

**FINKELSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING/MAY 28,2025
MINUTES**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees was held both in person and by video conference on Wednesday, May 28, 2025. The meeting was recorded in accordance with law.

Ms. Darnett Davis, Acting President called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Esther Waldman, Ms. Joan Soskin, Mr. James Johnson, Ms. Sandra Duncan (arrived at 6:50 p.m.), Mr. Mendy Glick, Library Treasurer

Administrative Personnel Present:

Ms. Laura Wolven, Library Director (departed at 7:35 p.m.), Ms. Beth Zambito, Assistant Library Director, Mr. Andrew Koblick, Business Manager (zoom), Ms. Leah Levine, Library Clerk

Others Present via zoom:

Susanne Daley, Union President, Elizabeth Portillo (staff), Kathleen Preston (staff), Laurie Needell (staff), Shirley Mills (staff), Elizabeth Marcus (staff), Juanita Greene (staff), Chris Coleman (staff), Jeff Liz (staff), Parveen Rahmet (staff), Judy Joseph (staff), Judy (last name not provided), Roseline Willis (staff), Robert Rowe (staff), Dan Ameruoso (staff), Tom Donohue (staff), Dipa Thakkar (staff), Sahn Siongco (staff), moms iphone, arlene's ipad, Staff (zoom class)

President's Report- Ms. Davis presented as interim President. She spoke about the disappointment of the Library not passing its annual budget vote for 2025, and encouraged all to stay strong as the Board has approved a date for another budget vote. Ms. Davis promised to lead the Library with liberty and justice for all. She announced the Library now has a treasurer; the Union collective bargaining agreement is being reviewed, and demolition is underway. Ms. Davis also congratulated Ms. Waldman on receiving Woman of Distinction in the Hudson Valley, awarded by Congressman Mike Lawler.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried to **approve the minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular meeting of April 23, 2025.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Davis and carried to **approve the bill list for May 2025.**

The Financial Report for April will be presented at the June 2025 regular meeting. Ms. Waldman commented on a late fee by Pitney Bowes, the Library's postage meter, and requested we look into changing the due date to avoid unnecessary late fee charges.

Library Statistical Report- The statistical report for April 2025 will be filed with the minutes of the meeting. *Ms. Waldman gave suggestions on improving the report and commented on programming.*

Library Director's Report- The report was presented. *Staff appreciation was discussed. Ms. Waldman commented on fund raising. Applications from teen council members were discussed and Jamie Albanese, Librarian I in the Youth Services Department was acknowledged.*

Union Representative Report- Ms. Susanne Daley presented a letter regarding an email sent by staff member Arlene Mate-Elkholy, Library Clerk-Typist II in the Circulation Department, seeking to clarify that the content presented to a local newspaper was not representing the Union of the Library. Ms. Daley asked if the Board had previously voted on removing the Plexi-glass from the Circulation desk, and then spoke about a Patron who witnessed another Patron throwing books at a staff member at the Library. Ms. Daley spoke about security concerns and commented on how the security at the Library should be physically moving around, not sitting and looking at cameras.

Public Comment: Roseline Willis, Clerk-Typist (French/Creole Speaking), Staff, commented on the notification of banning the Patron who “threw books” at a staff member. Ms. Shirley Mills, Clerk-Typist (PT), Staff, spoke about the incident as well and suggested Library Card Policy be posted at the Circulation desk. Mr. Daley, Patron, spoke about change in the community and made suggestions regarding the Library security staff.

Correspondence Received: None

Committee Report:

Budget and Finance: Darnett Davis, Acting Board President, chair: The committee met on 5/19/2025 and discussed a new budget proposal for a new Library Budget Vote, and began onboarding Mr. Glick, the Library’s new Treasurer.

Personnel: Darnett Davis, chair: The committee met on 6/04/2025 and discussed job placement, titles, Union negotiations, and the Library Covid Policy.

Advocacy and Fundraising: Sandra Duncan, chair- No meeting held

By-Laws and Policy: Esther Waldman, chair- No meeting held

Strategic Planning: Joan Soskin, chair- No meeting held

Buildings and Grounds: James Johnson, chair- No meeting held

Unfinished Business:

1. Audit Report was discussed and tabled to the June 18, 2025 meeting. The Board requested a copy of the management report for further review.

New Business:

1. A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Duncan and carried to **approve the results of the May 6, 2025 Library Budget Vote and Trustee Election.**
2. A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Soskin and carried to **approve the date of June 25, 2025 for the Library Budget revote.**
3. A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Waldman and carried to **approve June 18, 2025 for the rescheduled Regular Board Meeting, and Friday, June 27 at 10 a.m. for a Special Meeting to approve the Library Budget Vote.**
4. A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Davis and carried to **approve the title replacement of Library Clerk I to Library Clerk-Typist I, Circulation Department.**
5. A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried to **establish a Library Clerk-Typist I position in the Circulation Department.**

6. A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Soskin and carried to **accept the separation of Charlie Harden, Public Information Specialist, Adult Services Department effective close of business Friday, May 23, 2025.**
7. A **motion** was made Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried to **establish (2) Library Assistant (FT), Adult Services Department, contingent on defunding other positions.**
8. A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Soskin and carried to **accept the resignation of Brian Avery, Librarian I, Adult Services Department effective close of business Friday, May 16, 2025.**
9. A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Duncan and carried to **approve the posting of a Librarian I position in the Adult Services Department, replacement of Brian Avery.**
10. A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Soskin and carried to **approve the Library Director to negotiate with AFSCME Council 66 for the upcoming 2025-2028 collective bargaining agreement.**
11. A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Davis and carried to **approve the proposed budget for the Library revote on June 25, 2025.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Davis and carried to **move into executive session for Personnel Matters.**

The board moved into executive session at 8:24 p.m.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Soskin and carried to **move out of executive session.**

The board moved out of executive session at 8:34p.m.

Personnel Matters were discussed.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Davis and carried to **adjourn.**

The meeting of the board of trustees was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

THE NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025.

Respectfully submitted.



Darnett Davis, Acting President
(Notes taken by Leah Levine)

