

WEST CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026  
7:00 P.M.

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

B. ROLL CALL:

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Pat Weninger, President Pro Tem, Vice President; Aimee Cavataio, Treasurer; and Laura Finch, Secretary; and Maureen Navadomskis, Member. Absent: Corrine Jakacki, Sufiyan Mohammed, and Michael Wonderly.

STAFF PRESENT: Benjamin R. Weseloh, Library Director; Amanda Ghobrial, Assistant Director and HR Manager; Jennifer Gunn, Adult Services Manager; Nick Del Giudice, Public Relations Specialist; Jason Rock, Information Technology Librarian; Juan Martinez, Facilities Assistant.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

1. Regular Meeting - July 27, 2026: Ms. Finch moved to approve the July 27, 2026 Minutes; seconded by Ms. Navadomskis.

(Mr. Wonderly entered.)

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

D. RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC: None.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

F. AGENDA - ADDITIONS/DELETIONS: None.

G. TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Approval of the Bills for August 2026: Ms. Cavataio moved to approve the bills for August 2026 in the amount of \$338,507.34; seconded by Ms. Navadomskis.

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

2. Financial Statements for July 2026: Ms. Cavataio stated the August bills were approximately \$75,000 higher than the previous month's bills, which is attributed to a few things: There was a third payroll period in July; the Sikich computer refresh was approximately \$23,000; and the insurance policy payments were \$20,000. As of July 31, 2026 the Library received nearly \$1.7 million, or 52%, of budgeted revenue for the new fiscal year. To date operating expenditures total \$355,000, or 11% of budget. The cash account holds

nearly \$1.8 million, which is sufficient for operations. While the Library is still showing a surplus year over year, that surplus is shrinking as costs continue to rise, which is something the board will need to keep in mind in the future.

#### H. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. The Library received a notification from its attorney that as of January 21, 2027, public libraries are required to place contact information for the 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline in a prominent location in the library that is visible and accessible by patrons.

#### I. REPORTS:

1. President: Ms. Weninger appointed two trustees to do the Secretary's Audit. Ms. Finch and Ms. Cavataio will perform the audit after the August board meeting.

President Jakacki sent the trustees an email regarding the strategic plan; and the trustees were provided by Director Weseloh packets including the RFP responses from prospective contractors.

2. Library Director: Director Weseloh stated that the Public Hearing is scheduled for September 14, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. during which public comments may be made regarding the Library's Tentative Budget and Appropriations Ordinance. A Special Board Meeting will be held immediately following the Public Hearing, at 7:15 p.m., to approve the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. The Board also will be reviewing the strategic planning consultants' RFPs that were received to determine who the board would like to bring in for interviews.

The Illinois Library Association annual conference will be held at the Peoria Civic Center October 6 to 8, 2026.

The Library's train sculpture as part of the WeGo Full Steam Ahead was picked up from Cow Painters and delivered to Gallery 200. Mr. Weseloh is in discussion with a local artist to work on painting the sculpture. The sculpture may be installed on the Library property within six to eight weeks.

Staff have worked on and completed the Illinois Public Library Annual Report, IPLAR, and will be submitting that to the State Library on August 25, 2026. One final requirement of the report is to complete the Secretary's Audit, which ensures all of the Board Meeting Minutes are complete and accounted for from FY '26.

RAILS has a new webinar for trustees, titled Understanding IPLAR for Trustees, which will take place on September 13, 2026.

The Library Protection Act, Senate Bill 5236, is under legal review with the senate general counsel to confirm that it is legally sound.

Staff are working on completing the training and final touches on the Micro Pantry which was built at the high school. Mr. Weseloh spoke with the Food Pantry to help stock the Micro Pantry at the library, and the response was that more support would be possible if the Micro Pantry could be installed inside the building with more stable temperatures. Staff are considering that feedback and looking for options to place the Micro Pantry within the library.

The candidate petition packets will be available for pickup at the library beginning 9:00 a.m. on August 25, 2026, and will also be available online for download. The Library will have four trustee seats on the ballot for the election on April 6, 2027.

A shredding event will be held at the library Saturday, September 5, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Library's Sunday hours resume September 13, 2026. The library will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays between Labor Day and Memorial Day.

Notary services are very popular at the library. Director Weseloh recently read an article in the RAILS newsletter that the Lake Villa District Library is ending notary services as of January 1, 2027 due to staff concern that they bear the burden if something goes wrong with a document that they have notarized.

3. Department Managers: Written reports from department managers were included in the board packets. The monthly department reports will resume in September.

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

K. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation and Assessment of Visits to Other Libraries:

Ms. Finch provided a review of her visits to several local libraries this summer. Mr. Weseloh recommended five libraries to visit: Carol Stream, Geneva, Lombard, St. Charles, and Tinley Park. Trustee Finch provided highlights on what she saw as unique about each library.

Carol Stream: Has done a great job of incorporating the library building with nature, has a Frank Lloyd Wright/Prairie Style feel to the property, and a nice large deck area. The building has a beautiful indoor water feature, very large big windows, and a nice look to their lighting.

Geneva has a very book-store-like feeling with cafe seating; they have a beautiful kids section, and a full playground outside.

Lombard: The library feels a more urban, has an open and airy interior, and a nice Minecraft table. The computers in the children's area computers are low to the ground so that little kids can use them, and

they are all touch screen. Upstairs they have quiet rooms in the middle of the reading area.

St. Charles: The building has a very nice basement where the kids area is located. The basement leads out onto the patio, which has more seating for very large events.

Tinley Park: The Library has a beautiful water feature outside, a great walking path constructed in a marshy area, a boxcar, a pavilion, and a drive-up window. The interior is an art deco or prairie-movement style. The building has a fireplace, beautiful bathrooms, play spaces with lots of seating, a Duplo board, and a lot of great outdoor space.

Ms. Finch believes that each library allows food in a very specific area that is very clearly labeled, and signage is placed throughout indicating no food, but covered drinks are allowed. Each library has self-service including the holds that patrons can pick up by themselves.

Each library has an active Friends group, and St. Charles even has a Junior Friends of the St. Charles Public Library. The groups offer for sale a lot of merchandise as well as books.

Each of the five libraries has been recently renovated within the past five years. Tinley Park has a store within the library with many items for sale; and the libraries have several different fundraising mechanisms. The libraries have bright interior spaces and a lot of natural light.

The Elmhurst Library has a Safety Town, which the children who were with Ms. Finch, age 4 to 11, enjoyed very much. All five of the libraries she visited are all much larger than the West Chicago Library. St. Charles has double the population than that of West Chicago; and Batavia puts \$1 million in reserve every year as part of what they had done for their referendum, back when they bought their building.

The playground at Geneva Library is maintained by the Geneva Park District. Each library visited has a nice children's area outside, and some have deck space for the patrons to enjoy.

The West Chicago Library has a functioning Foundation, but not a

Friends group, which disbanded in approximately 2018.

Ms. Finch did not speak with any staff while she was at the libraries.

L. CLOSED SESSION: None held.

M. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: None required.

N. ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Weninger adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.