

**FINKELSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
BOARD MEETING/MARCH 25, 2026  
MINUTES**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees was held both in-person and by video conference on Wednesday, March 25, 2026. The meeting was recorded in accordance with law and a quorum was present.

Ms. Darnett Davis, President, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Yehudis Gottesfeld, Secretary, Mr. James Johnson, Ms. Joan Soskin and Ms. Oluwaseyi Banjo.

Trustees Present via Zoom: Ms. Esther Waldman\* and Mr. Yossi Rubinstein (arrived at 7:33pm and was absent/ camera off by 8:04pm when the VDI vote occurred)

\*Prior to the meeting, Ms. Waldman notified the Board of a religious conflict and indicated she would likely be unable to attend the March 25 meeting.

Administrative Personnel:

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

Others Present:

John Ninivaggi, Staff, Spring Valley Police Officer (stopped in)

Others Present via Zoom:

Mike O'Brien (representing Stephanie A. Cole Adams) Rae, Beth Zambito, Nichole Daley, Robert Rowe, Susanne Daley, TW (acknowledged by the Board to be Tzvi Waldman), Nathalie, Parveen Rahmet, Helen, Judy Joseph, Elizabeth Ma..., Danny A., and Roseline.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Soskin, and carried by a majority to **approve the agenda**.

Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 7, 2026 - **Tabled** by Ms. Davis

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried by a majority to **approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 25, 2026**. Ms. Waldman voted no and Ms. Gottesfeld abstained.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld, and carried by a majority to **approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 25, 2026**.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld, and carried by a majority to **approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 17, 2026**.

Ms. Davis provided a **President's Report**.

Ms. Wolven provided a **Director's Report**.

### **Union Representative Report:**

The Union Representative raised the following concerns:

- A previously discussed employee complaint and lack of awareness of the issue over multiple years.
- Reintroduction of a resolution that did not pass at a prior meeting.
- Board meeting conduct, including organization, overlapping discussion, and timeliness of deliberations.
- Procurement practices related to repair work, including the number of bids obtained and perceived conflicts in vendor selection.
- Inclusion of specific vendors in resolutions prior to completion of a full bidding process.
- Adherence to applicable union agreements and internal policies, including consultation with Local Union 2410.
- General concerns regarding compliance with board policies, ethical standards, and procurement procedures.

Ms. Waldman responded that she has previously raised similar concerns and believes them to be valid but not fully addressed. She further stated that, to her understanding, projects below \$35,000 do not require three bids and that the current project is in compliance with applicable requirements.[1]

Mr. Koblick read the **Treasurer's Report** provided by the library's treasurer prior to the meeting.

A **motion/resolution** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Soskin, and carried by a majority to **approve the appointments of: (1) Sabine Williams, Library Assistant (French/Creole Speaking), Youth Services Department, effective Monday, March 2, 2026; (2) Aviva**

**Rosenberg, Librarian I, Adult Services Department, effective Tuesday, March 17, 2026; and (3) Alexandra Burckardt, Library Assistant, Technical Services Department, effective Monday, April 6, 2026 (Salary Step 1).**

A **motion/resolution** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld, and carried by a majority to **approve the concrete stair repair as written in the resolution read.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld, and carried by a majority to **approve the Bill list for Feb 25, 2026. Ms. Waldman and Mr. Rubinstein voted no.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Soskin, and carried by a majority to **change the word “bill list” to “financial statements for March 2026” in the agenda and approve the Financial Statements for March 2026 (also Jan 2026?).**

Payroll Journals December 2025, January 2026, February 2026 - **Tabled** by Ms. Davis

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Soskin, and carried by a majority to **approve the election date to be on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at Finkelstein Memorial Library.** Ms. Waldman voted no, and Mr. Rubinstein abstained.

A **motion/resolution** was made by Ms. Gottesfeld, seconded by Ms. Davis, and carried by a majority to **approve the VDI Replacement Contract.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried by a majority to **approve moving forward with the Civil Service matter.** Ms. Gottesfeld, Ms. Waldman, and Mr. Rubinstein did not vote.

### **Public Comment:**

During public comment, speakers raised concerns regarding:

- Lack of board discussion prior to introducing a resolution.
- The Board’s response to questions raised by trustees during the meeting.
- A potential conflict of interest involving a Board member and an employee referenced in the resolution.
- The handling of union salary discussions in relation to open meeting requirements and public transparency of employee compensation.[2]

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Soskin, and carried by a majority to **change the next Board meeting date to April 29**. Ms. Waldman voted no.

It was noted that trustee candidates are required to submit 25 signatures at least 30 days prior to the election.

**Correspondence:**

Ms. Waldman provided written correspondence (email) that she is objecting to the scheduling of the March 25th (today's) meeting. Ms. Waldman requested that this objection be entered into the minutes.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld, and carried by a majority to **adjourn the meeting**. Ms. Waldman voted no. The meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.

**The next Board Meeting will be on April 29, 2026 at 6:30PM EST.**