

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY SYSTEM
Trustee Meeting
October 29, 2024 – Approved November 19, 2024

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Westchester Library System was called to order by Susan Morduch at 6:04 p.m. The quorum requirement was met with the following people in attendance:

Board members present: Andrea Bober, Robert Cartolano, Nishat Hydari, Karen Kelley, Maureen LeBlanc, David Mener, Julie Mills-Worthey, Susan Morduch, Patricia Phelan, Diane Tabakman, Karen Zevin

Board Members absent: Anthony Amiano, Alice Joselow, Wes Iwanski, Barbara Tepper

Also present from WLS: Terry Kirchner, Wilson Arana, Rob Caluori, Pat Brigham, Kate Meyer, Allison Midgley

Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) Representative: Jennifer Coulter, Director, Pound Ridge Library District

MINUTES

The minutes of the September 24, 2024, Board Meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by Ms. Tabakman and seconded by Ms. LeBlanc. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Caluori presented the financial reports noting significant activity for September 2024. He also spoke to the year-end projections which indicate that the year is expected to close with a deficit, but that it will be significantly less than budgeted for the year. The Board accepted the financial report for September on a motion by Ms. LeBlanc and seconded by Ms. Zevin. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEM

WLS 2025 Operating Budget: The Budget Committee of the Board of Trustees met three times through September and October to review several options to arrive at a budget proposal for the 2025 fiscal year.

Each of the committee's meetings focused on the following:

- September 24, 2024: Budget process and overview, employee compensation, Information Technology department.
- October 8, 2024: Career Coaching Service department, Outreach department, Delivery department, Cataloging department.
- October 15, 2024: Administration department, consolidation of Training department into Administration, Fund-Raising department, Executive Summary.

In addition to the work of the Committee, input was also sought from the WLS managers and staff.

The budget was presented at this meeting as an information item for discussion and will be brought to the WLS Board for approval at their November 19, 2024, meeting.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Ms. Morduch reminded the Board that donations can be made on the WLS website. Ms. Brigham noted that there are a variety of strategies to donate money, such as required distributions from current 401K plans. She invited all to attend an upcoming workshop on November 13, 2024, entitled *Wealth Strategies to Support Loved Ones and Organizations You Care About* which explains how intentional financial planning can help you create a meaningful legacy for the people you love and the organizations that matter most to you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee: Ms. Kelley, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that there are 3 seats up for re-election in January 2025. District 7: Harrison, Purchase (currently being held by Wes Iwanski), has agreed to serve a second term, and District 11: White Plains (currently being held by Diane Tabakman) and District 15: Yonkers (currently being held by Patricia Phelan) have agreed to an additional term, as they are currently serving as vacancy replacements. The Board will vote on these members at the November 19, 2024, meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A copy of the Executive Director’s Report was mailed in advance of the meeting.

Dr. Kirchner noted that he will be meeting with the Bedford Free Library, The Bedford Hills Free Library and the Katonah Village Library on November 4, 2024, to discuss Chapter 414 vote for public library funding for 2025.

PLDA LIASON’S REPORT

Ms. Coulter reported on the October 2024 PLDA meeting where the following was discussed:

- PLDA welcomed three new directors, Dana Hysell (The Field Library), Eugenia Schatoff (New Rochelle Public Library) and Liam Haggarty (interim, Larchmont Public Library). They also congratulated Laura Eckley on her appointment to director of White Plains Public Library.
- The PLDA executive board announced the appointment of officers for 2025. Jennifer Coulter, President; Erik Carlson, Vice President; Kathryn Feeley, Treasurer; and Debbie Quin, Secretary.
- There was a discussion regarding online renewals of library cards.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed its agenda, the Board adjourned its meeting at 7:15 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Zevin and seconded by Ms. Bober that passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,
Kate Meyer

Kate Meyer
Recording Secretary