

WEST CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 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; Maureen Navadomskis, Treasurer; Pat Weninger, Secretary; Aimee Cavataio, and Laura Finch (present remotely), Members.

STAFF PRESENT: Benjamin R. Weseloh, Library Director; Amanda Ghobrial, Assistant Director and HR Manager; Jennifer Gunn, Adult Services Manager; Michael Novy, Technical Services; Juan Martinez, Facilities Assistant.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

1. Special Board Meeting - September 22, 2025 (Budget & Appropriations Hearing): Ms. Weninger moved to approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of September 22, 2025, for the Budget & Appropriations hearing; seconded by Ms. Navadomskis.
Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

2. Regular Board Meeting - September 22, 2025: Ms. Weninger moved to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2025, as published; seconded by Ms. Navadomskis.
Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

D. RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC: None.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

F. AGENDA - ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: None.
(Jennifer Gunn entered).

G. TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Approval of the Bills for October 2025: Ms. Navadomskis moved to approve payment of the bills for October 2025 in the amount of 384,625.87; seconded by Ms. Cavataio.
Roll Call Vote - Yes: Cavataio, Finch, Navadomskis, Weninger, Jakacki.
Motion carried.

2. Financial Statements for September 2025: Ms. Cavataio stated that on the Expenditure pages, the Library Materials-Maintenance and Technology Services numbers are flip-flopped. Mr. Weseloh will speak with

Governmental Accounting about why those numbers are flip-flopped again.

The Financial Statements were covered under the Director's report, Item I-2.

H. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Levy Ordinance Reminder: The Library's lawyer sent a levy ordinance reminder indicating that the levy ordinance needs to be passed no later than the first Tuesday December 2, 2025. The West Chicago Library will have the levy ordinance listed as an action item on the November board meeting agenda.

I. REPORTS:

1. President: Ms. Jakacki congratulated the library staff on the very successful Trunk Or Treat event.

President Jakacki asked the trustees to let her know if they are unable to attend the November board meeting, which will be held Monday, November 24, 2025, which is Thanksgiving week.

President Jakacki appointed Ms. Cavataio and Ms. Weninger to serve on the committee to review the closed session minutes and determine whether they should stay closed, or should they be released to the public.

2. Library Director: Director Weseloh stated that the Library is 25% of the way through its fiscal year elapsed. Revenues received are at 93%; and property tax revenues received equal 97% of the budgeted property tax revenue. Expenditures are running on par at roughly 23%, including some front-loaded expenditures at the beginning of the fiscal year, such as database fees and insurance premiums.

Capital expenditures this month are \$90,000. The scheduled capital projects should be completed sometime in mid to late November.

The Lauterbach & Amen auditors continue to work on the fiscal audit; and administrative staff will begin working on the MD&A. A representative from the auditor's office will attend the January 2026 board meeting and provide a presentation.

The Director received an email which included Illinois Senate Resolution No. 104, recognizing the services and benefits of Illinois Public Libraries. Director Weseloh read aloud to the trustees the proclamation during his report.

Mr. Weseloh, Ms. Ghobrial, Ms. Gunn, and Mr. Martinez, rode the Metra train to the Merchandise Mart in Chicago to look at furniture options for the library. The Library Foundation has approved assisting with

furniture expenditures up to \$10,000, which will cover only a portion of the anticipated furniture costs for replacement and/or acquisition in the event of potential renovation or expansion as the board has discussed. Mr. Weseloh will be requesting some quotes on furniture replacement.

The Library staff viewed advertisements on the Metra train for various businesses. Approximately 12 libraries have been talking about placing promotional ads on the commuter trains which list library resources to commuters and suburban library patrons such as downloadable books, audible books, streaming platforms, and online newspaper access. The Library staff that went downtown also visited the Harold Washington Library.

Mr. Weseloh, Ms. Ghobrial, and Ms. Gunn attended the Illinois Library Association annual conference at the Rosemont Convention Center October 14 to 16, 2025. They attended several sessions and exhibits, as well as engaged in some professional networking.

Mr. Weseloh attended a session titled "Defending Our Values, the Impact of Culture Wars in Public Libraries"; which covered censorship trends, challenges to library collections, strengthening community connections, staying on top of legislation, and advocating with knowledge and facts to defend what libraries do, such as provide access, equity, and intellectual freedom.

Other sessions were: Creating a Public Library Spanish Literacy Program, which included English language learning, GED, and citizenship classes; and Capital Campaign Fundraising Without a Donor Base, which included adding a donate button on the Library's website, donor recognition, and fundraising ideas.

Baker & Taylor, a major book seller and provider, is going out of business. RAILS is working quickly to make sure patrons experience minimal interruption to their use of the e-Read Illinois collection.

Ms. Ghobrial and Ms. Gunn also attended several sessions at the ILA conference: Fostering Belonging in Library Spaces and Communities. Doctor Terrell Strayhorn, a professor of education and psychology, addressed the growing loneliness epidemic in American society, and he connected the facts highlighting the role libraries play in creating connections and belonging for people in the community.

The Power of Recognition, Engaging and Retaining Your Team, explored staff recognition systems and development models; celebrating milestones contributes to retention and better morale for staff; and fostering a culture of respect, positivity, and leadership.

Designing For Disability covered how to work in partnership with local organizations to create inclusive programming for all individuals, including persons with neurodiversity and people with disabilities; sensory-friendly programming, book groups, art and tech exploration, and thoughtful space design.

The Illinois Library Association Young Adult Services Forum session spoke to Forum-organized professional development opportunities and materials for library staff members working with young adult populations. The Addison Library has a summer free lunch program for the community, and they involve their teens in job coaching for job opportunities within the restaurant or service industry, including by volunteering in food service roles at the free lunches. The young adults are then able to list on their resumés skills in areas such as childcare and teaching, as during the lunches the young adults do craft programs with the children and read to children.

The session also discussed a library's Shark Tank-themed program where they broke into teams and each team created their own business, developed a business plan, and then pitched it to the sharks. This experience also assisted the teens in creating their resumés.

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

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

K. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 25-03 Estimate of Funds Needed For the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025, and Ending June 30, 2026: Ms. Weninger moved to approve Resolution 25-03; seconded by Ms. Navadomskis.

The Library's attorney annually sends out a chronology of financial ordinances and resolutions, and one of the items listed on that calendar is the Estimate of Funds Needed, which the Library creates annually.

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

2. Adopt Tentative Levy Ordinance 25-03: An ordinance for the Levying and Assessment of Taxes by the West Chicago Public Library District, DuPage County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025, and Ending June 30, 2026: Ms. Weninger moved to adopt the Tentative Levy Ordinance 25-03; seconded by Ms. Navadomskis.

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

L. CLOSED SESSION: None held.

M. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: None.

N. ADJOURNMENT: President Jakacki stated there being no need for a closed session, no need to return to open session, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.