

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY SYSTEM
Trustee Meeting
April 28, 2026 – Approved May 26, 2026

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, Alice Joselow, Karen Kelley, Susan Morduch, David Mener, Patricia Phelan, Hudson Trader, Barbara Tepper, Diane Tabakman, Karen Zevin

Board Members absent: Maureen LeBlanc

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

Guest: Bijan Kimiagar, principal at AEQUA Strategies

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 31, 2026, Board Meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Cartolano and seconded by Ms. Tepper. The motion passed unanimously. [Mr. Iwanski, Ms. Joselow and Ms. Morduch were not present for the vote.]

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Caluori presented the financial report for March 2026. Payment registers for the period were also distributed. The financial report for March 2026 was approved on a motion by Ms. Morduch and seconded by Ms. Zevin. The financial reports were accepted unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Hydari noted that each Board member will be receiving a Google form to fill out and send back.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Nominating: Ms. Kelley noted that three seats are up at the end of 2026; Ms. Hydari (District 3) has agreed to serve a second term. Ms. Zevin (District 1) and Ms. Morduch (District 6) have both served 2 consecutive terms, so the search for new nominees to fill their positions is under way.

Governance: The Governance Committee will meet May 12, 2026, 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.

- Manager of Strategic Data Analysis and Member Library Support Allison Midgley (WLS) and Bijan Kimiagar (AEQUA Strategies) presented the Board with an update on the progress and future steps for the SCALE dashboard project. This included a discussion on the first SCALE Dashboard Walkthrough and a Data Walk for library staff. These annual events aim to boost data literacy and refine how demographic and library trends are analyzed. Concurrently, the team is developing a new monthly dashboard, tentatively named LOCALS, to further strengthen the organization's data culture.
- The Disconnect 2 Reconnect Conference held on April 27, 2026, was a great success. It featured interactive breakout workshops led by professionals in education, social work, the arts and mental health. Sessions explored the role of play across topics such as digital technology, social media, education, parenting, mental health, organizational wellness and creativity.
- Dr. Kirchner noted his concerns about Public Library Construction Aid (PLCA) project applications that were approved by the WLS Board at the September 30, 2025, meeting. Several of the member libraries that received allocations to assist with construction projects have failed to complete the recommended application edits that were requested by the Division of Library Development (DLD). The purpose of the DLD requested revisions is to strengthen the applications so that they better meet the capital project guidelines used by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) regulators when they review and approve or reject these applications for funding. It will prove harder, over time, to advocate for additional PLCA funding if too many applications are rejected because libraries are unwilling to do their part to write and revise project applications that meet the DASNY requirements.
- The NYS budget’s delayed approval will have ongoing effects on WLS and the member libraries. We should all expect delayed approval of all funding activities including general operating funds, PLCA funding, and grants-in-aid.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed its agenda, the Board adjourned its meeting at 7:28 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Bober and seconded by Mr. Iwanski that passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

Diane H. Tabakman

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Secretary