

ALAMANCE COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

May Memorial Library

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

12:30pm

Minutes

PRESENT: Jessica Simmons, Bonnie Whitaker, Paula Hendricks, Tim Check, Cheryl Sandford, Debbie Johnson

STAFF PRESENT: Susana Goldman, Kathy Garrison, Terri Lamm

COUNTY STAFF: Sherry Hook

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPRESENTATIVE: Ed Priola

ABSENT: Lynn Merrill, Shelbi Fanning, Lindsay McKinney

The meeting was called to order at 12:30pm by Jessica.

There were 36 members of the public in attendance.

30 minutes public comment period allowed

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Wendy Karmel – talked about the way it used to be. She said parents were there for the kids. The mothers would meet the kids at the door with a snack. She said kids are growing up too fast today. Kids need the old-fashioned days. They should not have to worry about what pronouns they use. She said children are now facing issues about what books to pick.
- Lorraine Werts – She thinks stickers are a slippery slope. She said stickers lead to banning and banning leads to burning. She told the committee that they had gotten very politicized. She said she is aware of the committee's agenda. Lorraine commended the library staff and the job they do without the backing of the people above them. She said she really appreciates the library personnel.
- Peggy Boswell – lives in Mebane. She has worked in libraries for many years. She came to this library when she was a child and even visited the book mobile. She said the staff is qualified to decide on the stickers, without the library committee voting on them. The staff is educated with numerous degrees. She said the committee should not be questioning what the staff's responsibility is. Peggy said, if there are issues with books, the person can choose what books they read. She said the staff is fully qualified to decide what gets censored. She said she hopes the good old days the first lady was talking about do not come back. She said, today, we need to live to respect the rights of all people. We should allow library staff to determine what is in our libraries. This should not be ruled by a committee that is unqualified.
- Spencer Graybeal – He is a teacher, father and former youth pastor. He learned to appreciate people that are not like him. He is afraid these stickers may deter some younger children by teaching them that a sticker on a book means they are not normal or something is wrong with them if they identify with someone in one of the PG books. He talked about the stickers that were put on albums years ago and how they made the albums more popular. He said it had the opposite effect than the seemingly well-meaning moms' group that got the lawmakers to put stickers on the albums initially.
- Emily Conway – She talked about the committee not following their own guidelines. She said the library should be a safe haven for all kids. She said she appreciated the library staff and the work they do.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Content Notice Request – Decision Appeal – Discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business

Yes means a PG label. No means no label. A tie on the vote means that the library committee will stay with what the library content review committee voted.

Tegan & Sara Junior High

Yes - 3

No - 3

Lucy Lancaster has a secret

Yes - 3

No - 3

Occulted

Yes - 6

No - 0

The prince & the dressmaker

Yes - 3

No - 2

The girl's guide to relationships, sexuality & consent

Yes - 5

No - 1

Is this normal?

Yes - 6

No - 0

You be you!

Yes - 6

No - 0

Alice Austen lived here

Yes - 1

No - 5

Other boys

Yes - 5

No - 1

You too?

Yes - 6

No - 0

Melissa

Yes - 1

No - 5

Disney's Hocus Pocus spell book

Yes - 2

No - 4

It feels good to be yourself

Yes - 1

No - 5

NEXT MEETINGS:

August 11, 2026 at 12:30pm

November 10, 2026 at 12:30pm

February 9, 2027 at 12:30pm

May 11, 2027 at 12:30pm

Jessica adjourned the meeting at 1:12pm.