

**FINKELSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING / SEPTEMBER 17, 2025
MINUTES**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees was held both in person and by video conference on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. The meeting was recorded in accordance with law.

I. Meeting Called to Order

Ms. Darnett Davis, President called the meeting to order at X:XX p.m. with the following members present:

Ms. Esther Waldman (Vice President), Ms. Yehudis Gottesfeld (Secretary, present via zoom), Mr. James Johnson, Ms. Joan Soskin, Ms. Goldie Golding, and Mr. Yossi Rubinstein.

Administrative Personnel Present:

Ms. Laura Wolven (Library Director), Ms. Beth Zambito (Assistant Library Director), Mr. Andrew Koblick (Business Manager), Ms. Leiah Levine (Library Clerk)

Present:

Mr. Mendy Glick (Library Treasurer).

Others Present via zoom:

Susanne Daley (Union President), Elizabeth Marcus (staff), Kathleen Preston (staff), Michelle Gutierrez (position?), Parveen Rahmet (staff), Judy Joseph (staff), cvasquez (full name not provided), Jeff (full name not provided), Robert Rowe (position?), and TW (full name not provided).

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ms. Davis **to approve the agenda.** Ms. Waldman noted the addition of discussion on the Traditional Collection topic. Motion seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carried.

III. President's Report

[No additional notes recorded.]

IV. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 27, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubenstein. Motion carried.

V. Bill List for September 2025

Motion to approve the September Bill List by Ms. Soskin, seconded by Ms. Golding. Motion carried.

VI. August 2025 Payroll Journals

- **Motion** made by Ms. Waldman **to approve the September payment to the New York State Insurance Fund (amount to be added to the bill list once received) and to note the approval in the September minutes.** Motion seconded by Ms. Davis. Motion carried.
- Ms. Waldman made a **motion to approve the August 2025 payroll journal, with the request that payroll journals be sent earlier than the morning of the board meeting.** Motion seconded by Ms. Davis. Motion carried.
- Ms. Gottesfeld raised a question regarding energy efficiency, requesting a new evaluation on reducing energy usage. Ms. Wolven will review past evaluations to see when the most recent evaluation was.

VII. Financial Statement for July and August 2025

- Ms. Waldman made a **motion to approve the transfer of \$500,000 from NYCLASS should the East Ramapo Central School District require it.** Motion seconded by Mr. Rubenstein. Motion carried.
- Ms. Davis made a **motion to approve the July and August financial statements.** Motion seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carried.

VIII. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Glick reported that he was having difficulty reconciling the budget with actual expenses as to why he does not have a formal report available at this meeting.

IX. Library Statistical Report for July and August 2025

Ms. Waldman noted discrepancies between the Library Director's report and the statistical report, stating that the data appeared messy and inaccurate. She expressed distrust and requested verifiable raw data by Friday, September 26, at noon, specifically printed reports from the FOHA catalog.

Ms. Wolven explained that she was unsure of the discrepancy, noting that FOHA data flows to spreadsheets and may be misaligned. She will ask the department head for clarification. Ms. Wolven agreed to provide raw data, though she emphasized the most accurate information would come from FOHA reports.

Ms. Waldman reiterated her concern, citing past technical errors in the RCLS annual report, and emphasized the need for trustworthy, verifiable statistics. Ms. Waldman also voiced that she was concerned that some of Ms. Waldman's further requests may be attempts to overstep her role as a trustee. Ms. Waldman explained that she would like to know where the perceived lines are drawn in her role as a trustee, and a back and forth ensued and ended in a stalemate

X. Library Director's Report

[No additional notes recorded.]

XI. Union Representative Report

Union President Suzanne Daley:

- Requested that the Board develop a retirement incentive program for staff. Ms. Davis acknowledged and stated the Board would discuss the matter.
- Inquired about the gala, including staff participation and volunteer opportunities.
- Asked about the status of the FML scholarship; Ms. Wolven explained that it ended when the library changed insurance companies from Safe Harbor.

XII. Public Comment

Ms. Davis invited public comment. None were given.

XIII. Correspondence Received

Ms. Davis read aloud the first correspondence item and distributed the remainder for Board review.

XIV. Committee Reports

Budget and Finance – Ms. Waldman (Chair):

- Ms. Waldman provided highlights from finance committee's meeting, previously shared with the board.

Personnel – Ms. Davis (Chair):

- No report.

Advocacy and Fundraising – Ms. Gottesfeld (Chair):

- Working on creating an agenda for a meeting in coordination with Ms. Davis.

By-Laws and Policy – Ms. Waldman (Chair):

- Provided overview of committee meeting and recommended changes from her shared meeting minutes/notes.

Strategic Planning – Ms. Soskin (Chair):

- Highlights, previously shared, read by Ms. Waldman.
- Gift card prize amount for survey reduced from \$200 to \$50.

- Survey language revised: removal of “if at all” in question about service improvement; new question added: “What would you like to see more of?”
- **Motion** by Ms. Waldman **to approve survey with edits**. Motion seconded by Mr. Rubenstein. Motion carried.
- **Motion** by Ms. Waldman **to approve three \$50 Visa gift cards as survey prizes**. Motion seconded by Mr. Rubenstein. Motion carried.

Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Rubenstein (Chair):

- No meetings yet. Considering placement of library drop-off boxes at additional locations (e.g., Spring Valley Marketplace).
- Exploring solar-panel shade structures for parking lot.
- Will discuss closing parking lot at night and potential liability signage.
- Ms. Wolven noted reconfiguration of parking lot may not be worthwhile.

XV. Unfinished Business

By-Laws:

Motion to approve revised by-laws by Ms. Waldman. Seconded by Ms. Davis. Motion carried.

XVI. New Business

1. Appointment of John Ballard, Library Assistant, Adult Services Department, effective September 8, 2025.
 - **Motion to approve John Ballard’s appointment** made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Soskin. Motion carried.
2. Appointment of Kathleen Sullivan, Library Assistant, Adult Services Department, effective September 8, 2025.
 - **Motion to approve Kathleen Sullivan’s appointment** made by Ms. Soskin, seconded by Ms. Waldman. Motion carried.

3. Approval of the RCLS Budget.

- Vice Ms. Waldman expressed concerns about reliability of the numbers and abstained.
- **Motion to approve by the RCLS budget** Ms. Davis. Seconded by Ms. Soskin.
- Ms. Waldman, Ms. Golding, and Ms. Gottesfeld abstained. Motion carried.

4. Approval of the payment of the New York State and Local Retirement System amount of \$639,405.00 (due December 15, 2025).

- Action tabled pending confirmation of exact figures.

5. Approval of edits to the 2026 Library Calendar.

- **Motion to approve the edits of the 2026 library calendar** made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Waldman. Motion carried.

XVII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Davis. Seconded by Ms. Golding. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees: Wednesday, October 22, 2025