

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY SYSTEM
Trustee Meeting
February 25, 2025 – Approved March 25, 2025

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Westchester Library System was called to order by Nishat Hydari at 6:05 p.m.

The quorum requirement was met with the following people in attendance:

Board Members present: Anthony Amiano, Andrea Bober, Robert Cartolano, Nishat Hydari, Wes Iwanski, Karen Kelley, Maureen LeBlanc, Susan Morduch, David Mener, Barbara Tepper, Diane Tabakman, Karen Zevin

Board Members absent: Alice Joselow, Julie Mills-Worthey, Patricia Phelan

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

Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) Representative: Erik Carlson, Director, Dobbs Ferry Public Library

MINUTES

The minutes of the January 28, 2025, Board Meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Cartolano and seconded by Ms. Zevin. The motion passed unanimously. [Ms. Bober was not present for the vote.]

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Caluori presented the financial report making note of significant items. He noted that member libraries have already paid their January 2025 invoices and that all 2024 past-due balances have been paid in full, which is reflected in the Accounts Receivable line on the Balance Sheet. He also noted the surplus in Fringe Benefits, which was the result of health insurance premium increases being significantly lower than anticipated. Payment registers for January 2025 were distributed. The financial reports for January 2025 were approved on a motion by Mr. Amiano and seconded by Ms. Tepper. The financial reports were accepted unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Hydari expressed gratitude to the staff of the Westchester Library System (WLS) for their dedication and hard work, emphasizing that their contributions are valued. Additionally, Ms. Hydari thanked fellow board members for their commitment to serving on the board, acknowledging that they have other choices for their time.

Ms. Hydari noted that Neighbors Link has shared the slides from its February 11, 2025, presentation and the Board should review them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating & Board Education: Ms. Kelley, Chair, noted there are two upcoming Trustee Handbook Book Clubs: April 30, 2025, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM – Trustee Handbook Book Club – Board Development: Recruitment, Orientation, Education and Evaluation, and July 15, 2025, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM – Trustee Handbook Book Club: Recruiting & Retaining Quality Staff. All are encouraged to attend.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

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

- Library Advocacy Day on February 5th, 2025, was a success, with over 30 people representing Westchester libraries in attendance. Dr. Kirchner noted that a new date for 2026 has been set for Tuesday, February 3rd.
- The Neighbors Link workshop held on February 11th entitled An Immigration Update for Library Staff and Trustees was well received, although it could have been directed more towards libraries.
- Mount Vernon Public Library’s 2023 Annual Report is almost complete, and their goal is to complete the 2024 Annual Report on time.
- The System Annual Report will be ready for the Board to view at the March 2025 meeting.
- Dr. Kirchner noted that he will be traveling to Washington, D.C. for Voices for Libraries and will be speaking to Republicans and Democrats regarding the effectiveness and worthy investment in libraries.

PLDA LIASON’S REPORT

Erik Carlson, PLDA Vice President and WLS Board Liaison, provided the PLDA Liaison’s Report covering the February PLDA Meeting:

- Mr. Carlson discussed fines within the member libraries. The libraries have agreed to only handle fines for their own patrons / items and not interfere or conflict with one another.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed its agenda, the Board adjourned its meeting at 7:09 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Tabakman and seconded by Ms. Zevin that passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

Diane H. Tabakman

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Secretary