

ELP BOARD MEETING NOTES

May 15, 2026

Call to Order: 8:45 am

Adjourned: 9:26 am

Attendance

x Adkins, Sarah	Elliott, Jessica	Keese, Savanna	x Owens, Robin
Barber, Katie	Farris, Tina	Lisk, David	x Pollock, Casey
Bentley, Daniel	x Faulkenberry, Tom	x Mendoza, Dawn	Taubenkimel, Cindy
x Bush, Niki	x Frothingham, Judy	x Moore, Laura	x Taylor, Ashley
Close, Will	x Green, Carolyn	Neelands, Angel	Thompson, James
x Echols, Sylvia	Green, Courtney	x Nichols, Erin	x White, Jamie
Edwards, Martha	x Hubbard, Rachel	x Owens, Erin	x Williams, Lisa-Anne

Minutes

Welcome

Presenter: Laura Moore

- Welcome
- Percentage of board members who've contributed some or all of their pledge: 100%
- Bookmarks reminder
- Approval of April 2026 meeting minutes
 - Motion to approve – [Lisa-Anne Williams](#)
 - Second – [Judy Frothingham](#)
 - [April 2026 minutes unanimously approved](#)

Financial Report

Presenter: Ashley Taylor

- Bank Balance as of 04/30/2026: \$
- Schwab Balance as of 04/30/2026: \$
- Total Cash: \$
- Total Donations in April: \$
 - EW Process: \$1,000
 -
- Endowment Balance 03/31/2026: \$
- ROR
 - Credits Spent: \$6,934.97
 - ROR Credits Earned as Income: \$4,187.60
 - ROR Credits Remaining: \$8,902.71
- Net Income as of 04/30/2026: ()

Programs Report

Presenter: Niki Bush

- Reach Out and Read

- Final site visit
- Parent surveys were sent by ROR coordinator
- Books In Every Home
 - Nurse Family Partnership Family Day
 - Earth Day Birthday
 - MacFeat's Road to Reading family event
- Books for Baby Bumps
 - New books, including bilingual: Welcome, Little One
 - Delivered prenatal bags to Women's Enrichment Center and Palmetto Women's
- WeeRead is on hiatus as the NICU is moved to the Fort Mill hospital
- Volunteer day in June with EW Process

Nicolette Bush:

Robin Owens: Catawba Service Unit is moving away from Indian Health Services so that may change our interaction with them; I will send you my contact.

Executive Director Report

Presenter: Rachel Hui-Hubbard

- Dolly Parton Imagination Library reboot
 - State of SC is promoting this and will be covering 50% of costs
 - All of our objections have been addressed
 - As the go-to for early childhood literacy in York County, we had an obligation
 - Offsets possible ROR contraction
- Comporium has committed to the next Born Learning Trail in September

RHH: It will be at McConnells park in McConnells

- Successful presentation at EW Process

RHH: EWP has been a long-time donor; Chip Smith (former president of EW Process) made a commitment to ELP and it's still honored. We have a potential board member from that group

- Hoppin' RH is closing at the end of May, which impacts some of our 2026-27 fundraising plans

New Business

Presenter: Laura Moore

- Vote on Strategic Plan:
 - Motion to approve – Judy
 - Second – Erin Nichols
 - Strategic Plan approved

RO: Will Dolly Parton Imagination Library be included in the strategic plan?

Rachel Hui-Hubbard: It just happened, so it has not been included specifically

Tom Faulkenberry: It will fit under goal 3

Sylvia Echols: Rachel and Niki have increased the number of partnerships and that's one way we become THE local organization for early literacy

Laura Moore: I went to a conference about AI and there are many people concerned about the tie-in with early literacy. Our partnerships show the strength of community (in York County). People with big dollars want to do a national push to find organizations like ours.

TF: We were involved in DPIL once and we quit due to the expense. Is that going to happen again? Are we good?

RHH: Tom is correct; we used to support it, and the cost became too great. However, State of SC is now covering half the cost. They are going to each county in SC and seeking partners. The rep said she had called different organizations in York County and they all recommended us, which is great! I brought up my concerns to Arielle (the rep) and she addressed the cost. They still serve all families. However, screen distraction is a big issue and that affects families of all socioeconomic groups. She suggested that we reach out to the families with money and ask for donations post-graduation. She also said that address changes are easier now and unhoused families can receive up to 10 books at shelters. Due to the inquiries we've received, I think funders will be on board to support the program. I also feel like we have an obligation to take on the program, being the local nonprofit for early literacy. If another organization took it on, that could muddy the waters.

TF: I understand the cost, but I'm glad to hear that it's back!

SE: The move to put books in shelters is very positive. It sounds like there is nothing to keep us from making it accessible to struggling families.

Dawn Mendoza: Are we allowed to attach a flyer with the books we send from DPIL? There is a lack of knowledge with younger parents. Tangible books are not what is chosen and some parents don't understand what kids are missing.

RHH: The books ship directly from DPIL

NB: We'll have access to their addresses so perhaps we can do a postcard campaign or something similar.

- Vote on 2026-2027 Budget:
 - Motion to approve – Judy Frothingham
 - Second – Ashley Taylor
 - Budget approved

Workgroup Reports

Presenter: Judy Frothingham

- Events/Fundraising
 - Derby Dash – net income \$12,055.43

JF: Two weeks ago, we had our Ready Set Read 5k and fun walk. We had 39 registrants and I would say about 30 showed up! Amazing support from Charlotte Running Co. and it went really well overall. Strictly Running was going to charge us \$8,000 and Selwyn Blake (race organizer and part-owner of SR) called us and reduced the cost significantly, to \$305. We had to clock the times ourselves, but we saved a lot of money. The timing of the event was bad – two other races around the same time, Come See Me and Strawberry Festival. Selwyn suggested that we move the race to October. Races take time to build up a crowd so if we continue to do the race, numbers should increase.

RHH: And Jamie's son won the race!

Jamie White: Girls on the Run had a race that day, too.

JF: And now we know how to run a race without spending \$8K!

NB: Shout out to the Inside Rock Hill folks who volunteered, they showed ready to work and were a fun group

LM: And we also work with them on Little Free Libraries, right?

NB: Yep, we donate books to them, and they fill LFLs around York County

Recognition of Departing Board Members

Presenter: Rachel Hui-Hubbard

- Lisa-Anne Williams
- Robin Owens
- Savanna Keese

For Your Calendars:

- Sunday 5/17: Southside Music & Cultural Trail

<https://www.rockhillusa.com/Home/Components/News/News/4424/8230>

SE: This has been a focus of our mayor, to try to revitalize the south side of Rock Hill; they built a nice auditorium and this should be a great event.

- Have a great summer!