Administrative Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: August 17, 2026 *Location:* Carthage-Leake County Library Meeting Room
Time: 2:00 pm

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System Board of Trustees was held on Monday, August 17, 2026, in the Carthage-Leake County Library Meeting Room. Trustees in attendance were Chairperson Saddie Stallworth (Holmes County), Vice Chairperson Rhonda Porter (Winston County), Tim Deason (Attala County), and Martha Ramzy (Leake County).

Also in attendance were staff members Jennifer Thornton, Carthage-Leake County Librarian; Tammy Bell, System Business Manager; and Josh Haidet, System Executive Director.

APPRECIATION FOR BOARD MEMBER MARTHA RAMZY
Before the meeting was called to order, a short ceremony was held in honor of Leake County Board Member Martha Ramzy, who was attending her final scheduled meeting as a member of the MMRLS Administrative Board of Trustees. Following several decades of dedicated service to the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System, Mrs. Ramzy will retire from her role as the Leake County representative on the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System Administrative Board of Trustees, effective September 30, 2026. Mrs. Ramzy has agreed to continue serving as a member of the Leake County Advisory Board. The MMRLS Board and staff members expressed their deep appreciation and gratitude to Mrs. Ramzy for her decades of service to the library system.

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Saddie Stallworth.

SETTING THE AGENDA
Director Josh Haidet reported two additions to the meeting agenda: Item F, Meeting Room Policy Revision; and Item G, West Public Library Hour Change. As there were no further additions or corrections to the agenda, it was adopted as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
The Board reviewed the minutes from the April 27, 2026, Board meeting. Martha Ramzy made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Rhonda Porter and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
There were no requests for public comment.

REPORTS
A. Librarian's Report – Jennifer Thornton, Carthage-Leake County Librarian
(See attached report.)

B. Financial Report – Tammy Bell, System Business Manager
The financial report was presented. Rhonda Porter made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Martha Ramzy and carried unanimously.

C. Director's Report – Josh Haidet, Executive Director
(See attached report.)
OLD BUSINESS
A. Durant Public Library Building

Director Haidet reported that, following the structural assessment completed in January and the environmental screening conducted in March 2026, he presented an update on the condition of the Durant Public Library building to the City of Durant at its April board meeting. At that meeting, Mayor John Haynes stated that he would follow up within a week regarding next steps. As no follow-up has been received, the director and staff are scheduled to follow up on this information at a board report in early September.

B. Tchula Public Library Temporary Closure
The Board reviewed an update regarding the closure of the Tchula Public Library building. In late March, Mayor General Vann indicated that approximately $90,000.00 in federal funding was expected to be received "any time" to support library repairs and that the city would work with the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District to complete the necessary work.

C. Pickens Public Library
The Board reviewed an update on the conversion of the former United Methodist Church in Pickens into the new home of the Pickens Public Library. Following a burst pipe in early 2026 that caused damage to the bathrooms and rear of the building, several positive developments have occurred. A $20,000 grant has been awarded by the American Library Association to partially fund construction of an accessible ramp. Additionally, the Mississippi State Legislature has approved $200,000 toward completion of the project, due in large part to the efforts of Senator Bradford Blackmon and Representative Bryant Clark.

In the meantime, work was being done to ensure that the building was safe from mold and other contaminants that may be present due to the burst pipe. Following testing, work can continue on the project.

NEW BUSINESS
A. Executive Session
Martha Ramzy made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Tim Deason and carried unanimously.

Rhonda Porter made a motion to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Martha Ramzy and carried unanimously.

Following executive session, Martha Ramzy made a motion to remove Lea Ellis as an authorized signer on the Durant Public Library checking account and to add the newly hired assistant librarian, while keeping newly promoted Librarian Monica Moore on the account as an authorized signer. The motion was seconded by Saddie Stallworth and carried unanimously.

B. Video Game Circulation Policy
Staff at the Attala County Library requested that video games be added as a circulating material type under the system circulation policy. Library staff indicated that this would be a valuable addition to the collection and could increase circulation and attendance among teens and pre-teens. Rhonda Porter made a motion to approve the addition of video games as a circulating material type, with the following conditions:

- Circulation is limited to the branch where the items were purchased. Like new books, items cannot be sent to other branch libraries or to MLP members. Patrons must come to the owning library to check out the item.
- Circulation is limited to adult patrons only.

- Only one game may be checked out per patron at a time, with a loan period of two weeks. One renewal will be permitted.

The motion was seconded by Saddie Stallworth and carried unanimously.

C. Building Maintenance and Improvements
The Board next discussed the possibility of completing maintenance and improvement projects at the Winona–Montgomery County Library using available library funds. Specifically, the recently disbanded Winona–Montgomery County Friends of the Library organization has indicated that remaining funds will be provided to the library. Director Josh Haidet noted that the funds could be used to supplement the library's book budget during FY27, freeing up funds provided by the city for operations that could be used for building maintenance, specifically for replacement of flooring in the library foyer and meeting room.

The director reminded the Board of Mississippi Code § 39-3-3, which states in part: "the cost of purchasing land, erecting buildings and equipping and maintaining such public library or public library system shall be paid for in whole out of the general funds of the county or municipality." He further provided the Board with the text of a 2023 Mississippi Attorney General Opinion on Library Building Maintenance, which stated that the Jackson/Hinds Library System "may utilize the general appropriation from the city of Jackson for repair and maintenance of its library facility in accordance with Section 39-3-3."

After review, Rhonda Porter made a motion to accept donated funds from the Friends of the Winona-Montgomery County Library for the use and benefit of the Winona-Montgomery County Library. She further moved that, given the information provided by the director, the existing definition of capital improvement in the system's purchasing and procurement policy be removed from the policy. Martha Ramzy seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Board members also indicated that they would be willing to consider maintenance projects at branches where funds were available for this purpose or were held in reserve and had been provided by the entity that owned the library building. Director Josh Haidet said he would explore possibilities at relevant branches and bring potential projects to the Board at future meetings.

D. Goodman Public Library – Hour Change Request
The Board reviewed a request received from Goodman Public Library Librarian Rachel Floyd to modify the operating schedule at the Goodman Public Library. After review, Rhonda Porter made a motion to modify the operating schedule as follows, effective September 1:

- Monday: 9:00 a.m. – Noon; 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. – Noon; 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday: Closed
- Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – Noon; 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Friday: Closed

Saddie Stallworth seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Extend FY26 Budget
Tim Deason made a motion to continue operating under FY26 budget levels until FY27 budget approval. The motion was seconded by Martha Ramzy. The motion was approved unanimously.

F. Meeting Room Policy Revision

The Town of Kilmichael has traditionally held control of the meeting room connected to the library. The town has voted to give the library control of the meeting room, pending approval of the minutes at its next meeting. Martha Ramzy made a motion to edit the system meeting room policy to remove the Town of Kilmichael as the governing authority for the Kilmichael Public Library Meeting Room upon receipt of the approved minutes. The motion was seconded by Rhonda Porter. The motion was approved unanimously.

G. West Public Library Hour Change
Due to a recent staffing change at the West Public Library, Director Josh Haidet suggested changing the hours of the library to better accommodate the needs of the community. Suggested hours aligned with the hours of operation for the town hall and local bank. Martha Ramzy made a motion to alter the hours at the West Public Library to weekday mornings, with 16–20 operating hours per week, based on staffing needs, at the discretion of the director following the hiring process. Tim Deason seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT
Rhonda Porter made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Saddie Stallworth and carried unanimously.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING
October 26, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.
Attala County Library

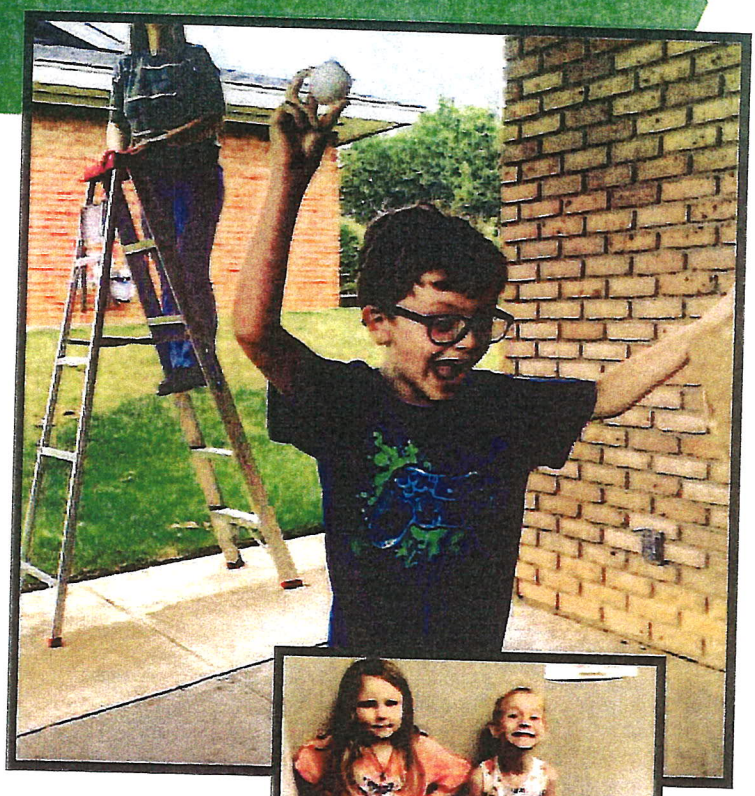
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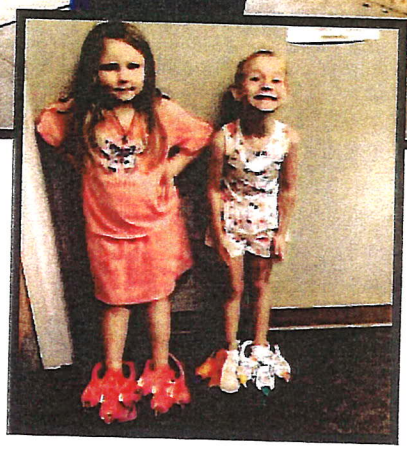
May

Events for the month:

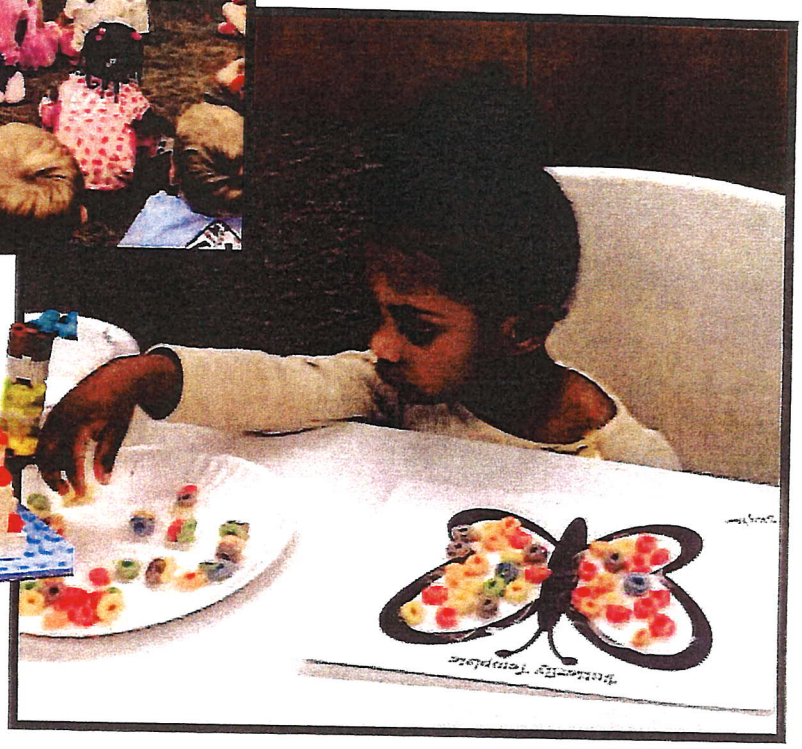
Storytime & Play Cafe
Toddler Tinker Lab
Library Learners Homeschool Club
Kid Collective & Team Steam
Book Club
Summer Library Kick-Off Party

In May, the Library saw around 2,809 patrons, 288 participants across in house and outreach programs and had 7 different organizations to reserve Ramzy Hall with an attendance of around 162 people. The Library also had 52 Facebook posts with a reach of 11,494.





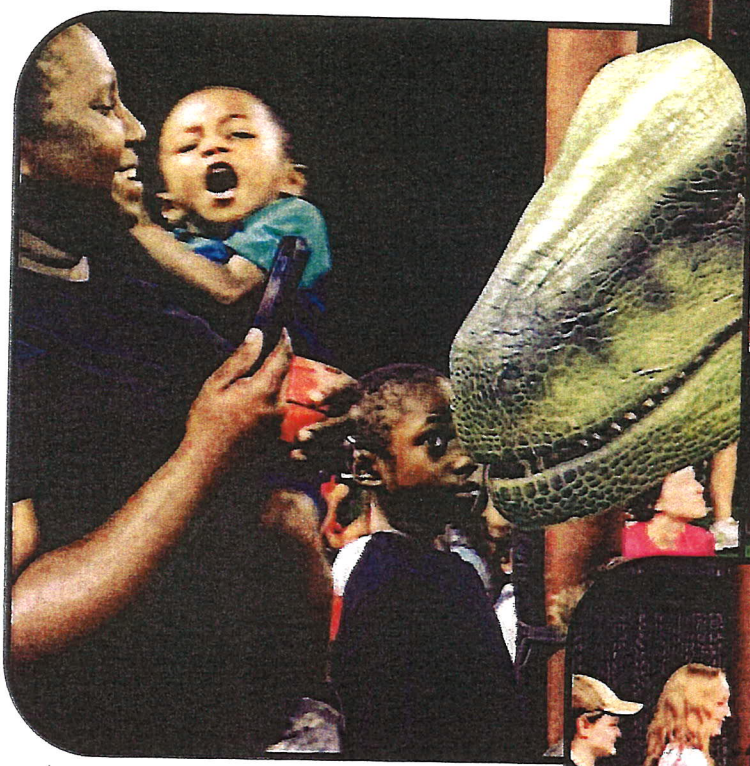




May

Summer Library Kick-Off Party!!!!

THE DINOSAUR EXPERIENCE











June

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Events for the month:

Kid's Programming

Leake County Soil & Water
Dinosaur Paint Party
Freedom Ranch
Story Time/Craft Time
Dinosaur Stain Glass Art
Touch-a-Truck
MDOT & Myrtle the Turtle
Dinosaur Clay Sculpting
Magician Dorian LaChance
Move to Learn
Jurassic Gardens
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science

Adult Programming

Basics to Canning
Sourdough Bread Baking
Paint Party with Jackie Watkins
Master Gardener Deanna Sanders

In June, the Library saw around 4,477 patrons and had 1,535 patrons participate in our in house and outreach programs.

The Library also had 40 Facebook posts with a reach of 48,809.



June

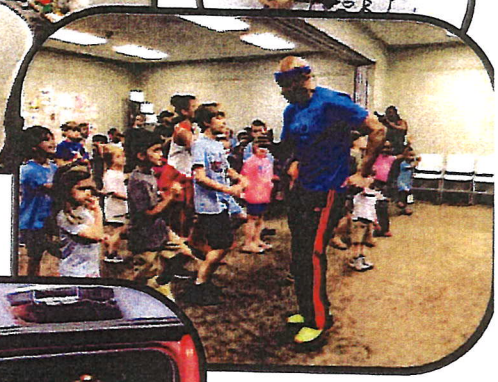
Summer Library!!!





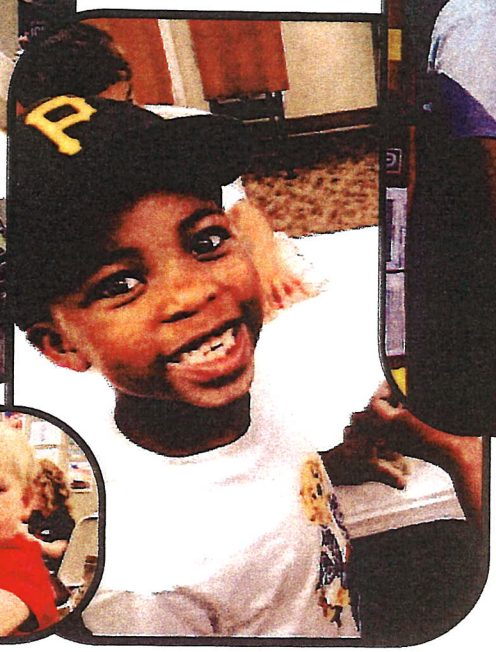




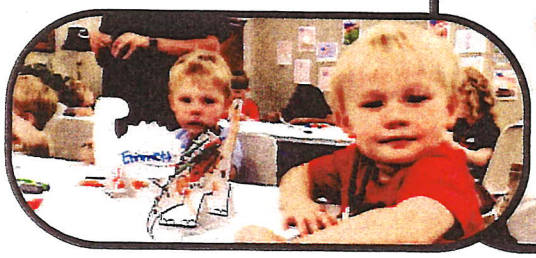






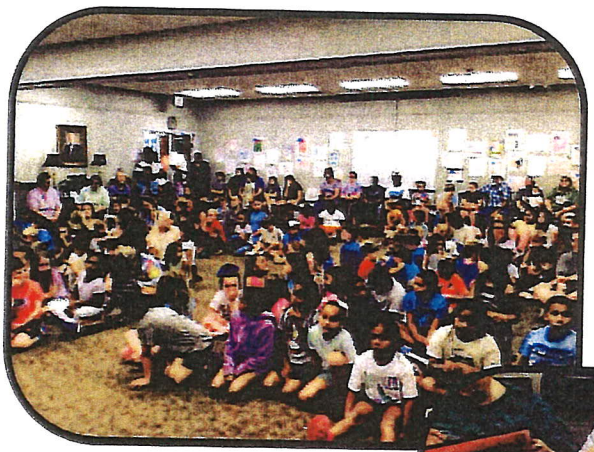


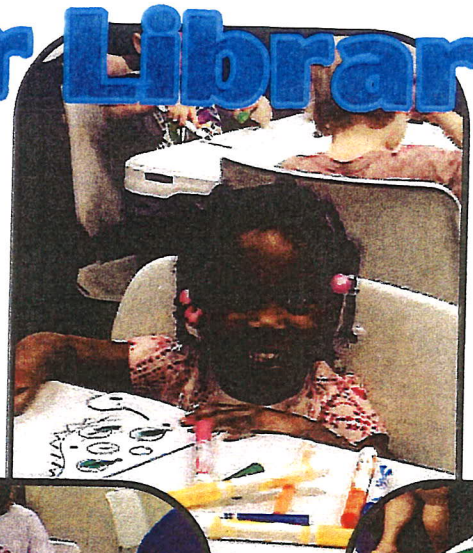




June

Summer Library!!!





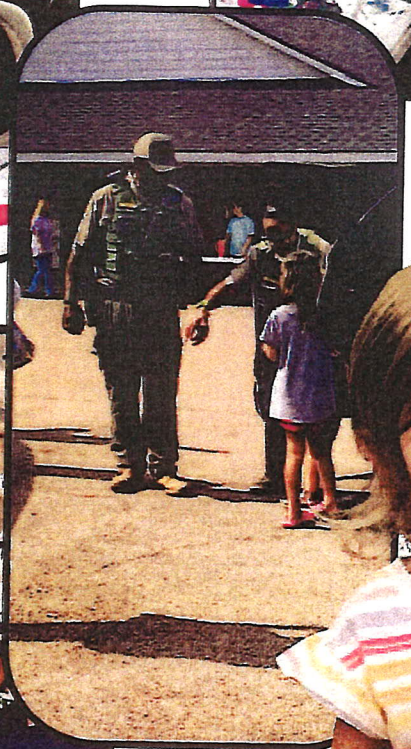


















MMRLS Admin Board Meeting

August 2026

- Total of 11 fraudulent charges made on MMRLS procurement card
- June 1 – 3, 2026
- 8 charges were blocked
- 3 charges went through totaling $1,179.34
- MMRLS not liable for those charges, refund issued
- Card has been destroyed and new card issued

MID-MS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Report on Fraudulent Procurement Card Activity

Director’s Report

August 2026



- Desk Installation completed August 6
- Chris Pizzuto “The Library Furniture Guy”
- Total Cost: $12,384.00
- Ellard Foundation Grant: $5,000.00

MID-MS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Winona Computer Desk

- 270 Programs in June and July
- 6,502 Attendance
- 31,394 items circulated
  - 14,391 Children's
  - 1,444 Teen
  - 15,559 Adult



Summer Reading Program Summary

MID-MS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Pickens Community Conversation

EVENT DETAILS

LOCATION:
309 Highway 51
Pickens, MS 39146

DATE:
Wednesday,
August 19, 2026

TIME:
2:00 PM

YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT!
COME SHARE YOUR IDEAS ON:

- Improving physical access to the library building
- Making library materials easier to use and access
- Expanding services for individuals with disablities
- Identifying community needs related to accessiblility
- Updates on the progress of the new library building

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
662-289-5151 or 662-468-2391
director@mmrls.lib.ms.us or pickens@mmrls.lib.ms.us

As part of a grant from the American Library Association's *Libraries Transforming Communities* initiative, we are gathering input form community members to help guide improvements to our building, services, and resources.

ALA American Library Association

MID-MS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

LIBRARIES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES
ACCESSIBLE SMALL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

MID-MS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Pickens Community Conversation

- Staff Meeting September 4, 2026
  - Programming Focused (All Branch Staff)
- Orientation August 7, 2026
  - Gabi Wilkinson, Attala County Library Clerk
  - Alyssa Myers, Library Delivery and Support
  - Shanekia Edwards, Winston County Library Clerk
  - Miguel Garcia, Outreach Librarian
  - Julie Chase, Winston County Assistant Librarian

- Library Reports and Budget Presentations
  - Director Presented:
    - All five counties
    - City of Carthage
    - City of Durant
    - City of Lexington (meeting with Mayor Percy Washington)

- System-wide Book Inventory Underway
- West, Kilmichael, Duck Hill completed
- First ever complete book inventory since the system automated over 25 years ago
- Approximately 4,410 items have been marked as missing
  - 2,898 were from the West Public Library

MID-MS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Other Updates

- YTD Statistical Report

- MMRLS Building Report
  - No significant changes from previous report in April

- MMRLS Hiring Report

- Building update provided to Durant Board in April
- No response following meeting
- Meeting room closed following structural assessment
- High mold counts
- Meeting again in September



Durant Library Update

- Library has been closed due to indoor air quality concerns since June of 2025
- Roof leak in meeting room
- Funding to be received to complete needed repairs



Department of Housing and Urban Development	Community Development Fund	Town of Tchula	Library Improvements	MS	90,000		Hyde-Smith	S

MID-MS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Tchula Public Library

- The Town of Pickens received $200,000.00 from the State of Mississippi to pay for additional renovations
- Our thanks to Senator Bradford Blackmon and Representative Bryant W. Clark for their efforts in securing these funds



MID-MS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Pickens Library Project

- Town believes the building is potentially unsafe due to pipe burst earlier this year
- Friends of the Library working with Belinda Stewart Architects and town officials to move forward with the project





- We have also received a $20,000.00 grant from ALA to assist with construction costs for an accessible ramp for the new Pickens Library.
- "Community Conversation" program that is a requirement of this grant August 19
- Funds may be expended following the program

MID-MS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Libraries Transforming Communities Grant

Executive Session

Item Type	Max Limit	Loan Period	Renewals	Holds
Book	50	2 weeks	3	10
New Book	10	2 weeks	1	10
DVD / Blu-ray Sets (Adult patrons only)	15	1 week	3	10
New DVD / Blu-ray Sets (Adult patrons only)	10	1 week	0	10
Audiobook Sets	15	2 weeks	1	10
Hoopla (e-books, music)	8/month	Various	N/A	N/A
cloudLibrary	2	2 weeks	N/A	4
Video Game (Adult patrons only) *Attala County Library Only	1	2 weeks	1	1

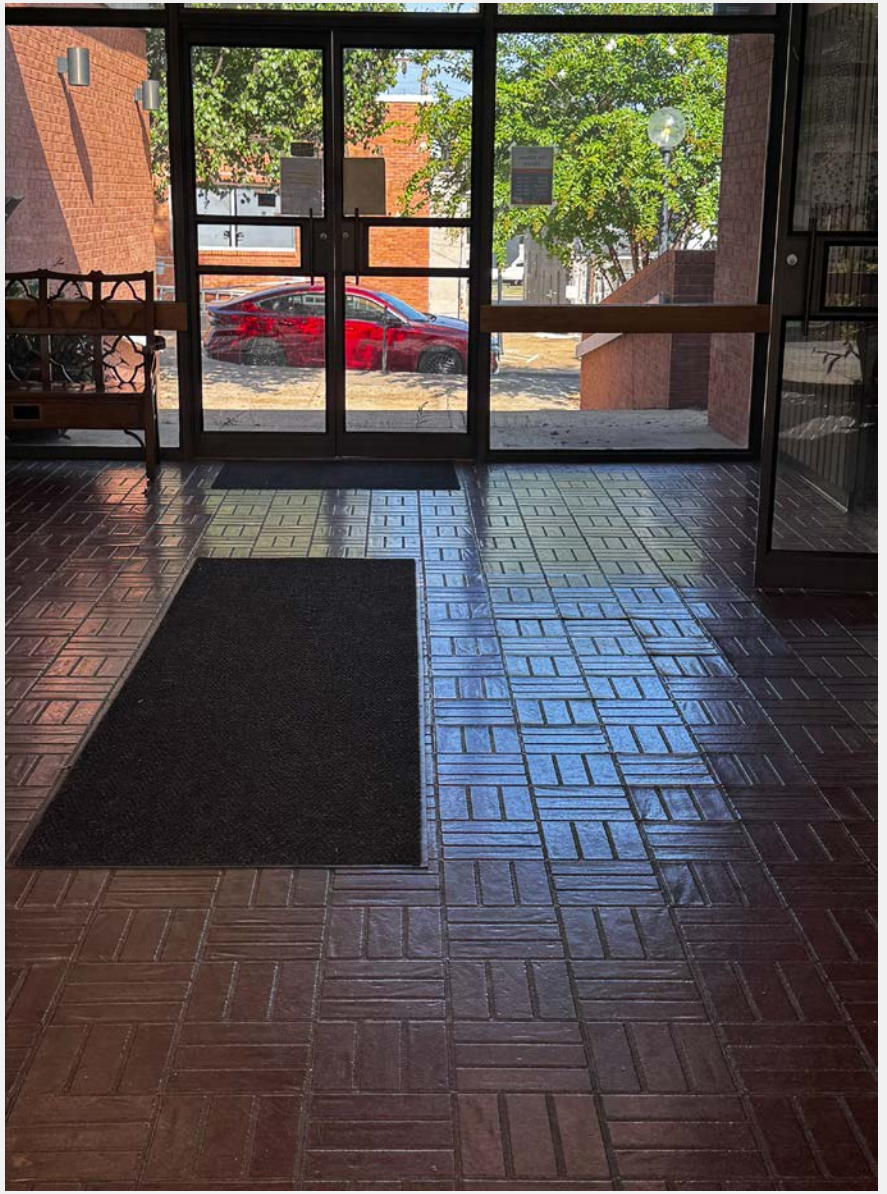
MID-MS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Video Game Circulation

- The Friend of the Winona-Montgomery County Library have disbanded
- Remaining friends funds included two CDs (approx. $11,951 and $5,800) as well as funds left in the checking account which was approximately $2,600.
- They will be donating these funds to the library

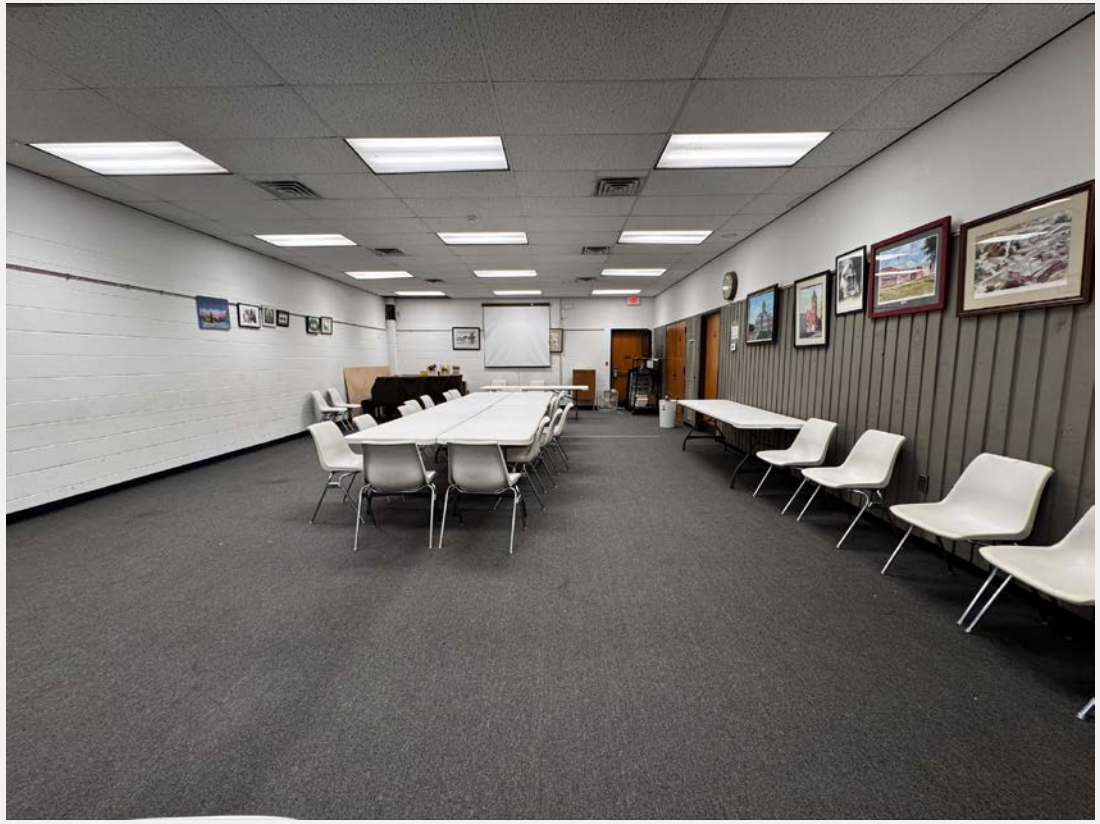
Building Maintenance and Improvements





MID-MS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Winona Flooring - Foyer



- Bid received to replace flooring in meeting room, foyer, and hallway
- Sherwin Williams in Winona
- Estimated cost is approximately $9,500.00

MID-MS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Winona Flooring

- § 39-3-3. Funds for establishment and operation of libraries.
- Where any public library or public library system is established under this article, either by the county board of supervisors or the governing body of a municipality
- the cost of purchasing land, erecting buildings and equipping and maintaining such public library or public library system shall be paid for in whole out of the general funds of the county or municipality.

Capital Improvements

Attorney General Opinion on Library Building Maintenance

- In 2023, The City of Jackson asked for an attorney general's opinion about the funding of library building maintenance.
- "May the Jackson/Hinds Library System utilize a general appropriation from the City to make necessary repairs and maintain the facilities of the library, or must the City's governing authorities make a special appropriation in excess of the annual appropriation?"

Brief Response

- The System may utilize the general appropriation from the city of Jackson for repair and maintenance of its library facility in accordance with Section 39-3-3.

- Areas of Need Include:
- Flooring throughout library, particularly in the children's area
- Meeting room floor, ceiling, walls
- $96,218.70 in reserve funds

Capital Improvements:

- Pursuant to Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated § 39-3-3, maintenance and capital improvements made to buildings that have been designated for library use shall be paid for in whole out of the general funds of the owning county or municipality.
- The Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System defines a capital improvement as any one-time building improvement or maintenance expense exceeding the sum of $1,000.00

- Current Hours
- **Monday:**1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday:**9:00 a.m. – Noon, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday:** Closed
- **Thursday:**9:00 a.m. – Noon, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **Friday:**9:00 a.m. – Noon

- Requested Change
- **Monday:**9:00 a.m. – Noon, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday:**9:00 a.m. – Noon, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday:** Closed
- **Thursday:**9:00 a.m. – Noon, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **Friday:** Closed

MID-MS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Goodman Public Library Hour Change Request

Extend FY26 Budget

- The Town of Kilmichael previously had control of the meeting room connected to the library
- The town has voted to give the library control of the meeting room
- Edit needed to meeting room policy which reads:
- *Note: The policies of the Town of Kilmichael and the Town of Walnut Grove govern meeting rooms at the Kilmichael Public Library and Walnut Grove Public Library. Please contact these municipalities for scheduling and questions.

MID-MS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Meeting Room Policy Edit

- Current Hours:
- **Monday:**8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday:**Closed
- **Wednesday:**8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- **Thursday:**Closed
- **Friday:**8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- Suggested Hours:
- **Monday:**8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday:**8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday:**8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- **Thursday:**8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- **Friday:**Closed

MID-MS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

West Public Library Hour Change Request

Remaining 2026 Meeting Dates:

- October 26, 2026 at 2:00 pm at the Attala County Library
  - Budget meeting