San Mateo County Libraries Joint Powers Authority
Governing Board Meeting
Minutes of May 11, 2026

Board Members Present:
Rick DeGolia, Atherton (Vice Chair)
Julia Mates, Belmont (Chair)
Frank Kern, Brisbane
Art Kiesel, Foster City
Reuben Holober, Millbrae
Mary Bier, Pacifica
Rebecca Flynn, Portola Valley
Sara McDowell, San Carlos
David Canepa, San Mateo County
Dick Brown, Woodside

Staff Present:
Anne-Marie Despain
Mary Abler
Lindsey Freeland
Chelsea Quintanilla
Danae Ramirez
Carine Risley

I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 8:17 a.m. by Chair Mates.

II. Public Comments. None.

III. Approval of the February 2, 2026 Minutes.

Motion: Approve the February 2, 2026 Minutes. Passed. (MSP: DeGolia / Brown).

IV. Director's Report. Director Despain highlighted One Book, One Coast, the largest book club on the West Coast, collectively reading George Takei's graphic novel *They Called Us Enemy,* a powerful memoir that examines the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Director Despain also introduced Christa Bigue, Interim Communications Manager.

V. Introduction to the FY 2026-27 Recommended Budget. Director Despain introduced the FY 2026-27 Recommended Budget presentation. Deputy Director Ramirez shared information about the Strategic Plan and system overview. Deputy Director Abler highlighted major accomplishments from the past year, and Deputy Director Risley shared performance data. Finance Director Freeland gave an overview of the recommended FY 2026-27 priorities, budget details, and key projects. Highlights for next year include supporting the new East Palo Alto Library with furniture, fixtures, and equipment; completing the San Carlos Makerspace; a second Library Outpost in Pescadero; new privacy pod meeting rooms; advancing technology enhancements (including IT opportunities, website accessibility and user experience improvement, and exploration of AI applications); facility needs assessments for the Woodside and North Fair Oaks Libraries; and completing a facility assessment for the Administration building. Director Despain concluded the presentation by thanking the Governing

Board for their continued support and leadership. The approval of the FY 2026-27 Recommended Budget will be on the June agenda.

Member Brown asked whether staff have explored ways to grow among non-English-speaking communities unfamiliar with library resources. Staff shared that the library gathered feedback from non-users and multilingual communities during the strategic planning process and there is continued outreach through community members and partners to better understand and engage these populations. Member Brown also inquired about the library's use of AI. Staff noted that the library is taking a cautious approach to AI, exploring customer-focused tools while prioritizing privacy, ethics and evolving policies. Vice Chair DeGolia asked for more information around library projects, such as the furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E) contribution, the new Outpost in Pescadero, privacy pods and plans for the North Fair Oaks Library. Staff explained that FF&E funding is based on a square-footage formula, highlighted the success of the Sanchez Library Outpost and plans for a new outpost in Pescadero, shared updates on the upcoming privacy pod meeting rooms in San Carlos and other library locations, and discussed ongoing planning efforts for a future North Fair Oaks library facility. Supervisor Canepa expressed support for staff workspaces that are up-to-date and inspiring to our county workforce and offered his support for improving the Library Admin building. Member McDowell inquired about the $10M jump in salaries and benefits from FY 2022-23 to the recommended FY 2026-27. Staff shared that this is due to significant staff increases, COLA adjustments and the addition of the North Fair Oaks Library.

VI. Governing Board Members Announcements. Member Holober announced his stepping down from the Millbrae City Council and expressed his appreciation for the Library JPA. Members expressed their appreciation for his work on the Governing Board and wished him well in his new role.

VII. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.