New Baden Library Board Minutes
New Baden, IL 62265
September 1st, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Jo Stroot.

Member's present were: Jo Stroot, Vivian Bowden, Judy Bashe, Greg Stroot and Vicki, the Librarian. Absent was Travis Samiel and Diane Hoeschler.

Public Comments: None

Board Meeting Minutes:

August meeting minutes were reviewed. Vivian motioned for August minutes to be approved. Judy seconded. Minutes were approved.

Librarian Director Updates:

-Vicki distributed the August 2026 Librarian reports to Board members and the reports were reviewed.

-Our numbers are still good but noticing a downturn in DVD checkouts.

-August swap: bulletin boards were updated to a fall theme and the activity table in the kid's area has been supplied with items to occupy kids while in the library. The activity table has been used often with a few items being favorites. Vicki may add a few more things at some point.

-Story Time has started and the first week there was only one preschooler in attendance and the second week there were two. We may need to rethink our Story Time structure if numbers stay low. Vivian suggested reaching out to homeschooled families about Story Time. We need to maintain the event as a preschool age event and homeschool families might want to bring their school age children as well. We will continue to think about ways to promote and/or modify the event.

-The bulletin board for 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is up and it was posted on multiple Facebook pages. We have had several families come in and request logs in order to participate in the program. We also have a cloth bin full of books for the children to choose from as they complete set of logs.

-We have a lot of events coming up. In October we will have the Book/Bake sale October 9th and 10th. Vicki purchased new bags for the event and showed everyone a sample. She also requested donations for the bake sale – it can be anything anyone would like to contribute. Baked goods need to be at the library by the Thursday night before the sale. We have received a lot of great donations of books for the sale. Trick or Treat in the Park will by on October 16th from 4pm-6pm. We have everything we need for give away and no need to purchase anything this year. On October 22nd we will be having mandatory Narcan training at the library at 7pm. Vicki will check to see if Board members can also attend if there is anyone wishing to attend. The library will host a Puzzle Race on November 11th from 4pm-8pm. The library is closed that day for Veteran's Day so we can start the race a little earlier than in the past. There will be a limit of 10 tables at $20 a table. An Author event will be held on Thursday, November 19th at 6:30pm. Dr. Kim Pulkinson will be here with her new book Grief in the Middle of Nowhere. She stopped in one evening to look at how she would like to have things organized and she is planning on inviting several counseling organizations in the surrounding area to attend. Vicki thought it could be a larger group of attendees and wondered about having cookies and water for the audience. Holiday Story Time will be Tuesday, December 8th from 3pm-4pm. This year's theme will be a Gingerbread Man theme. The library has been invited to participate in the Holiday Light Parade on December 12th. The Board thought that it would be great exposure for the library.