

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY SYSTEM
Trustee Meeting
March 31, 2026 – Approval Pending

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Westchester Library System was called to order by Nishat Hydari at 6:03 p.m.

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

Board Members present: Andrea Bober, Robert Cartolano, Ralph Esposito, Nishat Hydari, Wes Iwanski, Karen Kelley, Maureen LeBlanc, Susan Morduch, David Mener, Patricia Phelan, Hudson Trader, Barbara Tepper, Diane Tabakman, Karen Zevin

Board Members absent: Alice Joselow

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

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 24, 2026, Board Meeting were approved on a motion by Ms. Zevin and seconded by Mr. Trader. The motion passed unanimously. [Ms. Morduch was not present for the vote.]

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Caluori presented the financial report for February 2026. Payment registers for the period were also distributed. The financial report for February 2026 were approved on a motion by Ms. LeBlanc and seconded by Ms. Bober. The financial reports were accepted unanimously.

ACTION ITEM

Designation of Depositories - Extension for TD Bank: Westchester Library System (WLS) is extending its transition from TD Bank to Valley National Bank (Valley Bank) due to delays in moving payroll and Treasury Bill accounts. While the Board originally planned to close the TD Bank accounts by March 31, 2026, management now recommends the following extensions for designation of deposits:

- Checking and Savings: Extended through May 31, 2026, to finalize payroll transitions.
- Treasury Investments (TD Wealth): Extended through August 31, 2026, as the new investment accounts are not yet established.

This transition follows a July 2025 RFP process where Valley Bank was selected to replace TD Bank to better align with WLS investment and purchasing policies. The Board approved the Extension for TD Bank on a motion by Mr. Iwanski and seconded by Mr. Cartolano. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Hydari noted that there are many programs currently being offered to Trustees and encouraged all Board members to take advantage of them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance: The committee will reconvene in June prior to the WLS Board Meeting.

Audit: Mr. Iwanski noted that the Committee met with the auditor from Dorfman, Abrams, and Music on March 19, 2026, and finalized the 2025 audit and recommended Board approval. The FY 2025 Financial Audit was accepted on a motion by Ms. Tabakman and seconded by Ms. Tepper. The motion passed unanimously.

Governance: The Governance Committee will meet in April to discuss policy updates, changes in by-laws, and capitalization of right of access as it applies to the WLS office lease.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Dr. Kirchner announced that several transitions have occurred at the member libraries. Timothy Goldsmith has been named Library Administrator for the Purchase Free Library, Carolyn Reznick has been named Interim Director at Katonah Village Library, Lewisboro Library has named Greg Seres as Interim Director, and Tee Cotter is the new Director at the Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library.
- The Disconnect 2 Reconnect Conference on April 27, 2026, features interactive breakout workshops led by professionals in education, social work, the arts and mental health. Sessions explore the role of play across topics such as digital technology, social media, education, parenting, mental health, organizational wellness and creativity. This conference is eligible for Continuing Education (CEU) credits, qualifies for CTLE hours for certified educators, and may be used toward New York State Public Librarian certification requirements.
- WLS is one of 13 nonprofits awarded a "ConnectAll" grant from NYS Empire State Development. WLS will lead a regional collaboration to train library staff as "digital navigators," create a training hub, and host public workshops on cybersecurity and digital literacy. The project involves the Mid-Hudson and Ramapo Catskill Library Systems, the Southeastern NY Library Resource Council, and Image PR for a region-wide awareness campaign. The goal is to provide high-quality digital resources and education to over 110,000 New Yorkers. Final negotiations and project planning are still in process with NYS.
- Following the WLS-funded hoopla threshold reductions put in place due to budget restrictions, Ms. Midgley worked with Dr. Kirchner and hoopla representatives to help libraries understand their patrons' use and estimated costs of library-funded borrows. More than half of WLS member libraries have added or are in the process of adding borrows to meet their patron demand.

- WLS IT is transitioning from a Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) to Windows desktop computers, prompted by rising hardware costs that have increased by approximately 45% between 2020 and 2026. This trend renders the current managed service model unsustainable, prompting ongoing discussions to develop a new, more predictable service model for libraries over the coming years. More information on the decommissioning project can be found on the WLS IT website.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectively submitted,

Diane H. Tabakman
Secretary