

**FINKELSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING/JANUARY 21, 2026
MINUTES**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees was held both in person and by video conference on Wednesday, January 21, 2026. The meeting was recorded in accordance with law.

Ms. Darnett Davis, President called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Esther Waldman, Vice President, Ms. Yehudis Gottesfeld, Secretary, Mr. James Johnson, Ms. Joan Soskin, Mr. Yossi Rubinstein, Ms. Goldie Golding (zoom).

Administrative Personnel:

Ms. Laura Wolven, Library Director, Mr. Andrew Koblick, Business Manager, Ms. Leah Levine, Library Clerk.

Others Present:

John Ninivaggi, (staff).

Others Present via zoom:

Kathleen Preston (staff), Elizabeth Marcus (staff), Judy Joseph (staff), Parveen Rahmet (staff), Dipa Thakkar (staff).

The Pledge of allegiance was recited.

Ms. Davis requested a moment of silence for the passing of former Library Trustee, Mr. Frank Dailey.

Mr. Dailey served as Library Trustee from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2022, and passed away on January 13, 2026.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried to **approve the Agenda with changes**.

President's Report- Roll call was taken during this time, and a report was presented by Ms. Davis.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Waldman and carried to **approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2025 with corrections**.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Waldman and carried to **approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 19, 2025**.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Soskin, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried to **approve the January 21, 2026 bill list**.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Davis and carried to **approve the January Miscellaneous bill list**.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried to **amend the budget for \$3,000.00 for the community grant received for the Youth Services ESL (English as a Second Language) Program**.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried to **transfer \$1 million from the NYCLASS (New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System) to the M&T Account as close to the date as possible for payroll and monthly bills**.

December 2025 Payroll Journals were tabled.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried **to approve the November 2025 Financial Statement.**

December 2025 Financial Statement was tabled.

Treasurer Report- No report presented due to the absence of the treasurer.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein to add the Treasurer to the monthly reminder emails. The motion failed, 2 in favor, 3 against. Ms. Davis, Ms. Soskin, Ms. Gottesfeld abstained, no vote from Ms. Golding.

Library Statistical Report- The December 2025 report was presented.

Library Director's Report- The report was presented. *Ms. Wolven informed the Board of Trustees they are required to take the mandatory Sexual Harassment Prevention Training. The Library will be conducting this training at the February 6, 2026 Staff Development Meeting.*

Union Representative Report- None

Public Comment: None

Correspondence Received: None

Committee Report:

Budget and Finance: Esther Waldman, Vice President, Chair: The Committee met in December 2025, this was tabled at the December 10, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

A motion was made by the Committee to request the Director to ask the Finance Department for a report of staff salaries versus actual pay for the 2024/2025 fiscal year. Motion failed.

A motion was presented by the Committee to assess how much the Library is paying towards overtime pay, and was discussed.

The Committee requested that the Director ask the Youth Services Department for a summer reading program report.

The Committee requested that the Annual Budget Vote budget options include a 0% option.

A **motion** was made by the Budget and Finance Committee, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried **to add a voided check register to the monthly bill list.**

Personnel: Darnett Davis, President, Chair: The Committee met on January 16, 2026.

The Personnel Policy was discussed and tabled.

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A **motion** was made by Ms. Gottesfeld, seconded by Ms. Waldman to **have all past legal memos sent out and moving forward, the memos from the lawyer are added to a Google Drive, by the Director, within 3 days within reason, and then sent out to the Board.**

Advocacy and Fundraising: Yehudis Gottesfeld, Secretary, Chair: None

By-Laws and Policy: Esther Waldman, Vice President, Chair:

A resolution was drafted stating that the check signer is used in the event of a true emergency, in the event when the President or Treasurer has to let you know that they are not going to be available at a specific time, and something comes up at that time. This was discussed and tabled by the Committee.

A lawyer contact policy was drafted, discussed and will be on the February 25, 2026 Board Agenda.

The Tablet Policy edits and suggestions were discussed.

The Procurement Policy was discussed and both drafts from the Committee and Library Attorney will be reviewed.

Strategic Planning: Joan Soskin, Chair: None

Buildings and Grounds: Yossi Rubinstein, Chair: None

Unfinished Business:

1. Approval of paperless monthly board packets have been tabled until the tablet policy is reviewed.
2. By-Laws were tabled.
3. Library Surveys were discussed and tabled. The deadline for entering into the raffle will not be before the next Board Meeting, awaiting suggestions and will refer to the Advocacy Committee.
4. Makerspace windows were discussed. Additional quotes that were requested were sent to the Board for review.
5. Approval for the Personnel Policy Manual was tabled. *The security camera policy was discussed.*
6. A **motion** was made by Ms. Gottesfeld, seconded by Ms. Waldman and carried to **approve the contract cancellation, termination with Citi Wide Cleaning and continue to move forward with Millers Touch Cleaning.**

New Business:

1. A **motion** was made by the Personnel Committee, seconded by Ms. Waldman and carried to **approve the status change of Suzanne Schwartz, Librarian I (PT), Youth Services Department, effective Monday, January 12, 2026.**
2. A **motion** was made by the Personnel Committee, seconded by Ms. Soskin and carried to **approve the appointment of Amy Aynedjian, Librarian I (PT), Youth Services Department, effective Monday, January 12, 2026.**

3. Approval of \$3,000 Youth Services Community Grant: *motion approved during financial discussion.*

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4. Approval of \$1 Million transfer from NYCLASS (New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System) to M&T: *motion approved during financial discussion.*

5. Approval of Tablet Policy and Paperless Board Packets: *tabled under By-Laws and Policy Committee Report*

6. Approval of Accordion wall was tabled.

7. A **motion** was made by Ms. Gottesfeld, seconded by Ms. Davis and carried to **approve electronic payments to the AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) Council 66 monthly Union Dues. – See Resolution**

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

The meeting of the board of trustees was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

THE NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026.

Respectfully submitted.

Yehudis Gottesfeld
Secretary
(Notes taken by Leah Levine, Clerk to the Board of Trustees)

Darnett Davis
Board President