

**Minutes**  
**South Mississippi Regional Library**  
**January 6, 2026**

The South Mississippi Regional Board met at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, in the auditorium at the Columbia Marion County Public Library. Present were Mrs. Sharon Dungan, Chair, Mrs. Patricia Norris, Mrs. Robin Hurst, and Summer Slocum to take minutes of the meeting.

Mrs. Dungan called the meeting to order with prayer.

New Business: Plans for Search for a Director:

Mrs. Dungan explained that she has spoken with South Mississippi Regional Library consultant, Sharon Zala. An interim director can serve up to one year with an interim waiver while an active search for a permanent director is being conducted. Mrs. Dungan will stay in touch with Ms. Zala providing what is needed during this search for a director, and interim management responsibilities.

New Business: Financial/Bank Issues:

Mrs. Dungan explained that she and Mrs. Mona Swayze are authorized signers for SMRL's bank accounts, Ms. Shannon will be removed. Mrs. Dungan reached out to the MLC consultant for questions, Ms. Zala stated that it is allowed for the current Bookkeeper, Summer Slocum to approve invoices, while writing the checks, and be added to the account to sign them.

New Business: Personnel Issues:

Mrs. Norris suggested to consider going into executive session. Mrs. Dungan seconded. Mrs. Hurst moved to go into executive session. Mrs. Dungan seconded. Mrs. Norris moved to come out of executive session. Mrs. Hurst seconded. The following motions were made.

New Business: Interim management responsibilities:

Mrs. Dungan moved that Summer Slocum be named interim director of the South Mississippi Regional Library, effective immediately. There will be an hourly rate increase effective January 9, 2026. Mrs. Hurst seconded. Ms. Slocum accepted

this offer. Summer Slocum is now serving as the South Mississippi Regional Library Interim Director, while maintaining her current role as Bookkeeper.

Mrs. Dungan moved that the interim director be authorized to have access to all passwords that are needed for library operations and to receive professional emails of the previous director. Mrs. Norris seconded.

Mrs. Dungan moved that the current Vice President of South Mississippi Regional Library, Patricia Norris, and the interim director be added as authorized signers on all applicable bank accounts. Mrs. Hurst seconded.

Mrs. Dungan moved that a letter be written to the boards advising the local funding sources that the current director resigned effective January 2, 2026, and that the current bookkeeper has been appointed the interim director, effective January 6, 2026. Mrs. Norris seconded.

Mrs. Dungan moved that the interim director follow the banking and audits policy to advertise for banks services. Mrs. Norris seconded.

Mrs. Norris moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Dungan seconded. Meeting adjourned.

The board will hold another special meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.