

**Kitchigami Regional Library System
Special Board Meeting February 13, 2026, 2:30 p.m.
Kitchigami Headquarters Building, Pine River, MN**

Board members present: Jeremy Engholm (Park Rapids), Brent Norman (Pine River), Tom Krueger (Hubbard Cty.), Gene Granberg (Walker), Scott Bruns (Cass Cty.), Mary Koep (Brainerd), Murlyn Kreklau (Wadena Cty.), Neil Tobiason (Longville)

Board members present virtually: Cecil Reams (Cass Lake), Joe Gould (Beltrami Cty), Lynn Eaton (Bemidji), Jamie Lee (Crow Wing Cty.)

Board members absent: Mark Lunde (Walker), Donald Johnson (Blackduck, alt.),

Others present non-voting: In-person: Admin Asst. Svetlana Lang, Mary Beth Durham, Melissa Dingman, Val McCormic, Allison Royce, Amanda Mikota, April Ristau

Interactive Technology: Patricia Dickson, Karen Johnson, Dan Touchette, Kelly Hanks, TJ Rhodes, Jess Nelson, Hallie Pond, Christian Balko, Carrie Huston, Troy Bauck, Tami Beto

Chair Tom Krueger called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and requested participation in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

KRLS Oath of Office Gene Granberg has been appointed as the board representative for the City of Walker and was sworn in at this meeting.

Appoint an Interim Director **Motion by Joe Gould, seconded by Gene Granberg, to appoint Melissa Brechon as Interim Director, with details to be decided upon with the personnel committee.** Roll call vote was taken.
Yes: In-person – Lynn Eaton, Jeremy Engholm, Tom Krueger, Scott Bruns, Brent Norman, Jamie Lee, Neil Tobiason; via Zoom: Cecil Reams, Joe Gould. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Approve Signature Authority for the Interim Director **Motion by Scott Bruns, seconded by Murlyn Kreklau, that the interim director will have the same signing authority that the regional director would have.** Roll call vote was taken.
Yes: In-person – Lynn Eaton, Jeremy Engholm, Tom Krueger, Scott Bruns, Brent Norman, Jamie Lee, Neil Tobiason; via Zoom: Cecil Reams, Joe Gould. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Approve Bemidji / Beltrami
County Libraries Draft Budget
with Cuts

Motion by Tom Krueger, seconded by Murlyn Kreklau, to approve the Bemidji branch total of \$385,027 and the Blackduck branch total of \$76,156. Roll call vote was taken.

Yes: In-person – Brent Norman, Tom Krueger, Gene Granberg, Mary Koep, Murlyn Kreklau; via Zoom: Lynn Eaton, Jamie Lee.

No: In-person – Jeremy Engholm, Neil Tobiason; ; via Zoom: Cecil Reams, Joe Gould.

Abstained – Scott Bruns.

Motion carried.

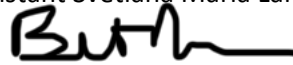
Motion by Mary Koep, seconded by Murlyn Kreklau, to adjourn the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

Roll call vote was taken. Yes: In-person – Jeremy Engholm, Brent Norman, Tom Krueger, Gene Granberg, Scott Bruns, Lynn Eaton, Jamie Lee, Neil Tobiason; via Zoom: Cecil Reams; No: Joe Gould.

Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Svetlana Maria Lang.

Minutes signed by Board Secretary Brent Norman



Date 3-12-26