



GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

CALL OF ROLL:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

PUBLIC COMMENT (if anyone wishes to address the Board):

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approval of Library Board Meeting minutes from 1-14-2026.

COMMUNICATIONS:

FINANCIAL REPORT & CLAIMS (Roll Call Vote Required):

2. Consider approval of Library Bill List.

CONSENT AGENDA (Roll Call Vote Required):

3. Consider adopting a resolution accepting donations.

REGULAR AGENDA:

4. Review ALS Automation Costs.
5. Consider Library Director applying for a Catholic Community Foundation grant.
6. Review 2026 Materials Budget.
7. Library Public Services Clerk I
8. Review article about St. Louis County Schools.

UPDATES:

9. Friends and Foundation.

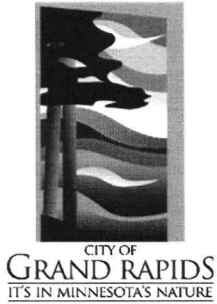
STAFF REPORTS:

- [10.](#) Review Library reports and statistics.

ADJOURNMENT:

NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 11, 2026, AT 5:00 PM.

ATTEST: Amy Dettmer, Director of Library Services



GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

2025 Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

2026 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING - ELECTION OF BOARD PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, AND SECRETARY

Richards nominated Martin for President, Dobbs seconder.

Dobbs nominated Richards for Vice-President, King seconder.

Richards nominated Barr for Secretary, Teigland seconder.

Result: Passed.

CALL OF ROLL:

Present: Barr, Casteel, Dobbs, King, Litchke, Martin, Richards, Squadroni, Teigland.

Staff: Amy Dettmer, Director of Library Services

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Dettmer presented a contract for a library program to add to the Consent Agenda.

Motion to: approve the agenda with the additional item.

Mover: Richards

Secunder: Casteel

Result: Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT (if anyone wishes to address the Board):

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider a motion to approve library board meeting minutes from the 12-10-2025 meeting.

Mover: Dobbs

Second: Squadroni

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

FINANCIAL REPORT & CLAIMS (Roll Call Vote Required):

2. Consider approval of Library Bill List and review financial reports.

Motion to: approve Library Bill List.

Mover: King

Second: Dobbs

Result: Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

CONSENT AGENDA (Roll Call Vote Required):

3. Consider approval of a contract for library programs.

4. Consider adopting a resolution accepting donations.

Additional item: contract with Magner for library programs.

Motion to: approve consent agenda.

Mover: Dobbs

Second: Teigland

Result: Passed by unanimous roll call vote.

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. Review Aaron Brown article.

Informational- no action taken.

6. Review Open Meeting Law.

Informational -no action taken.

UPDATES:

Friends

Teigland reported on a November book sale.

Foundation

Barr reported the Foundation will meet on 1-15-26.

STAFF REPORTS:

7. Review library reports and statistics.

Dettmer reported there is an opening for a 20-hour a week Circulation employee. It closes 1-23-2026.

Dettmer reported she sent in 2 grant applications. One to ALS for study room upgrades and one for \$500.00 in-kind books from Penguin Random-House with an additional \$500.00 from the Friends group.

Dettmer reported there were 90 volunteers that helped the library in 2025.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at 5:25PM

NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2026, AT 5:00 PM.

ATTEST: Amy Dettmer, Director of Library Services

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY BILL LIST - JANUARY 14, 2026
DETAILED REPORT

PUBLIC LIBRARY

ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM	00015369-L	84.99
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	2219954-L	7.96
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	2219959-L	94.00
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	2221592-L	3.98
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	2219457-L	133.74
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	2221088-L	94.00
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	2221418-L	94.00
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	2220814-L	47.00
BUNES SEPTIC SERVICE INC	9987-L	360.00
DEMCO INC	7736304-L	1,225.84
GARTNER REFRIGERATION CO	107457-L	2,530.00
GARTNER REFRIGERATION CO	107366-L	1,210.00
GARTNER REFRIGERATION CO	107575-L	355.00
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	92570546-L	165.03
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	92695956-L	164.12
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	92582057-L	18.06
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	92582058-L	52.02
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	92582059-L	10.86
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	92582060-L	55.09
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	92582061-L	163.53
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93028190-L	452.89
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93028191-L	18.29
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93028192-L	45.17
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93028193-L	16.85
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93028194-L	29.42
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93167545-L	89.38
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93200925-L	38.61
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93200926-L	54.94
LIBRARY IDEAS LLC	120414-L	1,236.32
MIDWEST TAPE LLC	508062729-L	46.48
MIDWEST TAPE LLC	508160460-L	34.84
MIDWEST TAPE LLC	508086855-L	65.97
MIDWEST TAPE LLC	508131639-L	26.99
MIDWEST TAPE LLC	508131640-L	38.99
MIDWEST TAPE LLC	508187369-L	50.23
PERSONNEL DYNAMICS LLC	55197-L	510.60
PERSONNEL DYNAMICS LLC	55231-L	306.36
PERSONNEL DYNAMICS LLC	55216-L	204.24
PERSONNEL DYNAMICS LLC	55207-L	306.36
PERSONNEL DYNAMICS LLC	55248-L	102.12
PLAYAWAY PRODUCTS LLC	520120-L	1,050.60

Item 1.

Item 2.

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY BILL LIST - JANUARY 14, 2026

DETAILED REPORT

SANDSTROM'S INC	569026-L	252.36
SCENIC RANGE NEWS FORUM	9057-L	25.00
TECH LOGIC CORPORATION	INV21003879-L	459.86
TRU NORTH ELECTRIC LLC	1604-L	318.43
UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	6147287-L	186.40
UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	6149366-L	267.95
VESTIS GROUP, INC	2630504165-L	76.23
VESTIS GROUP, INC	2630499407-L	76.23
VESTIS GROUP, INC	2630480128-L	76.23
VESTIS GROUP, INC	2630494658-L	76.23

TOTAL ALL INVOICES: \$ 13,409.79

**GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY BILL LIST - JANUARY 14, 2026
DEPARTMENT SUMMARY REPORT**

PUBLIC LIBRARY

ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM	\$	84.99
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	\$	474.68
BUNES SEPTIC SERVICE INC	\$	360.00
DEMCO INC	\$	1,225.84
GARTNER REFRIGERATION CO	\$	4,095.00
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	\$	1,374.26
LIBRARY IDEAS LLC	\$	1,236.32
MIDWEST TAPE LLC	\$	263.50
PERSONNEL DYNAMICS LLC	\$	1,429.68
PLAYAWAY PRODUCTS LLC	\$	1,050.60
SANDSTROM'S INC	\$	252.36
SCENIC RANGE NEWS FORUM	\$	25.00
TECH LOGIC CORPORATION	\$	459.86
TRU NORTH ELECTRIC LLC	\$	318.43
UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	\$	454.35
VESTIS GROUP, INC	\$	304.92

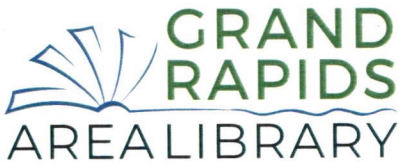
TOTAL UNPAID TO BE APPROVED IN THE SUM OF: \$ 13,409.79

CHECKS ISSUED-PRIOR APPROVAL

AT&T	25-Dec	\$	54.30
GRAND RAPIDS PAYROLL	LIB - 12/12/2025	\$	23,078.60
GRAND RAPIDS PAYROLL	LIB - 12/26/2025	\$	23,117.06
MARCO	570284133-L/DEC25	\$	165.65
METROPOLITAN	TS053963310001/JAN26	\$	81.28
MN ENERGY	0507783569-01/OCT25-L	\$	347.18
MN ENERGY	0507783569-01/NOV25-L	\$	1,113.79
OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL #49	26-Jan	\$	8,860.00
PAUL BUNYAN COMMUNICATIONS	4026700/DEC25-L	\$	249.04
PUC UTILITIES	25-Nov	\$	2,565.01
VISA	25-Nov	\$	892.50
WASTE MANAGEMENT	25-Nov	\$	145.86

TOTAL PRIOR APPROVAL ALLOWED IN THE SUM OF: \$ 60,615.97

TOTAL ALL DEPARTMENTS: \$ 74,025.76



12/16/2025

Emily Lindner
23222 Old Stones Throw Road
Grand Rapids, MN 55744


Dear Ms. Lindner:

I am pleased that you will be leading a series of book club meetings developed for school age children. These programs will be held 1/12/2026, 2/9/2026, 3/16/2026, 4/13/2026, and 5/4/2026.

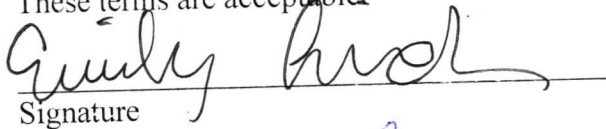
The Library will pay you \$125 for each program. This fee will include your prep time, as well as set-up, programming, and clean-up time. In addition, the Library will pay you \$50 for program materials and snacks, for a total payment of \$175 per program. Payments will be made monthly, after the programs are completed. If these arrangements are agreeable, please sign below, and return this contract to the library.

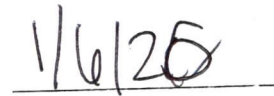
My e-mail is: adettmer@grandrapidsmn.gov. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns about the arrangements for your programs.

Sincerely,

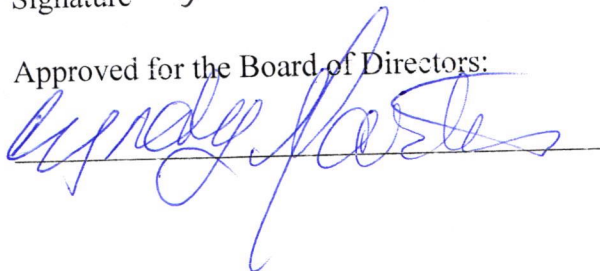

 Amy Dettmer
Library Director

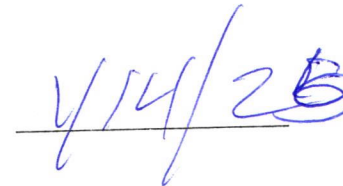
These terms are acceptable:


Signature


Date

Approved for the Board of Directors:







12/16/2025

Diana Magner
34447 Unger Dr.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Dear Ms. Magner:

I am pleased that you will be developing 9 Artastic programs to film for children. These programs will be released on 1/28/2026, 2/25/2026, 3/25/2026, 4/29/2026, 6/24/2026, 7/29/2026, 8/26/2026, 10/28/2026, and 11/25/2026.

The Library will pay you \$125 for each program. This fee will include your prep time, as well as set-up, and filming time. Payment will be made after each program is released. If these arrangements are agreeable, please sign below, and return this contract to the library.

My e-mail is: adettmer@grandrapidsmn.gov. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns about the arrangements for your programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Dettmer", written over a horizontal line.

Amy Dettmer

Library Director

These terms are acceptable:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana Magner", written over a horizontal line.

Signature

A handwritten date "1-14-26" in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date

Approved for the Board of Directors:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lyndy Porter", written over a horizontal line.

A handwritten date "1-14-26" in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01
A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS

WHEREAS, Minnesota State Statutes 465.03, states that cities may accept gifts of real or personal property, including money, and use them in accordance with the terms the donor prescribes, and

WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Library Board of the City of Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota, accepts the listed donations and terms of the donors as follows:

Grand Rapids Area Library Foundation - \$1,603.50

Anonymous - \$43.00 for staff appreciation

Grand Rapids Area Library Friends – \$338.32 for book replacements

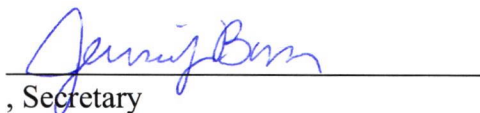
Gibeau/Maunu/Bignall Families - \$200.00

Hawkinson - \$250.00

Adopted this 14th day of January 2026



, President



, Secretary

**GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY BILL LIST - FEBRUARY 11, 2026
DETAILED REPORT**

PUBLIC LIBRARY

ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM	00015372-L	\$	32.00
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	2222271-L	\$	47.00
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	2223800-L	\$	94.00
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	2223189-L	\$	94.00
BURGGRAF'S ACE HARDWARE	412345-L	\$	184.84
CENGAGE LEARNING INC	999102146208-L	\$	116.24
CENGAGE LEARNING INC	999101866464-L	\$	49.01
DULUTH NEWS TRIBUNE	178103720/2026	\$	380.89
GOVCONNECTION INC	77246276-L	\$	187.13
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93930345-L	\$	622.03
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93766757-L	\$	156.55
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93766758-L	\$	12.03
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93990735-L	\$	25.23
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93898885-L	\$	42.04
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93898886-L	\$	19.03
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93693823-L	\$	27.47
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93711207-L	\$	25.80
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	94105525-L	\$	127.75
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	94091239-L	\$	25.80
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93354467-L	\$	25.80
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93354468-L	\$	48.99
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93450637-L	\$	23.12
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93450636-L	\$	20.60
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93494455-L	\$	23.16
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93494456-L	\$	18.11
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93494457-L	\$	35.76
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93494458-L	\$	15.65
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93494459-L	\$	17.83
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93494460-L	\$	28.79
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93528023-L	\$	651.84
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93837219-L	\$	26.92
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	94022426-L	\$	25.80
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	93575149-L	\$	79.71
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS LL	IN5041981-L	\$	487.85
MIDWEST TAPE LLC	508371014-L	\$	109.02
MIDWEST TAPE LLC	508344700-L	\$	106.46
MIDWEST TAPE LLC	508217520-L	\$	35.98
MIDWEST TAPE LLC	508308635-L	\$	24.74
MIDWEST TAPE LLC	508244196-L	\$	83.92
PERSONNEL DYNAMICS	55285-L	\$	102.12
PHAROS SYSTEMS INT'L INC	I2026113-L	\$	1,726.01

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY BILL LIST - FEBRUARY 11, 2026**DETAILED REPORT**

PLAYAWAY PRODUCTS LLC	521377-L	\$	331.45
SANDSTROM'S INC	572317-L	\$	233.18
SANDSTROM'S INC	S572799-L	\$	33.06
UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	6146122-L	\$	221.35
VESTIS GROUP, INC	2630508995-L	\$	76.23
VESTIS GROUP, INC	2630513728-L	\$	76.23

TOTAL ALL INVOICES: \$ 6,958.52

**GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY BILL LIST -FEBRUARY 11, 2026
DEPARTMENT SUMMARY REPORT**

PUBLIC LIBRARY

ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM	\$	32.00
BLACKSTONE PUBLISHING	\$	235.00
BURGGRAF'S ACE HARDWARE	\$	184.84
CENGAGE LEARNING INC	\$	165.25
DULUTH NEWS TRIBUNE	\$	380.89
GOVCONNECTION INC	\$	187.13
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LLC	\$	2,125.81
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS LL	\$	487.85
MIDWEST TAPE LLC	\$	360.12
PERSONNEL DYNAMICS	\$	102.12
PHAROS SYSTEMS INT'L INC	\$	1,726.01
PLAYAWAY PRODUCTS LLC	\$	331.45
SANDSTROM'S INC	\$	266.24
UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	\$	221.35
VESTIS GROUP, INC	\$	152.46

TOTAL UNPAID TO BE APPROVED IN THE SUM OF: \$ 6,958.52

CHECKS ISSUED-PRIOR APPROVAL

AMAZON	1CHR-HCP7-M3GL-L	\$	25.67
AMAZON	1KMJ-G17H-KVHN-L	\$	123.49
AT&T	2026/January	\$	55.24
DIANA MAGNER	012826-L	\$	125.00
EMILY LINDER	120825-L	\$	175.00
EMILY LINDER	011226-L	\$	175.00
GRAND RAPIDS PAYROLL	LIB - 01/09/26	\$	22,206.84
GRAND RAPIDS PAYROLL	LIB - 01/23/26	\$	20,660.07
MARCO	57255688-L	\$	165.65
MN ENERGY	0507783569-01/DEC25-L	\$	1,525.01
MN REVENUE	2025/November	\$	39.00
MN REVENUE	2025/December	\$	55.00
PAUL BUNYAN COMMUNICATIONS	4026700/JAN26-L	\$	248.92
PUC UTILITIES	2025/December	\$	2,802.13
VISA	2025/December	\$	(459.50)
WASTE MANAGEMENT	2025/December	\$	145.86

TOTAL PRIOR APPROVAL ALLOWED IN THE SUM OF: \$ 48,068.38

TOTAL ALL DEPARTMENTS: \$ 55,026.90

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02
A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS

WHEREAS, Minnesota State Statutes 465.03, states that cities may accept gifts of real or personal property, including money, and use them in accordance with the terms the donor prescribes, and

WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Library Board of the City of Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota, accepts the listed donations and terms of the donors as follows:

Grand Rapids Area Library Foundation - \$2,593.67

J. Gardner - \$1,000

Adopted this 11th day of February 2026

Cyndy Martin, President

Jennifer Barr, Secretary

INVOICE

Item 4.

Arrowhead Library System

5528 Emerald Avenue
Mountain Iron, MN 55768
Tel. 218-741-3840
Fax 218-748-2171

Billed To: GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY
140 NE 2ND ST
GRAND RAPIDS MN 55744-2826

Date: 1-Jan-26

Invoice #: 10141

<u>COA#</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
101-02-004-47070	12	Due For JAN-DEC 2026 Automation Costs Including Ongoing Software License for PAC, Circulation, and Serials	\$3,125.00	\$37,500.00
		<i>"These Automation Costs will be provided by the Arrowhead Library System budget in 2026."</i>		(\$37,500.00)
		TOTAL Amount Of Invoice:		\$0.00

Please Detach And Return This Portion With Payment To ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM

Account: GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY

Invoice Date: 1-Jan-26

Invoice #: 10141

Invoice Amount Due: \$0.00

Your Name:* FirstLast

Amy Dettmer

Your Title*

Director of Library Services

Your Email:*

adettmer@grandrapidsmn.gov

Your Direct Phone Number*

218-326-7643

Public Library Name:*

Grand Rapids Area Library

City:*

Grand Rapids, MN

Please provide a brief description of your library:*

Grand Rapids Area Library is a public library serving the greater Grand Rapids, MN area – with a service population of over 21,000 people. Our library is the busiest library in northeastern Minnesota outside of Duluth. Along with circulating over 168,000 items annually, we offer passport acceptance, programming for children, teens, and adults, as well as community services and technology support.

For what are you seeking grant funding?*

We are seeking support to retrofit two drinking fountains into refillable water bottle stations. We currently have one refill station near the restrooms, which is very popular. We have two additional drinking fountains inside the library – one in our Children's section and one in the Adult/YA section. Switching these two fountains into water bottle refill/drinking fountain stations offers our patrons clean, filtered water at more convenient locations, and reduces disposable bottle waste.

Describe how your library receive tax deductible charitable funds (that is, through a "friends of" or through city government, etc.)*

The Grand Rapids Area Library is a department of the City of Grand Rapids, MN. As such, the City can receive grant funds on behalf of the Library.

Name of the organization that receives charitable funds for the library*

City of Grand Rapids

Address:*

420 N. Pokegama Ave.

City:*

Grand Rapids

State:*

MN

ZIP Code:*

55744

EIN of the organization that receives charitable funds for the library (above) format ##-#####:*

41-6005201

What is the TOTAL cost of the expense?*

Each unit costs $\$2,162.25 \times 2 = \$4,324.50$. Tax will be: \$340.55. No shipping cost.

Total: \$4,665.05

The Building Maintenance Department for the City can switch out the old fountain with the new water bottle stations so there is no cost for labor.

Grant Amount Requested:*

\$4,665.05

How will you know your grant has been successful?*

As the refill stations track the equivalent of the disposable bottle waste, we can see how frequently these stations are used. We also will note anecdotal feedback from patrons. In particular, we know that in the Children's library, caregivers who need to mix formula have to leave the space to get water from the station near the restrooms. We will seek feedback from those patrons as a measure of the accessibility and convenience of the new stations.

Materials Budget

	2025	2026
Children	\$12,000	\$4,000
Adult Fiction/Nonfiction	\$14,000	\$5,000
Large Print	\$7,500	\$3,000
Young Adult	\$5,500	\$2,000
Periodicals	\$7,500 (3,900)	0
Adult A/V	\$9,000	\$5,000
Newspapers	\$2,000	\$2,000
	\$57,500	\$21,000

St. Louis County Schools reportedly pulled books from library during Banned Book Week

The News Tribune investigated St. Louis County Schools' library policies following reports that the district had pulled books from the North Woods School in Cook in October 2025. A library assistant received a termination notice two days after the Banned Books Week display was taken down.



St. Louis County School District's North Woods School in Cook, Minn.

News Reporting

COOK — Every fall, libraries across the U.S. take part in a weeklong advocacy campaign known as Banned Book Week. Aimed at raising awareness about censorship and challenged books, participating libraries might host book readings, organize talks with intellectual freedom advocates, or create displays of challenged and banned books.

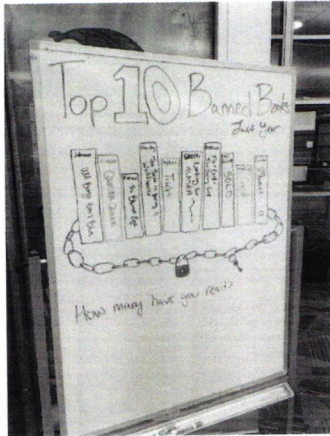
It's an event that Quinn Krebsbach, a library assistant who was eventually terminated from North Woods School in Cook, had taken part in before in various libraries during his career, by putting up banned-book displays without concern.

First Day Hike near Superior at Pattison State Park

Read More

So, when the whiteboard display and advertisements Krebsbach put up in the school library Oct. 5 for Banned Books Week became the subject of multiple complaints, the backlash was unexpected.

"I have done really similar displays about banned books in the past, and it's always been something that was well received," he said. "It's a time of year when libraries across the country celebrate freedom from censorship and freedom to read by doing education about book banning. ... I was really surprised that there was this kind of reaction."



The display created by former North Woods School library assistant Quinn Krebsbach for Banned Book Week in October. This image was obtained by the Duluth News Tribune through a data request to the St. Louis County school district.

Contributed / St. Louis County Schools

In the wake of those complaints, Krebsbach said, the district's lack of policy around library materials and content complaints left him with little guidance on how to move forward.

"Under Minnesota law, there is supposed to be a policy," Krebsbach said. "It would have been useful in a situation like this."

Since 2024, public libraries, including those in public schools, are required under Minnesota's [Access to Library Materials and Rights Protected](#) law to adopt policies that establish procedures for selecting books, maintaining library materials and handling content challenges and reconsideration of materials.

Despite the law taking effect in August 2024, St. Louis County Schools is one of several school districts in the region still operating without the required policy.

"We want districts to have these policies, because it really does make things better for them in the long run," said Ann Kaste, with the Minnesota Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee. "What the law says is that every district must have a policy and procedure around collection, development and challenges, but then there is no consequence if districts don't have it."

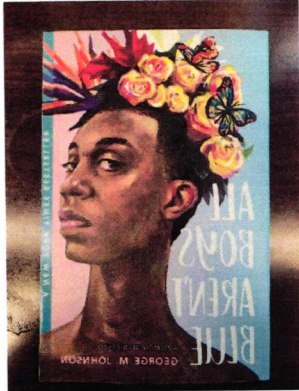
"That really gets into the issue, though, where you have school librarians, media specialists ... put in a bad situation, in a district where they weren't backed by policies and procedures."

The book display

Holding a master's degree in library and information science, Krebsbach, 27, was hired as a library assistant for St. Louis County Schools at the start of September, just as the school year was beginning.

One of the largest in the region, the district is made up of five schools, including North Woods School. Both the elementary and secondary schools are housed in the same building in Cook and share resources, including the school library, where Krebsbach's book display was set up.

The display consisted of a whiteboard listing the American Library Association's top 10 most challenged books of 2024, and the question, "How many have you read?"



"All Boys Aren't Blue" by George M. Johnson was the No. 1 banned book in the US in 2025.

Emma McNamee / Duluth Media Group

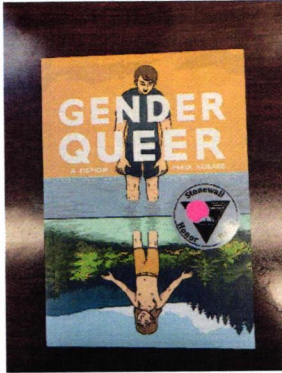
Included in the display list were "All Boys Aren't Blue" by George M. Johnson and "Gender Queer: A Memoir" by Maia Kobabe. Both books received awards from the American Library Association and were purchased to help fill the gap in LGBTQ+ content in the North Woods School library collection, Krebsbach said.

"Librarians are trained not to make choices based on our own personal biases, but to try to just represent the wide range of what people in the community might use or might like," Krebsbach added. "It's really disappointing to see choices made based on people's individual biases about what should be there, what shouldn't be there, and disappointing to see educational materials taken out of the library collection."

"All Boys Aren't Blue" is a young adult memoir consisting of a series of personal essays by Johnson, a journalist and LGBTQ+ activist. A New York Times Best Seller, the book delves into themes of race, gender and sexuality, and is recommended for ages 14 and up. Kobabe's illustrated memoir, "Gender Queer," an autobiographical comic exploring gender identity and asexuality, is recommended for older teens and adults.

During 2024, the two books were the most challenged in the United States, over claims of sexually explicit content and LGBTQ+ themes.

"I was absolutely horrified that this was in a library," wrote one parent in a complaint to North Woods School staff obtained by the News Tribune. "I hope they will be removed immediately. ... I am shocked that the librarian thinks this is appropriate."



“Gender Queer: A Memoir” by Maia Kobabe is an autobiographical comic exploring gender identity and asexuality that is one of the most banned books in 2024.

Emma McNamee / Duluth Media Group

The district and school received multiple complaints over the display, with parents voicing concerns over titles that were not “age-appropriate” being displayed in the K-12 library.

Additionally, complaints were made over the content of lessons that Krebsbach had planned for Banned Book Week. Using children’s books that had faced content challenges, second- and fourth-grade classes engaged in discussions about censorship, banned books and what to do if library materials made a student feel uncomfortable.

“My children will not be a part of any of this,” read another parent complaint. “This is very disturbing, and I am not sure why this is allowed? I would hope that he will have to take this down immediately and NOT say anything to our children about these types of books. They are banned for a reason!”

Books, display taken down

Krebsbach was asked to take down the display after meeting with North Woods Principal Kelly Engman and Assistant Principal John Jirik.

The whiteboard, Krebsbach said, was taken down. Copies of “All Boys Aren’t Blue” and “Gender Queer” remained on the new book display until those were taken down as well.

“I was asked not to display anything that was controversial,” Krebsbach said, “And I had asked for more feedback on that, and at that time, (Jirik) said that those two titles had particularly been called out by parents as controversial or problematic. He had taken them off the shelf, off of the display, and out of the library ... and I had reason to believe they were not going to be returned to the library.”

Two days later, Krebsbach received another request. In an Oct. 9, 2025, email obtained by the Duluth News Tribune, Jirik requested that Krebsbach remove all new books from the library and that they be brought to his room. According to order forms obtained by the News Tribune, Krebsbach ordered more than 80 new books for the North Woods library collection, amounting to more than \$500 worth of library materials.

Krebsbach stated that he pulled all new materials from the shelf that same day and delivered them to Jirik's room. Hours later, after the school day had ended, Krebsbach was notified via voicemail and later email that his employment with St. Louis County Schools had been terminated.

That same day, an alert was sent out to parents and staff members stating that the school had investigated reports of "inappropriate" library materials and "taken action to ensure that our library is a safe place."

"They weren't ever super explicit on what they intended to do with the books," Krebsbach said. "They had previously said that they weren't going to ban any books, but then they pulled 'Gender Queer' and 'All Boys Aren't Blue.' So it was a little bit of an unclear situation about what was actually going on and what they really were going to do with the books."

District Superintendent Reggie Engebritson declined to comment on whether all the books were returned to the library, or if any books were placed on restricted access. The district also declined to comment on any review process or the lack of policies in place regarding library materials and challenged content.

Two challenges filed

The American Library Association [defines challenges](#) to library materials as attempts to remove or restrict materials based on the objections of a person or group. Under the [Access to Library Materials and Rights Protected](#) law, school districts are also required to submit a completed challenge report to the Minnesota Department of Education detailing the reasoning and results of the challenge. Those reports are later collected by MLA and the ALA and added to the national list of challenged books.

During 2025, MLA received reports of approximately 25 book challenges.

Two challenge reports involving St. Louis County Schools were submitted to MDE, regarding the books "All Boys Aren't Blue" and "Gender Queer." Krebsbach submitted both complaints following the end of his employment at North Woods School. As of December, the reports were still under review.

"Taking books away from students means taking away their chance to learn. It means prioritizing one person's idea of what should be valued in the library collection over everybody else's views," Krebsbach said. "I'm just really disappointed in the way that this situation has been handled, and I hope that all the books that were pulled off the shelf are returned to students promptly, because the students are in school to learn, and they deserve all the learning resources that we can give them."

Monthly Report - Overview for Jan 2026

Locations on this report: Grand Rapids Area Library

Checkout

Description	Jan 2026	Dec 2025	%chg	Jan 2025	%chg	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	%chg
1st Time	7150	7166	-1	9886	-28	7150	9886	-28
Phone Renewal	150	179	-17	149	0	150	149	0
Renewal	103	114	-10	206	-50	103	206	-50
Opac Renewal	513	781	-35	506	1	513	506	1
Offline 1st Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offline Renewal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dayend Auto Renew	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7916	8240	-4	10747	-27	7916	10747	-27

Checkout Stock Rotation

Description	Jan 2026	Dec 2025	%chg	Jan 2025	%chg	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	%chg
1st Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phone Renewal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Renewal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opac Renewal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offline 1st Time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offline Renewal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dayend Auto Renew	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Checkin

Description	Jan 2026	Dec 2025	%chg	Jan 2025	%chg	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	%chg
Normal	5807	7198	-20	7903	-27	5807	7903	-27
Late	1818	1856	-3	1902	-5	1818	1902	-5
Offline Normal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offline Late	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7625	9054	-16	9805	-23	7625	9805	-23

Requests Placed

Description	Jan 2026	Dec 2025	%chg	Jan 2025	%chg	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	%chg
Placed	1644	1465	12	2201	-26	1644	2201	-26
Total	1644	1465	12	2201	-26	1644	2201	-26

Requests Resolved

Description	Jan 2026	Dec 2025	%chg	Jan 2025	%chg	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	%chg
Cancelled	79	192	-59	154	-49	79	154	-49
Filled	2363	2394	-2	3172	-26	2363	3172	-26
Expired	7	6	16	6	16	7	6	16
Total	2449	2592	-6	3332	-27	2449	3332	-27

Holds Resolved

Description	Jan 2026	Dec 2025	%chg	Jan 2025	%chg	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	%chg
Picked Up	1476	1310	12	2176	-33	1476	2176	-33
Cancelled	6	5	20	3	100	6	3	100
Expired	157	111	41	123	27	157	123	27
Total	1639	1426	14	2302	-29	1639	2302	-29

Overdues

Description	Jan 2026	Dec 2025	%chg	Jan 2025	%chg	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	%chg
1st Notice	587	582	0	568	3	587	568	3
2nd Notice	5	2	150	9	-45	5	9	-45
3rd Notice	1	0	100	4	-75	1	4	-75
4th Notice	0	0	0	1	-100	0	1	-100
5th Notice	0	0	0	1	-100	0	1	-100
Final Notice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Notice # 7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Notice # 8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Notice # 0	185	185	0	237	-22	185	237	-22
Total	778	769	1	820	-6	778	820	-6

Borrower Delta

Description	Jan 2026	Dec 2025	%chg	Jan 2025	%chg	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	%chg
New (Manual)	34	52	-35	87	-61	34	87	-61
Deleted (Manual)	1	4	-75	10	-90	1	10	-90
New (Batch)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deleted (Batch)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	35	56	-38	97	-64	35	97	-64

Bib Delta

Description	Jan 2026	Dec 2025	%chg	Jan 2025	%chg	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	%chg
New (Manual)	93	114	-19	168	-45	93	168	-45
Deleted (Manual)	158	147	7	859	-82	158	859	-82
New (Batch)	140	94	48	33	324	140	33	324
Deleted (Batch)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	391	355	10	1060	-64	391	1060	-64

Auth Delta

Description	Jan 2026	Dec 2025	%chg	Jan 2025	%chg	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	%chg
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
New (Manual)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deleted (Manual)	2	0	100	0	100	2	0	100
New (Batch)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deleted (Batch)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	2	0	100	0	100	2	0	100

Item Delta

Description	Jan 2026	Dec 2025	%chg	Jan 2025	%chg	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	%chg
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
New (Manual)	275	301	-9	482	-43	275	482	-43
Deleted (Manual)	617	410	50	1380	-56	617	1380	-56
New (Batch)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deleted (Batch)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	892	711	25	1862	-53	892	1862	-53

Acquisitions Activities

Description	Jan 2026	Dec 2025	%chg	Jan 2025	%chg	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	%chg
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Lines Ordered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Items Ordered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lines Received	178	139	28	196	-10	178	196	-10
Items Rcvd by Ven	196	140	40	199	-2	196	199	-2
Claims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	374	279	34	395	-6	374	395	-6

Grand Rapids Area Library
Reference Statistics
January 2026

	January	YTD 2026
Door Count	3,326	3,326
Reference Questions	148	148
Computer Help Over 5 Minutes	9	9
Tests Proctored	0	0
Public Computer Use: Sessions	127	127
Public Computer Use: Hours	98	98
Special Computer Sessions	71	71
Passports Accepted	64	64

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1New Year's Day	2	3
4990 925	5221 2397	6221 5238	7221 6257	8	9	1022
11	12222 1896	13222 4836	14222 7843	15	16	1715
18	19ML King Day	20223 1655	21223 3806	22	23	2411
25	26223 6536	27223 9654	28224 7616	29	30	3116
		Notes				64

$224261 - 221239 = 3,022$

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1New Year's Day	2	3
4	511 np/1111cl	612 np/1111cl	78 np/1111cl	8	9	10
11	1232 np/1111cl	1313 np/1111cl	1422 np/1111cl	15	16	17
18	19ML King Day CLOSED	2013 np/1111cl	217 np/1111cl	22	23	24
25	268 np/1111cl	2710 np/1111cl	2812 np/1111cl	29	30	31
		Notes				

Children's in January

And so it begins. Our new library schedule has been hitting our patrons, hard. We have been fielding much concern from the public, and our days are significantly busier than "normal?" It's been a month of adjusting, for everyone. Some highlights:

1. Page Turners Book Club met
2. Tracy did two programs for KAXE this month, one standard review plus a Newbery (and other awards announced by the American Library Association on Monday, Jan. 26) blurb, and a second, post-Newbery announcement program discussing the outcomes.
3. Tracy and Amy were guests at the Library Foundation meeting, where we discussed what programming we could continue throughout the year. We will continue Book Clubs, Book Time, and Artastic, and possibly, return Lego Club this summer. We will NOT be hosting Summer Celebration this year, as most available additional funds need to be put toward our book budget.
4. Ms. Diana filmed another Artastic segment, focusing on winter trees...they are wonderful! Kits are being distributed this week.

Happy Reading!

GRAL Children's Library Monthly Statistics January 2026

Artastic

Programs: 1

Facebook plays: 261

YouTube views: 25

Total views: 286

Kits handed out: 150

1/06	Book Time	41
1/12	Page Turners	4
1/13	Book Time	32
1/20	Book Time	24
1/27	Book Time	43

Total Programs: 5 People: 144

Book Times : 4 People: 140

Library Programs: 1 People: 4

Reference Questions 2026: 291

Reference Questions 2025: 419

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 (29)
4	5 22	6 14	7 41	8	9	10 79
11	12 25	13 23	14 26	15	16	17 74
18	19 CLOSED	20 NO CINDY 20	21 14	22	23	24 34
25	26 38	27 32	28 34	29	30	31 104

GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY: 2026 Volunteer Report

Month	Regular Volunteers		RSVP Volunteers		Library Board		Library Friends		Library Foundation		Total	Total
	# Vol	Hours	# Vol	Hours	# Vol	Hours	# Vol	Hours	# Vol	Hours	# Vol	Hours
January	40	160.75	4	43.75	9	29.00	10	60.00	10	14.00	44	204.50
February											0	0.00
March											0	0.00
April											0	0.00
May											0	0.00
June											0	0.00
July											0	0.00
August											0	0.00
September											0	0.00
October											0	0.00
November											0	0.00
December											0	0.00
Total		160.75		43.75		29.00		60.00		14.00	*	204.50