

**FINKELSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**REGULAR MEETING/APRIL 29, 2026**  
*UNOFFICIAL DRAFTED MINUTES*

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees was held both in person and by video conference on Wednesday, February 25, 2026. The meeting was recorded in accordance with law.

Ms. Darnett Davis, President called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Esther Waldman, Vice President, Ms. Yehudis Gottesfeld, Mr. James Johnson, Ms. Joan Soskin, Mr. Yossi Rubinstein and Ms. Oluwasey Banjo.

**Administrative Personnel:**

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

**Others Present in person:**

Mendy Glick (Library Treasurer), Grace Riario (Executive Director of the Ramapo Catskill Library System)

**Others Present via zoom:**

24 Zoom Members Present including, Stephanie Cole Adams (Library Attorney), and Nathan Feist, Paralegal.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried to **amend the minutes that two guests, the attorney and the executive director of RCLS, are expected and invited to comment and respond and participate in the meeting throughout.**

A motion was made by Ms. Davis to move into executive session. Suggestion from the Attorney on reasons to move into executive session, personnel matters and, active litigation.

Ms. Waldman commented that there were a lot of members of the public attending the meeting, and to consider moving executive session later in the meeting, so when people leave, they can leave for the night.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried to **move executive session to the end of the meeting, or 8:45 p.m. whichever comes first.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously **whereas accurate minutes are important to be accurate, the board is asking the Clerk to the Board to revisit the minutes of the special meeting of January 7<sup>th</sup>, the regular meeting of February 25<sup>th</sup>, the Special Meeting of February 25<sup>th</sup>, and the Special Meeting of March 17<sup>th</sup>. Considering the corrections submitted to her, and bringing corrected drafts to the board a week before the next meeting.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously **to have the Clerk to the Board add the regular minutes March 25<sup>th</sup>, the minutes of the special meeting of April 20<sup>th</sup>, and the minutes of the special meeting of April 21<sup>st</sup> to check them for clarity and add them to the packet that's sent to the board a week ahead.**

A Poll Watcher was discussed. The Election was discussed regarding challenges.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld to have the Library share the Library election procedure documents with the whole board. Three votes yes, Motion was withdrawn, and Ms. Wolven complied with the request during the meeting and sent the documents.

Directors Report was presented. - Ms. Waldman commented on the budget presentation portion of the report. If the budget fails, the library will need to be closed on weekends over the summer, and if there was any consideration made to the summer versus foot traffic.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman if the budget fails the director supply door counter statistics. Motion withdrawn, question asked for clarity, Is there some kind of statistics that the library has access to that would give us a picture of how heavily the library is used on Sundays throughout the year?

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried unanimously to **have the director look into what statistics she can provide to the board to help inform that decision.**

#### **Union Report:**

Ms. Daley commented that the Union members understand budget cuts if the budget does not pass. Ms. Daley also commented on the Civil Service matter regarding a Union Member.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman that the board president and director speak and send Ms. Daley a response before the next board meeting. Ms. Gottesfeld amended the motion to have a personnel committee meeting to invite Ms. Daley, Motion amended by Ms. Waldman, Whereas the union president has stated that she has not heard back from the board on the matter regarding a Union employee, to have a personnel committee meeting discuss this matter and propose action for the May regular meeting. Ms. Davis accepted the motion to second, and then amend that motion to invite the library attorney to the personnel meeting with the union representatives. – Ms. Waldman clarified the meeting will last no longer than 1 hour.

Motion, and amended motion carried.

Treasurer Report- presented by Mr. Glick, Mr. Koblick also gave a report regarding bank reconciliation and deposits cleared.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried **whereas to review matters in the next Finance Committee meeting and bring a report to the board.**

Ms. Waldman addressed to Ms. Cole Adams do the minutes need to reflect abstentions, ayes and nays?  
Ms. Cole Adams noted that recusals, abstentions should be noted.

The March 25, 2026 Bill List was discussed.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried to **have the director or business manager check the cover sheet, to confirm whether or not the bill is for March 25th, 2026, was signed and approved by the board, and before the next board meeting, and to table this item until the next board meeting.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried to **have the project tracker from Ms. Adam's invoice shared with the whole board, so that the board is aware of what they are spending for \$6,600 by the 6<sup>th</sup> of May.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried to bring that matter, the matter of how to instruct the attorney, to the Bylaws and Policy Committee meeting.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld to **approve the bill list for April 29, 2026.**

Mr. Rubinstein abstained.

**Public Comment:**

Ms. Riario commented on Election Procedures and not policy. If it's a procedure, it does not need to come before approval.

Ms. Cole Adams commented on policy and procedures lends itself to the trust and faith in the process, and you do have ultimate oversight, so looking at a short policy, of the commitment to be clear, transparent, reliable election procedures. The Library is a School District Public Library, there are certain things that are not left up to the board discretion. It would be appropriate for that to be looked at by the policy committee with recommendation from the policy committee to the full board.

Ms. Cole Adams does urge you to look at your general procedures for the library's annual budget vote and trustee election, which includes the appointment of a chair for the election, And 13 to 16 election inspectors. So, just the points that you are raising, the library actually has a procedure for this, and I think if you abide by your established procedures.- Ms. Waldman requested documents be shared with the Board. Ms. Cole Adams continued that the item for the conduct of the election on an annual basis is \$16,000 for the entire proceeding.

Ms. Riario commented regarding the minimum standard in the Library. There are 14 minimum standards that the Library needs to have requiring a certain number of hours a week the library needs to be open depending on their population. This does not count Sundays and Holidays.

Ms. Cole Adams made a point of order for the board using motions, because the board only works as a unit. That the board has issued a very clear, defined instruction with a deadline, right, to bring back that information, if that's what the board would like to see.

Ms. Cole Adams mention that the board using this method of, you know, not only hearing, you know, what your union president is saying, but actually identifying an action item, right? A concrete thing, putting a deadline on it, and confirming in your public minutes you're going to have this meeting. This is exactly how you move forward as a group.

Ms. Cole Adams responded to the motion of the project tracker, the standing instruction is that her office gets instructions from the secretary, the president, and the director, and once she is given instructions, or if the board passes a resolution to the contrary, for the attorney to do it this way. This is a great way to make the tracker available.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Davis and carried **to move a million dollars from NYCLASS into the general fund of M&T as close to the date needed as possible.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried **to go with the cheaper insurance plan which is up for renewal for the Library.**

**A special meeting was discussed for May 12.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried **to enter executive session to discuss personnel matter related to a specific employee, and to get legal advice from the attorney.**

The Board moved into executive session at 8:52 p.m.

Clerk to the Board was removed from this session, minutes not recorded for motion to come out of executive session and action motion on adjournment.

**THE NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL BE HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026.**

Respectfully submitted.

Leiah Levine  
Clerk to the Board of Trustees

Darnett Davis  
Board President