FINKELSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING/AUGUST 26, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees was held both in person and by video conference on Wednesday, August 26, 2026. The meeting was recorded in accordance with law.

Board Members Present:
Ms. Esther Waldman, President called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. James Johnson, Mr. Yossi Rubinstein, Vice President, Ms. Oluwasey Banjo, Ms. Darnett Davis (zoom), Mr. Ariel Dahan (zoom).

Board Members Excused: Ms. Yehudis Gottesfeld
Board Members not excused: None

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, Chris Coleman, Staff.

Others Present via zoom:
Stephanie Cole Adams (Library Attorney) joined at 8:27 p.m., Robert Rowe (staff), Aviva Rosenberg (staff), Elizabeth Portillo (staff), Jeffrey Liz (staff), Kathleen Preston (staff), Parveen Rahmet (staff), Nathalie Jean Paul (staff), Elizabeth Marcus (staff), Julianna Falco (staff), Maria Torres (staff), Tanya (patron, last name not provided), Hanna (patron, last name not provided), Rober (patron, last name not provided), IK (patron, full name not provided), Joan's iphone (suggested by the board to be Joan Soskin).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Rubinstein, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to **approve the agenda.**

Public Comment: None.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 29, 2026 were tabled.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried unanimously to **approve the July 13, 2026 minutes, pending review by the Clerk to the Board to confirm the vote on the motion to amend the agenda to include the annual organizational meeting as required by the bylaws.**

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Banjo and carried unanimously to **have the Library look into media mail and bring a report to before the next board meeting, and should be provided in the board packet.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to **approve the bill list for August 26, 2026.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried unanimously to **approve the miscellaneous bill list for August 26, 2026.**

July 2026 payroll journals were tabled.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to **approve the financial statement for May 2026.**

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried unanimously to **approve the release of the Corporate Business check to Sky Packets.**

The Whiteman Osterman & Hanna bill was discussed.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer making deposits were discussed.

Library Statistical Report: The July 2026 report was presented.

President's Report: Nothing significant to report. Any significant reports the President has will be presented in the Finance Committee Report. Only report was regarding Sky Packets.

Library Director's Report: Report was presented. Passport services, Makerspace, Konbit Neg Lakay (a Haitian service), a $1,300 savings on summer reading prizes, and a day in the life of a short staff day were discussed.

Union Report: None

Correspondence Received: None. Ms. Waldman discussed receiving Payroll Certification, and a notice regarding a hearing for changes to Civil Service.

Email for the Board of Trustees was discussed.

Committee Report:

Budget and Finance: Esther Waldman, Vice President, Chair:

The committee noted that the board attorney suggested not stopping the steps and longevity that have already been given, but to make edits to the policy manual so the board has more control over that moving forward. The Library has saved about $100,000 of the $197,000 delta, and suggestions about taking out extra books and digital downloads that had been added.

Ms. Waldman noted the motion regarding the board email being moot due to Library Director's further investigation to bring to the next meeting.

Ms. Waldman recited the resolution to close on Saturdays and Holiday Sundays.

Resolution:

WHEREAS, balancing the Library's budget is of utmost importance; and

WHEREAS, patron usage of the Library on Saturdays is relatively low compared to other days of operation; and
WHEREAS, closing the Library on Saturdays is expected to result in estimated savings of approximately $14,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027; and
WHEREAS, closing the Library on each of the identified holiday Sundays is expected to result in estimated savings of approximately $4,300 per Sunday for fiscal year 2026-2027;
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Library shall be closed to the public on Saturdays, effective September 5, 2026; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Library shall also be closed to the public on the following Sundays:

- September 6, 2026 - Labor Day Weekend
- September 13, 2026 – Rosh Hashana
- September 20, 2026 – Eve Yom Kippur
- September 27, 2026 – Sukkot
- October 4, 2026 – Simchat Torah
- December 27, 2026 – Sunday following Christmas
- May 30, 2027 – Memorial Day Weekend

A **motion** was made by the Finance Committee, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously **to approve the resolution to close on Saturdays and Holiday Sundays, as read.**

Ms. Davis recused herself from the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Personnel: Darnett Davis, President, Chair: None

Advocacy and Fundraising: Yehudis Gottesfeld, Chair: Noted possible meeting took place in July, 2026 was tabled due to Ms. Gottesfeld's absence.

By-Laws and Policy: Esther Waldman, Vice President, Chair: None

Strategic Planning: The long-range plan possibly due in December 2026 was discussed.

Buildings and Grounds: Yossi Rubinstein, Chair: None

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried unanimously to **approve appointment of Emilia Fierro Janeta, Page (Substitute), Youth Services Department, effective Monday, August 24, 2026.**

Construction Bids were discussed. Ms. Wolven noted there were a total of 9 bids. There were 2 for electric, 2 for general construction, 2 for mechanical and 3 for plumbing.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Rubinstein, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried unanimously to **approve the Electric Bid from Fanshawe, Inc. dba Rockland Electric for $714,000.00.**

A **motion** was made by Mr. Rubinstein, seconded by Ms. Banjo and carried unanimously to **approve the General Construction Bid from Rudna Construction Inc. for $9,054,600.00.**

A **motion** was made by Mr. Rubinstein, seconded by and carried unanimously to **approve the Plumbing Bid from Joe Lombardo Plumbing & Heating of Rockland Inc. for $633,093.00.**

A **motion** was made by Mr. Rubinstein, seconded by Ms. Banjo and carried unanimously to **reject the Valentine Electric bid, Pierotti general construction bid, and Hauser and Lombardo mechanical bid, and Hauser and VSR plumbing bids.**

The 2026/2027 Library Budget was tabled.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Rubinstein, seconded by Ms. Waldman and carried unanimously to **approve the Finkelstein Memorial Library 2026 Retirement Incentive.**

AI Platforms were discussed.

Duties of Secretary were discussed.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 24, 2026, Special Meeting of June 5, 2026, Regular Meeting of May 27, 2026, Special Meeting of April 21, 2026, and Special Meeting of April 20, 2026 were discussed and tabled.

RCLS Plan of Service was discussed.

RCLS Direct Access Plan was discussed.

Changes to the Bylaws was discussed.

Procurement Policy edits were discussed. The change to make the thresholds $5,000.00 for both contracts and procurements.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried to **approve the revisions for the Procurement Policy with the threshold changes of $5,000.00 for both contracts and procurements. Editing contracts from $6,000.00 to $5,000.00.** Motion passed with 4 in favor. Mr. Rubinstein abstained.

A motion was made by Mr. Rubinstein, seconded by Ms. Banjo and carried unanimously to enter executive session to discuss the employment history of a specific individual and or specific individuals, and to receive legal advice from the Library attorney.

The Board moved into executive session at 8:31 p.m.

The Assistant Director, and Clerk to the Board were removed from this session.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Rubinstein, seconded by Ms. Banjo and carried unanimously to **move out of executive session.** (confirmed by the board).

The Board moved out of executive session at 8:58 p.m. (as confirmed by the board).

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting. (confirmed by the board).

The meeting of the board of trustees was adjourned at 8:59 p.m. (confirmed by the board).

THE NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026.

Respectfully submitted.

Minutes taken by Leiah Levine, Clerk to The Board of Trustees

Esther Waldman
Board President