Minutes of the Regular Meeting May 27, 2026

The County of Brant Public Library cultivates inclusivity and empowers lifelong learning.

Date: May 27, 2026
Place: Burford Branch

Present:	John Bell, Paula Chorpitta, Susan Eddy (via Zoom), Nathan Etherington, Amanda Henderson (via Zoom), Steve Howes, Jennifer Kyle (via Zoom), Kari Raymer Bishop (via Zoom)
Regrets:	Fred Gladding, Marilyn Sewell
Staff:	Kelly Bernstein, Steph Burchill

Call to Order: K. Bernstein, in the absence of the Chair and the Vice-Chair, as Secretary, called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

Election of Temporary Chair

Moved by: S. Howes
Seconded by: J. Bell
THAT N. Etherington be elected as temporary chair for the meeting.

Carried

Approval of the Agenda

K. Bernstein requested one addition to In-Camera items 16.1 (4):(d) labour relations or employee negotiations.
Moved by: S. Howes
Seconded by: P. Chorpitta
THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature of

None

Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: J. Bell

Seconded by: P. Chorpitta
THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting April 22, 2026, the minutes of the In-Camera meeting April 22, 2026, the minutes of the Special meeting May 13, 2026, and the minutes of the In-Camera Meeting May 13, 2026, be approved as presented.

Carried

Business Arising

K. Bernstein shared progress on new website development. The successful RFP applicant was Mugo, a British Columbia–based firm with extensive experience in library website design and development. Initial meetings have begun, with completion targeted for the end of the year to align with the end-of-life of the Library's current website.

RPT-2026-05-01: "Cost to Expand Library Service on Election Day 2026" was shared with the Board.

Moved by: S. Howes
Seconded by: J. Bell
THAT the Board sends a communication to Council that the Library would be pleased to have all Library Branches open during the municipal election on Monday October 26, 2026, and the Library will absorb the one-time cost increase to expand library services on election day.

Carried

Consent Items to be Received – Communications

Moved by: S. Howes
Seconded by: K. Raymer Bishop
THAT the May Safety Talk and JHSC Minutes: April 2026, Brant Friends of the Library, and the Memo to Council May 21, 2026: Further details re. the Library's Annual Report be received as correspondence.

Carried

Library Board Development

N. Etherington shared an update regarding Alberta's Bill 28. The bill would allow the government to direct what books are allowed in school libraries and is an infringement on intellectual freedom. The Bill was recently passed.

Submissions for Board Development

N. Etherington reminded Board Members that suggestions for Board Development are encouraged and should be submitted to the Chair or CEO for inclusion in the agenda.

Reports

K. Bernstein shared output measures for April. Collection use continue on an upward trend in both adult and children's fiction. Online resources also saw increased use, including eMusic services and online research databases, with Ancestry Library Edition continuing to be a popular draw. Children's programming statistics showed a decline during the month due to a reduction in partnership programs resulting from unrelated external factors.

The Operating Statement indicates that overall financials remain on track with only one significant anomaly noted; Burford Branch spending is substantially overspent due to the septic system failure last winter, which resulted in unexpected costs. Discussions with the County regarding responsibility for the repairs are in progress.

Two Summer Literacy students have been hired. The returning students from last year will begin work on June 10.

The new program guide has been printed and has been very well received. New Marketing Coordinator, Lainey Tustin has done excellent work in creating a guide that offers programming for all ages.

The “Something for Everyone” newsletter, which highlights the upcoming library programs, was distributed to Board members.

P. Chorpitta reported updates on behalf of the Facility Committee.

Moved by: S. Howes
Seconded by: S. Eddy
THAT the reports be received as presented.

Carried

On behalf of the Planning Committee, N. Etherington presented the final draft revisions to Policies *LS 25 Program Policy* and *LS 9 Collection*s. Key components of Policy *LS 27 Local Author Publications* were incorporated into *LS 9 Collections*, and the committee recommended that the policy be rescinded.

Moved by: S. Howes
Seconded by: P. Chorpitta
THAT policies *LS 25 Programming* and *LS 9 Collection*s be approved as presented and the policy *LS 27 Local Author Publications* be rescinded.

Carried

New Business
Nil.

In Camera Session
Moved by: J. Bell
Seconded by: K. Raymer Bishop

THAT the Library Board convene in camera to discuss confidential matters: *16.1 (4):(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the board* and *16.1 (4):(d) labour relations or employee negotiations.*

J. Kyle joined the meeting at 8:22pm

S. Burchill left the meeting at 9:11pm

On a motion by J. Bell and seconded by S. Howes the Library Board rose from closed session and reconvened the regular meeting.

Carried

Next Meeting
June 24, 2026, St. George Branch.

Adjournment
J. Bell moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:32pm.

Meeting adjourned.