

WEST CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2025
7:00 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER: President Jakacki called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL:

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Corrine Jakacki, President; Scott Grotto, Vice President; Maureen Navadomskis, Treasurer; Pat Weninger, Secretary; and Laura Finch and Michael Wonderly, Members. Absent: Aimee Cavataio.

STAFF PRESENT: Benjamin R. Weseloh, Library Director; Amanda Ghobrial, Assistant Director and HR Manager; Gabriel Cardenas, Circulation Manager; Nick Del Giudice, Public Relations Specialist; Jennifer Gunn, Adult Services Manager; Jason Rock, IT Specialist; Luke Sutton, Youth Services Manager.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

1. Regular Board Meeting - October 27, 2025: Ms. Weninger moved to approve the October 27, 2025 Minutes; seconded by Mr. Wonderly. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

D. RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC: None.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

F. AGENDA - ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: Ms. Weninger asked to delete the Action item for the Closed Session Minutes and Recordings, Item K-2; a report will be given, but no action is required at this time.

G. TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Approval of the Bills for November 2025: Ms. Navadomskis recommended the Board approve payment of the bills for November 2025 in the amount of \$225,182.72.

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

2. Financial Statements for October 2025: The Financial Statements were covered under the Director's Report, Item I-2.

H. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Levy Ordinance Reminder: Director Weseloh stated the Library's attorney sent notice that the last opportunity for the Library to pass its Levy Ordinance is Tuesday, December 2, 2025.

I. REPORTS:

1. President: President Jakacki stated the Library Holiday Lights will be turned on this weekend, November 20, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., and she hopes the Trustees can attend the event.

Ms. Jakacki reminded the board members of the online iLEAD trustee training, which offers training on topics such as How to Be a Better Trustee; Communications; and Fundraising.

The Illinois Library Legislative Meetup is scheduled for December 2, 2025. The West Chicago Library trustees and staff who plan to attend are: Ms. Finch, Ms. Cavataio, Ms. Weninger, Mr. Weseloh, and Ms. Ghobrial. President Jakacki would like to have these attendees provide a recap to the Board at the January 2026 Board Meeting.

2. Library Director: Director Weseloh stated that the Library is 1/3, or 33%, of the way through its fiscal year elapsed. The revenues received equal 94% of budget, and interest income and service fees -- copier and lost/damaged materials -- are running ahead.

Overall expenditures are running slightly below at 31% of the budgeted expenditures. Administrative staff prepared the draft MD&A, which was on the agenda for approval at the November meeting. Once finalized and approved, the MD&A will be incorporated into the audit.

The capital projects are wrapping up on time and coming to a close with installation of the gutters.

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias led the initiative to expand and perform the State Library equalization program, serving over 700 rural and underserved libraries.

Staff have been working diligently to decorate the library inside and out for the holiday season. The Light Up the Library Program will be held Saturday, November 29, 2025 beginning at 2:00 p.m., ending at 4:30 p.m. This event is planned in conjunction with the Small Business Saturday program and will include some free activities and refreshments.

Staff will be working on completing the annual Per Capita Grant over the next month. The first installment of the PPRT revenue is expected to be received in January 2026.

The federal shutdown ended, and Congress' Continuing Resolution has restarted the funding for libraries at 2025 levels. While this is keeping vital IMLS programs running, it is only a short-term fix as Congress still has to pass the remaining fiscal '26 spending bills to avoid another potential shutdown which could threaten library funding

again.

A couple legislative bills which passed during the Veto Session of the Illinois General Assembly:

Senate Bill 243 allows for a Freedom of Information Act request denial if a public body cannot verify its requester is a person, and clarifies that said electronic FOIA request must be in the email body rather than found within an email attachment, in addition to other changes.

House Bill 576 creates a Public Official Safety and Privacy Act, which is designed to protect certain State legislative and executive officials and certain County officials. The bill bans government agencies from displaying or posting personal information about public officials who make a request that this information not be publicly disclosed. The ban of agencies displaying such information also expressly applies to units of local government such as municipalities and library and school districts. Personal information is defined in the bill as: home address, home telephone number, mobile telephone number, pager number, personal email address, Social Security number, federal tax identification number, checking and savings account numbers, credit card number, marital status, and identity of children under the age of 18.

HB576 also amends FOIA to expressly exempt personal information of public officials from disclosure; and requires the State Board of Elections to redact the home addresses of public officials and current and past officers of political committees upon the person's request. The bill would also amend the vehicle code and FOID statute to allow public officials to use their work addresses on their I.D. cards and vehicle registration applications.

RAILS provided a webinar on libraries and immigration enforcement, led by Ancel Glink associate Katie Nagy. The webinar was intended to equip libraries with the knowledge to respond to immigration enforcement actions in a legal and responsible way.

Mr. Weseloh has been notified of a suspect alleged to have taken inappropriate video footage at retail establishments, government buildings, and libraries between 2017 and 2025. The Library's legal counsel will meet with the detective and follow up with Mr. Weseloh.

3. Department Managers: Written reports were included in the board packets.

Youth Services: Luke Sutton provided a presentation on many activities happening in the Youth Services department. Some of the programs the department has been holding have been Read & Roll; the Story Walk Path;

Wiggle Worms; Imagination Station -- a play area at the Library which is a huge draw for people -- Puppet Story Time, and Birth to 3 Outreach Story Time.

For the Summer Reading Challenge during June and July, the department had 257 sign-ups, exceeding the goal of 200; 122 people finished the challenge. The department held a pop-up shop in the program room, with all sorts of trinkets and things from past programming that the finishers could collect "book bucks" and "purchase" little items depending on how much reading they did. Adult Services and YA also held a pop-up shop for their reading program.

This year's programming theme was Cars Galore, with a Route 66 theme. One program was called Flo's Soda Shop; and two car-related films were shown. A Sesame Street-themed puppet show was created to celebrate the 58th anniversary of Sesame Street; and the Wiggle Worms program had double the average attendance with 55 people present. Other programming included Hobbit Day; Care Bears; and Going Batty. Special programming includes story times connected to different holidays, cultural events, and new literature.

The Tween space has a gaming station, board games and puzzles, and graphic novels. A representative of MARS Academy came in and shared robotics and coding skills with the children; a representative of Gallery 200 was onsite and lead a couple of art programs.

Birds of a Feather is the Winter Reading Program which will start in December. A Wicked Wonderland Tea Party is being planned, which will connect departments both downstairs and upstairs. A Holiday Movie Marathon is scheduled to provide a full day of holiday-themed movies.

Two story times will be held at Morton Arboretum, one in January, and one in February. The Farm Bureau will be onsite to do a presentation about apples and include apple cider tasting. Outreach programming includes the Birth to 3 Connection, a weekly story time, for which copies of the book are purchased for the kids in attendance at the story time each week. The Library has connections with Educare, Children of America, West Chicago Park District, and daycare facilities in the community at which staff go out and do a story time.

Library staff do tabling events with WeGo Together for Kids, such as the Bicycle Rodeo at the Park District, and the back-to-school backpack event at which staff interacted with 720 people in the community. A social worker intern spent time at the library throughout the summer and handed out bags of materials and did a couple programs based on mental health awareness. Materials have been purchased with grant money received by WeGo Together for Kids, including a mental health and accessibility materials and items for the Library of Things. The West

Chicago Library donates books at the local the food pantry.

The Youth department is working on a potential author visit and a visit from an illustrator to be held at all five schools, possibly in the spring.

Cantigny did census-themed stories throughout the summer. The Library offers patrons free passes to park at Cantigny and attend the story times. Average attendance at the story times there is between 50 to 100 people.

Staff weeded the nonfiction section. The department has the popular Vox books. Regular books are not circulating as much as they used to, so the department is increasing its digital resources.

Staff are going to start working on a blog and create some original digital content, including streamcasting and videos that show patrons how to use library resources.

Mr. Sutton would like to start a large print collection next fiscal year, and space has been created for that.

Staff have been participating in professional development, including the SWAN expo, which had programs on the Library of Things, and patron-focussed services.

A couple Library employees will attend the Feria Internacional del Libro (FIL), an international book fair in Guadalajara, Mexico. Much of the Library's Spanish materials are purchased during this event. The ALA covers the cost of some library staff members' room and board, entry into the fair, and some reimbursement for the flight. The ALA annual conference is in Chicago in 2026.

Mr. Sutton stated that several of the local libraries have completed renovations. The West Chicago Library was quite modern at the time it was built 30 years ago, but contemporary library patrons are not checking out books at the same rate; patrons instead want a place to meet with friends, engage, a place they can go that is lively, open, and bright.

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

K. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance 25-03: An Ordinance Providing for the Levying and Assessment of Taxes by the West Chicago Public Library District for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026:

Mr. Grotto moved to approve Ordinance 25-03 with an appropriation amount of \$4,508,000, and a levy amount of \$3,203,000; seconded by

Ms. Weninger.

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

2. Recommendation of the Committee for Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes and Recordings: Ms. Weninger reported that she and Ms. Cavataio met on November 8th at 9:00 a.m. for a semiannual review of closed session minutes; they went into closed session at 9:15 a.m. They checked the folder of closed session minutes and realized that there were no minutes to review because they met three weeks prior to the 18-month cutoff date. They adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

3. Approval of the Management's Discussion & Analysis (MD&A): Mr. Grotto moved to approve the MD&A; seconded by Ms. Weninger. Roll Call Vote - Yes: Finch, Grotto, Navadomskis, Weninger, Wonderly, Jakacki. Motion carried.

4. Decision to Sponsor a Train as Part of the WeGo Full Steam Ahead Community Train Project: Mr. Weseloh reported to the board that the committee for the Community Train Project has been meeting for approximately a year. The train sculptures which will appear around town can be placed at businesses or organizations for a sponsorship fee at different levels. Staff would like to sponsor a 6-foot long train sculpture at a cost of \$8,000, which the Library Foundation will fund \$4,000 of the cost. The sculpture will be placed on the Library's lawn.

The launch is scheduled during Bloomingfest, which is the third week of May 2026. Ms. Weninger moved to sponsor a 6-foot train sculpture at the Conductor level for the Full Steam Ahead Community Train Project with the Library Foundation committing \$4,000, and the Library District paying \$4,000, for a total of \$8,000; seconded by Mr. Grotto.

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

L. CLOSED SESSION: None held.

M. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: None.

N. ADJOURNMENT: President Jakacki wished the board and staff a very happy Thanksgiving; she stated that she is thankful for all of the work that the staff put into the Library; and she wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday, and happy and healthy New Year. The next regular board meeting will be in January 2026. The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.