

**FINKELSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Organizational and REGULAR MEETING/JULY 29, 2026**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees was held both in person and by video conference on Wednesday, July 29, 2026. The meeting was recorded in accordance with law.

Board Members Present:

Ms. Esther Waldman, President called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. with the following members present: Mr. Ariel Dahan, Mr. James Johnson, Ms. Oluwaseyi Banjo, Ms. Yehudis Gottesfeld (arrived at 6:35 p.m. after Ms. Waldman called the meeting to order), and Mr. Yossi Rubinstein (zoom).

Board Members Excused: None

Board Members not excused: Darnett Davis

Administrative Personnel:

Ms. Laura Woven, Library Director, Mr. Andrew Koblick, Business Manager.

Others Present in person:

Susanne Daley, Rose-Emma Calabrese, Marta Rodriguez, Kathleen Preston, Kristin Weyhrauch, Joseph Kuoffer, Chris Coleman, Dipa Thakker, Elizabeth Portillo, Annabel Sharrin, Maria Torres, Juliana Munoz, Arlene Centeno, Roseline Willis, Sabine Williams, Nathalie Jean-Paul, Michelle Gutierrez, Alexandra Burckardt, Todd Messler, Mark Hershberger.

Others Present via zoom:

Stephanie Cole Adams (Library Attorney), Rafael Mirabal (staff), Parveen Rahmet (staff), Robert Rowe (staff), , Orion Morgan (staff), Judy Joseph (staff), Steven R, Angela.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman to nominate Ariel Dahan as Secretary. No second, motion failed. Election of secretary tabled to August meeting.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Banjo to continue working with Stephanie Cole Adams. Mr. Dahan and Ms. Gottesfeld abstained. Motion failed.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Banjo and carried unanimously to **approve the resolution to appoint Anthony Fasano of Guercio and Guercio as special counsel to the board.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by and carried unanimously to **have the Board President and Treasurer as primary signatories and the Vice President as the third when necessary.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman , seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried unanimously to **approve the committees below:**

Personnel: Darnett Davis (chair), Oluwaseyi Banjo, Yehudis Gottesfeld, the Director and Assistant Director.

Finance: Esther Waldman (chair), Yossi Rubenstein, Ariel Dahan, Director and Business Manager.

By-Laws and Policy: Ariel Dahan (chair), Esther Waldman, Darnett Davis, Director and Assistant Director.

Buildings and Grounds: Yossi Rubenstein (chair), Yehudis Gottesfeld, James Johnson, Director and Superintendent.

Strategic Planning: Esther Waldman (chair), Yossi Rubenstein, Ariel Dahan, Director.

Advocacy: Yehudis Gottesfeld (chair), James Johnson, Oluwaseyi Banjo, Director.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Banjo and carried unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 12, 2026, with the amendment of Ms. Waldman's recusal recorded.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Banjo and carried unanimously to request the Director to email the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form to the Board of Trustees to be completed and submitted to the Board President and Vice President at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to Continue using the Journal News for Legal Advertising with the Rockland County Times as backup.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried to pass the resolution relocating the board meetings with the change of Founder's Room to Meeting Room.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried to approve the agenda for the regular meeting with the additions of Grant Assurances, Sky packets, Whiteman Osterman and Hanna, and Sundays.

Minutes of 6/24 and 7/13 were tabled pending corrections.

A motion was made by Ms. Gottesfeld, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried to approve the Bill List of 7/29/2026.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried to put the HVAC maintenance contract out to bid in accordance with the Procurement Policy with attention to process to ensure timely maintenance.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried to approve all other purchase requisitions over \$5,000.

Payroll Journals and Financial Statements were tabled.

The Treasurer's Report was presented and discussed.

President Esther Waldman reported that the board is committed to ensuring the continuity of the library and stability of funding.

The Director's Report was presented and discussed.

Correspondence received: LARC (The Library Association of Rockland County) invited the board of trustees to participate in their event.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried to approve the application for a New York State Construction Grant and sign the Assurances as required by RCLS.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried **to have the Director work with Counsel on finding a solution to keep the library open on Sundays.**

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried **to accept the bid from VSR of \$404,250 to replace the air handler as part of the 2024 New York State Library Construction grant.**

A motion was made by Ms. Gottesfeld, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried **to request the President and Vice President reach out to Sky Packets to resolve the bill.**

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld **to change section 7 of the by-laws as per the attorney's recommendation. Motion failed.** By-laws and policy committee will review.

A motion was made by the By-Laws and Policy Committee, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried **to approve the board calendar.**

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried **amend the procurement policy to allow intradepartmental transfers of up to \$5,000 but not interdepartmental transfers without prior board approval.**

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Gottesfeld and carried **to go into Executive Session for personnel matters related to the employment of an employee. Executive session commenced at 8:56 p.m.**

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Minutes taken by Laura Wolven: Minutes reviewed and prepared by

Esther Waldman
Board President