

WEST CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026  
7:03 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER: President Jakacki called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL:

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Corrine Jakacki, President; Scott Grotto, Vice President; Maureen Navadomskis, Treasurer; Pat Weninger, Secretary; and Laura Finch and Aimee Cavataio, Members. (Michael Wonderly entered after roll call.)

STAFF PRESENT: Benjamin R. Weseloh, Library Director; Amanda Ghobrial, Assistant Director and HR Manager; Gabriel Cardenas, Circulation Manager; Jennifer Gunn, Adult Services Manager; Luke Sutton, Youth Services Manager.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

1. Regular Board Meeting - November 24, 2025: Ms. Weninger moved to approve the Minutes of the November 24, 2025 Board Meeting, as amended; seconded by Ms. Aimee Cavataio.

- Page 2, Item I-1, second sentence, add Ms. Weninger's name to the trustees who planned to attend and did attend the Illinois Library Legislative Meetup.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

D. RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC: None.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

F. AGENDA - ADDITIONS/DELETIONS:

G. CLOSED SESSION, In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS120/20(c)(11): Mr. Grotto moved to go into Closed Session; seconded by Ms. Weninger. Staff left the meeting room, and the closed meeting in executive session was held.

(Mr. Wonderly entered the meeting during Executive Session.)

(Mr. Grotto exited the board meeting after Executive Session.)

H. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

I. PRESENTATION:

1. Annual Financial Report (Audit)

Year Ended June 30, 2025:

Aimee Paradee, Audit Manager from Lauterbach and Amen, presented on the Library District's audit. Review of the Annual Financial Report included discussion of the Independent Auditor's Report. The auditors gave the Library an unmodified opinion, the cleanest and highest opinion that the District could be awarded.

On Page 5, the MD&A, Management Discussion and Analysis, is a high level overview of the financials. The District's net position increased by \$137,000, about 5% increase, over the fiscal year; the District's reported government-wide revenue at year-end was approximately \$3 million, and government-wide expenses were approximately \$2.8 million. On Page 9, the chart reflecting Revenue By Source identifies the majority of the District's revenue during the fiscal year was from property taxes, followed by investment income, a couple small grants, and charges for services.

Page 16, the major funds reflect the Library ended the fiscal year with assets valued at \$4.5 million, and the net ending fund balance in the general fund was approximately \$1.4 million, which represents a decrease of approximately \$142,000.

Page 47, ending assets for IMRF were approximately \$200,000; and the capital projects fund was \$127,000.

Page 20, Ms. Paradee mentioned the Notes to the Financial Statements, including 1, the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies; 2, Stewardship, Compliance, and Accountability; 3, Detail Notes on All Funds; and 4, Other Information.

The Library's IMRF membership, as listed on Page 31, includes 85 plan members as of the 12/31/24 reporting period, comprised of active plan members currently receiving benefits, and plan members entitled to but not yet receiving benefits. The IMRF fund in the current year is 90.3% funded. The District's OPEB plan -- Other Post Employment Benefit -- has 17 members.

The auditors recommends that the Library give extra attention to IT security awareness and monitoring of emerging risks because there are a lot of risks in the IT world right now and for accounting software in general. Upcoming GASB standards going into fiscal year '26 include GASB 104, which will change the way tangible versus nontangible assets are recorded.

#### J. TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Approval of the Bills for December 2025: Ms. Navadomskis moved to approve the payment of the bills for December 2025 in the amount of \$273,195.32; seconded by Ms. Weninger.

Roll Call Vote - Yes: Cavataio, Finch, Navadomskis, Weninger, Wonderly, Jakacki. Motion carried.

2. Approval of the Bills for January 2026: Ms. Navadomskis moved to approve the payment of the bills for January 2026 in the amount of \$217,748.23; seconded by Mr. Wonderly.

Roll Call Vote - Yes: Cavataio, Finch, Navadomskis, Weninger, Wonderly, Jakacki. Motion carried.

3. Financial Statements for November 2025: Covered under Item L-2.

4. Financial Statements for December 2025: Covered under Item L-2.

#### K. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Memo About Recent Amendments to OMA and FOIA: The Library's attorney provided a letter regarding amendments to Public Act 104-0438, portions of OMA and FOIA, effective as of January 1, 2026, on five relevant provisions that affect Public Libraries. The amendments include that public bodies may not hold meetings on an election day; remote attendance by board members is permitted if the absence is due to military service; public bodies may require that the source of FOIA request verify that the requester is a person.

#### I. REPORTS:

1. President: President Jakacki thanked the Trustees for taking the sexual harassment training. Ms. Jakacki and Mr. Weseloh will discuss if the board can do a group training session. The ILA website offers several training opportunities, such as grant writing, how to run a meeting, and a description of the OMA.

Ms. Jakacki asked if the trustees who attended the Legislative Meetup could provide the remaining board members some feedback on the event. Discussion was had that the amount of information conveyed during the event was not as comprehensive or as detailed as previous years.

The legislators are working on legislation changes, such as the increase in costs of audio and digital books; they're trying to introduce legislation that will bring the price of books down for libraries in light of the fact that the cost of an e-audio book to a consumer is significantly lower than the cost to a library.

Mr. Weseloh would like to see some type of simultaneous-use model for e-book and e-audio book pricing.

2. Library Director: Director Weseloh stated that the Library is 50% of the way through the fiscal year elapsed. Revenue received is 97% of budget, representing approximately \$100,000 short of the budgeted revenue. The Per Capita Grant of approximately \$43,000 and the second half of the PPRF of approximately \$25,000 have yet to be posted, as well as some interest and service fees are not yet posted.

Expenditures are running slightly below the fiscal year elapsed at 49%. The first of two PPRT disbursements was received in December in the amount of \$28,544.37. The second disbursement will be received in June.

Mr. Weseloh attended the SWAN board meeting. Lauterbach and Amen presented the audit for SWAN, which also had an unmodified opinion. The auditor's Annual Financial Report to SWAN included the same note in their audit about the recommendation for increased IT security. The SWAN budget will be presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 3rd, 2026. The Library's fees currently are anticipated to rise about 4%, which is in line with the CPI.

Ms. Jakacki stated her Library email has received four phishing attempts in the last week. She forwarded them to the Library's IT specialist, and he confirmed they were phishing attempts and to share the information with Arctic Wolf, the website manager.

Library staff and Mr. Weseloh worked on completing the Per Capita Grant. The Library is meeting most of the core standards with the exception of the creation of a succession plan, and staff continue to work on that. Mr. Weseloh would like to work with the board on standardizing training for new library trustees.

The We-Go Full Steam Ahead public art initiative is moving forward. Three large trains are going into production, and the committee is looking for additional train sponsors for both the large and small trains. The Museum and Library will have a small model of a train that will be posted to generate interest as well. A call for artists is currently out now, and a May kickoff is planned.

Mr. Weseloh received from notice from HR Source about the risks of Smart Glasses in the workplace and the fact that that technology is able to view and record without third parties being aware, which creates privacy and surveillance concerns. The Library will need to consider having policy around the issue.

(Staff left at 9:00).

3. Department Managers (Circulation Services Presentation): Written reports from department managers were included in the board packets. The Circulation Services Presentation was rescheduled for the February board meeting.

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

K. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Library Conduct Policy: The proposed changes to the policy were provided to the trustees in their board packets. Policies are reviewed

every three years unless there is a reason to do so sooner. Library conduct is one of the most referred to policies that the Library has; in both the youth and adult departments.

The Adult Services department staff have been complaining that individuals have been coming into the Library, who smell very heavily of body odor and camp fire smoke, to the point where it becomes overwhelming and fills the entire department. Mr. Weseloh spoke with the Library's attorney, who indicated that the individuals in the library cannot be confronted until there is something stated in the Library conduct policy.

As a result of this situation, the policy was brought before the board rather than the Policy Committee to be addressed more expeditiously. Discussion was had regarding the proposed changes to the policy. The modified policy will include hygiene and body odor, camp fire smell, and excessive perfume or cologne. Persons asked to leave the library due to these odors may return to the building as soon as the problem is remedied.

Ms. Weninger moved to approve the policy with amendments; seconded by Mr. Wonderly. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

L. CLOSED SESSION: None held.

M. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: None.

N. ADJOURNMENT: President Jakacki stated that the closed session was held earlier in the meeting, and the discussion in closed session is to remain confidential. Ms. Jakacki adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.