



defiance public library system
Defiance • Sherwood • Hicksville

PRESS RELEASE

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DPLS Library Board Begins Leadership Transition

[DEFIANCE] – At its regular Wednesday meeting, the Defiance Public Library System (DPLS) Board of Trustees approved Library Director Cara Potter's transition to a part-time schedule to begin Aug. 10 and authorized a public search for an interim library director to work alongside Potter during the leadership transition.

Library operations, programs, and public services will continue without interruption throughout the transition.

Potter will remain with the library on a part-time basis, working 20 hours per week for an initial 12-week period. During that time, she will work alongside the interim director to support ongoing projects, ensure continuity of operations, and help provide a smooth transition for staff and patrons. The arrangement may be extended on a month-by-month basis if needed while the Board conducts its search for permanent leadership.

"I am leaving the library because of a happy change in my personal life," Potter said. "In July, I married Dr. James McLaren. Jim recently retired as a vascular surgeon and lives in Kalamazoo, Mich., so I will be moving there in August.

"I have truly enjoyed working at the Defiance Public Library System and serving the Defiance County community. After relocating, I will continue supporting the library in a part-time capacity during this transition."

The interim director position will be posted publicly in the coming days, allowing interested candidates to apply through

the library's standard hiring process. Information about the interim position and all other DPLS employment opportunities are available at defiancelibrary.org/careers and at each of the library system's three locations: Defiance Public Library, Sherwood Branch Library, and Johnson Memorial Library.

"We are fortunate to have an outstanding leadership team at DPLS, and I am confident they will continue providing the excellent service and robust programming our community has come to expect during this transition," said Taryn Lawson, communications coordinator for DPLS.

In other business, the Board:

- heard that the Friends of Defiance Public Library met on July 21. The next Friends of DPL Book Sale fundraiser is set to take place Oct. 24 and 25 at Northtowne Mall.
- heard that interviews are currently underway to fill a vacant position in the circulation department.
- learned that virtual and in-person meetings between library administration/management and SHP Architecture and Design have continued as the library moves forward with plans to construct an annex across the street from the Carnegie building, which will also undergo repair and renovation as part of the project.
- briefly discussed the library's levy request that will appear on the November 2026 ballot. For more information about the levy, visit defiancelibrary.org or pick up a fact sheet at any DPLS location.

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