

MINUTES OF THE NORTHEAST KANSAS LIBRARY REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE HEARING, HEARING
FOR THE 2025 BUDGET, AND SYSTEM BOARD MEETING

ZOOM: <https://kslib.zoom.us/meeting/register/9IFYzmAXSlqNPLen4d9b4Q>

YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/@nekls3979>

NORTHEAST KANSAS LIBRARY SYSTEM
4317 W 6TH STREET
LAWRENCE, KANSAS
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

The Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing for the 2026 budget of the Northeast Kansas Library System began at 10:00 a.m. Jack Granath, President, called the hearing to order. He reminded attendees the process for making a public comment.

Mr. Michael McDonald presented the 2026 budget in relation to the Revenue Neutral Rate. He explained that the Revenue Neutral mill levy rate is 1.093. NEKLS proposes a mill levy rate of 1.210.

Mr. Jack Granath called for any guests wishing to provide public comment on NEKLS's intention to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate.

There were 3 speakers. The first speaker did not give his name, but reported that he lives south of Winchester. He spoke in opposition of the increased mill levy rate and opined public libraries should be yoked to school districts instead. Mr. Timothy Moran, Advisory Board Chairperson for the Lansing City Library was the second speaker. He indicated that having public libraries tied to school districts would not be a good idea, because school boards have their own political agenda, and public libraries should be politically neutral. Ms. Liz Krumins from Seaman High School in Topeka was the third speaker. She spoke of the different ways they have benefited from being a member at NEKLS.

Jack Granath called on the System Board to consider Resolution 2025-7 to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. MOTION: Kiersten Allen, Executive Board, moved to pass Resolution 2025-7, a resolution stating the Governing Body's intent to levy a property tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate. Cindy Davis, Executive Board, seconded and the MOTION WAS APPROVED by a vote of 55 yes and 1 no.

Jack Granath called for a motion and second to close the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing. MOTION: Gordon Myers, Executive Board, moved to closed the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing. Kiersten Allen, Executive Board seconded and the MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Mr. Jack Granath, President, called the Budget Hearing to order.

The public hearing for the 2026 budget of the Northeast Kansas Library System began at 10:20 a.m. Mr. Michael McDonald began the hearing by presenting the 2026 Budget.

Jack Granath called on guests to provide public comment on the proposed NEKLS budget.

There were no speakers.

Jack Granath called for a motion and second to close the Budget Hearing. MOTION: Anne Liebst, Executive Board, moved to closed the Budget Hearing. Ginnie Schirmer, Executive Board, seconded and the MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The public hearing on the budget closed at 10:32 a.m. and the System Board meeting began.

The annual System Board meeting was held via Zoom, YouTube, and in person at the Northeast Kansas Library System office at 4317 W 6th Street, Lawrence, Kansas on September 8, 2025. President Jack Granath called the System Board meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

The President called for addition or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

President Jack Granath asked members of the Executive Board to introduce themselves.

The next three agenda items were Action Items. All County Appointees, Executive Board members, and designated Library System Representatives or their proxies, were polled electronically for those attending online and by written ballot for those attending in person, for approval of the September 10, 2024 Assembly minutes.

MOTION: Beverly Sunderman, Executive Board, moved that the September 10, 2024 Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing, Budget Hearing, and System Board Meeting minutes be accepted. Rachael Hissong, Executive Board, seconded and the MOTION PASSED by a vote of 55 yes and 0 no votes.

Mike thanked the NEKLS staff.

All County Appointees, Executive Board members, and designated Library System Representatives or their proxies were polled electronically for those attending online and by written ballot for those attending in person, for approval of the 2026 Budget.

MOTION: Gordon Myers, Executive Board, moved that the 2026 Budget be approved as proposed. David Tyler, Executive Board, seconded and the MOTION WAS APPROVED by a vote of 54 yes and 0 no votes.

Mike shared continuing education opportunities offered at NEKLS.

All County Appointees, Executive Board members, and designated Library System Representatives or their proxies were polled electronically for those attending online and by

written ballot for those attending in person, to complete a vote for the Executive Board representatives. The ballot contained the following nominations:

Doniphan County	Cindy Davis
Franklin County	David Tyler
Leavenworth County	Norine Lauhon
	Jacque Slingsby
Wyandotte County	Laura Hunt Pellegrino
At Large	Sarah Goodwin Thiel

Nominations were approved with 51 ballots being cast for nominees. 51 of 51 vote yes for Cindy Davis for Doniphan County; 51 of 51 vote yes for David Tyler for Franklin County; 40 of 51 vote yes for Jacque Slingby for Leavenworth County; 45 of 51 vote yes for Laura Hunt Pellegrino for Wyandotte County; 45 of 51 vote yes for Sarah Goodwin Thiel for At Large, were the elected Executive Board members.

Mike thanked the System Board for their attendance of the Annual Meeting.

Retiring Executive Board members were recognized and thanked.

Leavenworth County	Ashley Creek
Wyandotte County	Jack Granath

Mike gave a Regional System update.

President Jack Granath called for a motion and second to adjourn the meeting.

The annual System Board meeting adjourned at 10:52a.m.

Ashley Creek, Secretary

ATTENDANCE

Ballot were given to the following 56 System representatives:

1. Brian Cleveland	Atchison Public Library
2. Marcy Sandberg	Auburn-Washburn, USD 437
3. Lisa LaFountain	Baldwin City Library
4. Mike Washburn	Basehor Community Library
5. Heather Carroll	Bern Community Library
6. DeAnna Bean	Burlingame Community Library
7. Heather Garrison	Carbondale City Library
8. Mary Junod	Centralia Public Library
9. Jennifer Sosna	De Soto Unified School District, USD 232
10. Jeri Clark	Delaware Township Library
11. Carol Wohlford	Eudora Community Library
12. Michelle Larson	Horton Public Library
13. Michael Spangler	Jefferson West, USD 340
14. Timothy Moran	Lansing City Library
15. Brad Allen	Lawrence Public Library
16. Matt Nojonen	Leavenworth Public Library
17. Dennis Shelton	Linwood Community Library
18. Kim Priest	Mary Cotton Public Library
19. Kim Hochard	McLouth Public Library
20. Bailey Burnd	Meriden-Ozawkie Public Library
21. Erin Verbick	Morrill Public Library
22. Greta Funk	Nortonville Public Library

23. Julie Clark	Olathe Public Library
24. Jeanette Stromgren	Osage City Public Library
25. Sam Moon	Osawatomie Public Library
26. Sammy Herzberg	Oskaloosa Public Library
27. Laurie Costlow	Overbrook Public Library
28. Morgan Menefee	Paola Free Library
29. Jess Knox	Pomona Community Library
30. Marcia Bauerle	Prairie Hills, USD 113
31. Mathew Oberly	Richmond Public Library
32. Christi McKenzie	Rossville Public Library
33. Liz Krumins	Seaman High School-USD 345
34. Mandy Shultz	Spring Hill, USD 230
35. Christy Angell	Tonganoxie, USD 464
36. Brenda Hough	Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library
37. Rita Anderson	Wellsville City Library
38. Shae Crowley	Williamsburg Community Library
39. Ashley Gupta	Winchester Public Library
40. Gordon Myers	Executive Board, Atchison County
41. Beverly Sunderman	Executive Board, Brown County
42. Cindy Davis	Executive Board, Doniphan County
43. Anne Liebst	Executive Board, Douglas County
44. David Tyler	Executive Board, Franklin County
45. Virginia (Ginnie) Schirmer	Executive Board, Jackson County
46. Jennifer Lloyd	Executive Board, Jefferson County
47. Sara Eccles	Executive Board, Johnson County
48. Ashley Creek	Executive Board, Leavenworth County
49. Kiersten Allen	Executive Board, Miami County

50. Kate Haynie	Executive Board, Nemaha County
51. Brenda Hough	Executive Board, Shawnee County
52. Jack Granath	Executive Board, Wyandotte County
53. Amber Ovsak	Executive Board, At Large (Academic)
54. Lori Franklin	Executive Board, At Large (Schools)
55. Rachael Hissong	Executive Board, At Large
56. Fred Diver	County Appointee, Osage County