

Spring 2026

LIBM Advisory Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2026 (via Zoom)

I. Introductions- Via Zoom!

Dr. Erin Shaw (LIBM program coordinator and Associate Professor, University of Central Arkansas); Brittany Fleming (Library Media Specialist, R.E. Baker Elementary, Bentonville Schools); Linda Neal, NBCT (Library Media/Instructional Technology Services Coordinator, Little Rock School District); Ouida Cunningham, Parent Facilitator (Wonder Jr. High School, West Memphis School District); Kayci Hardnett (UCA Clinical I Instructor).

II. Purpose and role of advisory board

Discussed how to support schools and new librarians through UCA LIBM program. Dr. Shaw outlined several program initiatives for board feedback, with members invited to submit additional written responses by May 27.

III. Discussion Items

1. Partnering with Arkansas Institutions That Offer Education Degrees but No Graduate Programs

Dr. Shaw proposed building intentional recruitment pathways with Arkansas institutions where students earn education bachelor's degrees but have no nearby graduate options, including University of the Ozarks (Clarksville), Central Baptist College (Conway), and the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith (UAFS). Members were asked for connections at these institutions and suggestions of additional schools to target.

2. Using the Mashburn Hall Televisions for Program Visibility Discussed using the television displays in Mashburn Hall to promote the LIBM program through student spotlights, program highlights, upcoming events, and career outcomes. Member suggestions included:

- Short video clips of practicum students with their mentor librarians answering "The biggest misconception about my role is..."
- Student/Graduate Spotlights highlighting the program's success rate in helping graduates secure school librarian positions, covering current role, district/location, career progression, why they chose LIBM, and "a day in my role."

3. Spreading the Word About ADHE Funding for Graduate Degrees Discussed strategies for raising awareness among educators and district leaders that ADHE funding options exist to help cover the cost of the master's degree required for school librarians, school counselors, and school administrators. Members noted contacts within HR and New Employee/Novice Teacher Coordinator roles, and suggested sharing information through district AEA/PPC committees to reach teachers considering further education, with simple messaging emphasizing available financial assistance.

4. Practicum Choice Board Review Reviewed the current Practicum Choice Board, which allows students to select from a menu of activities to complete their 120 required hours. Feedback included:

- Overall support for current choice board activities, particularly resource libraries
- Suggestion to add pre- and post-assessments to measure student growth in library skills, particularly those connected to skills assessed on the ATLAS exam
- Suggestion to develop a crosswalk showing alignment between library standards (AASL) and other instructional standards (ELA, Social Studies, Science, etc.)
- Recommendation to begin curating lesson plans and activities related to AI literacy in media centers in anticipation of future legislation

5. Recruiting Zooms and Practicum Zooms with Current Students Discussed two new ideas: virtual recruiting info sessions for prospective students, and Zoom-based sessions with current LIBM students that could count toward practicum hours. Members provided feedback on the potential value and format of both options.

6. Open Discussion Members were invited to share additional thoughts on program priorities and direction.

IV. Action Items

- Members to submitted written feedback on discussion items by May 27, 2026
- Dr. Shaw to follow up on ADHE funding messaging and Choice Board revisions based on member feedback

V. Other Business

None noted.