer

September Director's Report

Jul/Aug/Sept Director Meetings Updates

- ***SDLA Children's Book Committee-*** I am on the Children's book committee for the state. Tasked with reading children's books of all ages and coming up with a list of the best of the best for parents, librarians, etc. to make sure they are aware of these books. Meeting 7/23 to hash out the books for 2027-2028. Open to suggestions if you read any good children's lit.
- ***CCLF Work Session-*** The Foundation has been working on reviewing and updating their bylaws, trustee manual and policies. It is good for an organization to review these to make sure they are doing what they say they should be or make sure to make updates accordingly.
- ***Custer County Budget Hearings-*** 8/26~ Commissioners hear preliminary budget discussions where the library discussed print material vs digital, staffing, Hermosa briefly. More budget discussions will continue. No final budget for 2027 has been adopted.
- ***IMLS 250 Convening in Reno, NV-*** Great opportunity came up for rural libraries to gather to celebrate libraries and the 250th celebrations. Takeaways:
 - *How to set up our spaces with services and users in mind*
 - *Best practices and tips for community surveys (Strategic Plan is Expiring in 2027)*
 - *Grant discussions- IMLS Discussion of construction/project funding*
 - *I had applied for up to \$1000 stipend to go towards programming or training related to this conference. I have some ideas whether scanning preservation, capturing your family story/history, etc.*

Programming Updates

- ***Little House on the Prairie Screenings-*** Great opportunity, but not a lot of people in the seats. I hope that future opportunities are better supported.
- ***Gladius Concert partnering with the Custer Area Arts Council***
 - *Homeschooling gathering for Parents 9/12*
 - *Story Time Resuming in Custer 9/11*

Strategic Plan Updates

- Updated Board Reporting Document in Dropbox
- Hermosa building committee met in Hermosa 8/18 and 9/16
- Month of Caring event, FIB workers coming to volunteer at the library 9/15 1-5 pm
- 2026 Exemplary Accreditation was awarded. State Librarian will come personally deliver our certificate. There should also be a press release to share later in the fall.

The Director updated the Board on recent concerns involving individuals experiencing homelessness using the library and surrounding property, including recurring issues with unattended personal belongings. The Board discussed clarifying the Patron Code of Conduct to provide firmer language regarding unattended items and establishing a process for handling items left on library property. The Director will contact County Legal for guidance on any legal or county property considerations. The Board requested that the Director continue to provide updates as the situation develops.