LAKELAND LIBRARY COOPERATIVE
ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES – Official
Thursday, October 8, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
At the KDL Service Center

Council Members Present: Elyshia Hoekstra (OC, transferring power), Stef Reed (MG – President), David Edelman (BH – Secretary)
Lakeland Staff Present: Amber McLain, Ann Langlois
Absent: Joe Zappacosta (SM – Vice President)

1) **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM by Elyshia Hoekstra.
2) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Kevin Meyer moved, supported by Cierra Bakovka to approve the agenda - *motion carried.*
3) **PUBLIC COMMENTS: None**
4) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mary Cook moved, supported by Virginia DeMumbrum, to approve the Advisory Council minutes from September 10, 2026 – *motion carried.*
5) **COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORTS:** Elyshia thanked the group for her time as Advisory President.
6) **BOARD ELECTION AND TRANSFER OF POWER** – Abby Black made the motion, supported by Amy Stockwell, to approve the slate of candidates as presented – motion carried.
7) **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Nothing to report.
8) **ILS MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ann finished the annual patron and fines purge, so there are statistics in the packet regarding that. The scheduled Sierra upgrade has been postponed to 10-14-26. She also shared information regarding future Sierra upgrades. Ann gave an update on the Polaris Migration Project, explaining that the test server with our data has been creative and is in its very beginning stage. Libraries will continue to use the sandbox provided by Polaris with placeholder data as the Lakeland staff tweaks the LLC sandbox. She also discussed the upcoming quarterly meeting on 10-15-2026.
9) **MEMBER SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT:** Amber shared that the process of designing training for Polaris is underway and that LLC has purchased an online learning software. She briefly discussed the scope of the training regarding different modules. She also emphasized that the online learning platform will only be one fact of a much larger training strategy.
10) **COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Carol discussed the results of the Leading Through Change workshop, and how the Lakeland Staff is synthesizing the feedback and integrating it into the planning and integration process for Polaris.
11) **OTHER REPORTS:**
    a) **MLA:** Dale Parus shared that the eRate appropriation is around $2b and the current administration is attempting to have that cut. Until October 13, there are open comments on that – Dale encouraged all Trustees and stakeholders submit comments opposing the cut. James Pugh shared that he will be sending a survey out regarding YEPP and YESA. Mary Johnson and Abby Black shared information about an Open Meetings Act update.
12) **NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
    a) *Committees and Committee Officers Discussion* – Carol shared that many member-run committees require new chairs by the end of the year, and encouraged directors to get involved or encourage their staff to.
    b) *Delivery Statistics Discussion* – A discussion of where delivery statistics should live ensued.
    c) DIRECTOR DISCUSSION OR QUESTION
        i) Cierra Bakovka asked if rural libraries have noticed a larger influx of unhoused patrons. A discussion regarding unhoused patrons and establishing community connections and resources.
        ii) Abby Black discussed how libraries without an assistant director choose a short-term interim. Discussion ensued regarding different strategies.

13) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
    a) Dale Parus shared that Ionia got an agreement with their city to use an easement for a storywalk, and they received a grant for funding.
    b) Deanna Riggleman shared that Tamarack's bookmobile is on site and will be functional soon.
    c) Virginia DeMumbrum shared that White Lake has a pick-up locker that is not getting used – it cannot be sold but can be given to another library. MADL expressed interest.
14) **NEXT MEETING:** Thursday November 12, 2026, following the 9:30 a.m. Board Meeting at Kent District Library Service Center.
15) **ADJOURNMENT:** Abby Black moved to adjourn at10:58 AM – *motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted by,
Amber McLain