

**FINKELSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING/MARCH 17, 2026
MINUTES**

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees was held both in-person and by video conference on Wednesday, March 17, 2026. The meeting was recorded in accordance with law.

Ms. Darnett Davis, President, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Yehudis Gottesfeld, Secretary, Ms. Esther Waldman, Vice President, Mr. Yossi Rubinsten, Mr. James Johnson, and Ms. Oluswaseyi Banjo (trustee as of March 17, 2026)

Ms. Joan Soskin was present over phone conference (departed at 8:02pm).

Administrative Personnel:

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

Others Present:

Mendy Glick, Library Treasurer, Abraham Weiss, Patron (arrived 7:35pm and departed shortly afterwards)

Others Present via Zoom:

Stephanie Adams, Library's Attorney, Rachel Goldstein, Shmuli's iPhone, Robert Rowe, Samsung SM-A, Rae, Judy Joseph, Mark Svensson, Ali Miller, Kathleen Preston, TW, G, Israel Goldstein, Steven's iPhone, Parveen Rahmet, Sussi R, Dana, Jay Levin, Israel Goldstein, Joseph Lichtenstein, Baruch, Isaac Klitnick, Joel Friedman, Ariel Dahan, Yitz, Mayer Hoffman, Sarah iPhone, Jeff, Yosef Lichtenstein, Joseph Kaufman, Marc Kohn, Helen M, Jonathan's iPhone, GMR, iPhone

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld, and carried to **approve the agenda**. Ms. Waldman and Mr. Rubinsten voted no. *Ms. Waldman requested an amendment to the agenda (as requested by email prior to the meeting), adding a Finance Committee report submitted to the board on the budget. Attorney Stephanie Cole Adams clarified, the majority of the people sitting at the meeting have voted to approve the agenda, the motion carries.*

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinsten that a request was made to add the fact that a finance committee meeting was held, and a report submitted to the board, and the board voted not to allow it onto the agenda. Motion failed with 2 in favor. Ms. Davis, Mr. Johnson, and Ms. Gottesfeld voted no.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried to **appoint Ms. Oluswaseyi Banjo as a new trustee of the library until the end of the fiscal year.**

Ms. Banjo took the Oath of Office and assumed full responsibility of a trustee at 7:10pm.

VDI renewal presented by Ms. Wolven and Mr. Robert Rowe (Department Head of IT Services); the library’s attorney advised for the information to be presented in a resolution with contract format was tabled by Ms. Davis to the next meeting.

Resolution:

A motion was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve legal counsel, Stephanie (Cole) Adams, to engage directly with the Commissioner of Civil Service of Rockland County to create an exempt title for Marketing and Communications.. – See Resolution. Motion failed with 3 in favor. Ms. Waldman, Mr. Rubinstein and Ms. Gottesfeld voted no.

Amended Resolutions:

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried to **amend the resolution to say Board President instead of Board Representative in the third Whereas.** – See Resolution.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein to amend the words Wednesday, March 25, 2026 to March 18, 2026, the date of the next regular board meeting, according to the board calendar. Motion failed with 2 in favor. No vote from Ms. Davis, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Gottesfeld and Ms. Banjo. – See Resolution.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried to **approve the 4.5% tax levy for the budget vote.** Ms. Waldman and Mr. Rubinstein voted no.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein that this budget was passed without proper review or scrutiny by the President, Treasurer/ Finance Officer, and the Board’s Finance Committee. Motion failed with 2 in favor. No vote from Ms. Davis, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Gottesfeld and Ms. Banjo.

Resolution:

Resolution to override the tax cap was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

Darnett Davis, President	VOTING Yes
James Johnson	VOTING Yes
Yehudis Gottesfeld	VOTING Yes
Esther Waldman	VOTING No
Yossi Rubinstein	VOTING No
Oluwaseyi Banjo	VOTING Yes

Motion carries with 4 votes Yes, 2 votes No.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried to **have the Library’s attorney propose an amendment to the bylaws amendment by the April 29th board meeting.**

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried, **be it resolved that the Bylaws and Policy Committee shall set a date for a meeting at least a week before the next regular meeting of April to meet with the attorney on proposed revisions pertaining to section 12 of the bylaws regarding committees, and the attorney is instructed to cap the use of attorney time at 3 attorney hours or less.**

Ms. Davis announced that the board shall return to conducting regular committee meeting, and the discussion to confirm the membership of the committee, the purpose of the committee, and standing time when the committees meet (as recommended by the Library's attorney) were tabled.

A motion was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld, and carried **to change the March 18, 2026 board meeting to Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 6:30pm.** Ms. Waldman gave a formal objection, and Mr. Rubinstein voted no.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein, to reflect in the minutes that Ms. Waldman's vote was no to the board meeting date change due to religious difficulty. Motion failed with 2 in favor. Ms. Davis, Ms. Banjo, Ms. Gottesfeld and Mr. Johnson voted no.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein to move the meeting back to its regularly scheduled date due to the fact that a quorum will likely be available on that date. Motion failed with 2 in favor. No vote from Ms. Davis, Ms. Gottesfeld, Ms. Banjo and Mr. Johnson.


A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein to adjourn the meeting. Motion did not carry.

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

The meeting of the board of trustees was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

The next regular board meeting at the library will be held on Wednesday March 25, 2025 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted.



Yehudis Gottesfeld
Secretary

(Edited by Leah Levine, Clerk to the Board of Trustees)



Darnett Davis
Board President