FINKELSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING/OCTOBER 28, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees was held both in person and by video conference on Wednesday, October 28, 2026. The meeting was recorded in accordance with law.

Board Members Present:
Ms. Esther Waldman, President called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Oluwaseyi Banjo, Mr. Ariel Dahan, Mr. James Johnson, Mr. Yossi Rubinstein (arrived at 6:49 p.m), Ms. Yehudis Gottesfeld (arrived on zoom late).

Board Members Excused: Ms. Darnett Davis
Board Members not excused: None

Administrative Personnel:
Mr. Edward Falcone, Interim Library Director, Ms. Beth Zambito, Assistant Director, Ms. Leiah Levine, Library Clerk.

Others Present in person:
Grace Riarior (Executive Director of the Ramapo Catskill Library System), Mendy Glick, Library Treasurer, Roseline Willis (staff), Patrons, names not provided, Kyle Craig (staff, notary).

Others Present via zoom:
Zoom User(name not provided), Mike (last name not provided), iphone(name not provided), B&G Department, RM (name not provided), Susanne Daley (staff), Judy Joseph (staff), Andy (last name not provided), Steve W. (last name not provided), Kathleen Preston (staff), Parveen Rahmet (staff), Robert Rowe (staff), Bill (last name not provided), Paul Gubernick (staff), John G. (last name not provided), Elizabeth (last name not provided), momsiphone (name not provided), Jeff (last name not provided), Elizabeth Portillo (staff), Noemi Merlos (patron), Franiz Justafort (patron), Joan Soskin (patron), Orion Morgan (staff), Qui Talks, Mery Mora (patron), Liz M. (last name not provided), Lisa (last name not provided).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Dahan, seconded by Ms. Banjo and carried unanimously to **approve the modified agenda.** *IT issue was added as #7 under new business, and #23 (approve appointment of Edward Falcone, Interim Library Director IV, Administration Department, effective Thursday, October 8,2026) was changed to #1 under new business.*

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to **move into executive session** to discuss the employment history of a specific individual and or specific individuals.

The Board moved into executive session at 6:41 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 26, 2026.

UNAPPROVED

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Banjo and carried unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of September 2, 2026 with edits.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to **approve the Minutes of the Emergency Meeting of October 6, 2026.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to **approve the Bill List for October 28, 2026.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to **approve the legislative over $5,000.00.**

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to **approve Beth Zambito or Edward Falcone to authorize the Hoopla payment for up to $6,000.00 monthly.**

August and September 2026 Payroll Journals were tabled.

Financial Statement for June 2026 was tabled.

Treasurer Report: Nothing to report, Mendy spoke with the Library auditors.

Library statistical report for August and September 2026 were presented.

President's Report: Not much to report other than extremely glad that we have Ed, and have someone leading the Library.

Director Report: The report for August and September were presented.

Union Report: Not much to report. Susanne Daley met with Edward Falcone on his first day, and the staff thankful for appointing Ed as the Interim Director.

Public Comment: An in person patron presented a signed petition from patrons of the Library who are asking to reopen on Saturdays. Mery Mora, and Frantz Justafort on zoom were requesting to open on Saturdays as well. Mery Mora commented on how the Library is communicating with the district regarding notification of meetings. Qui Talks on zoom requested an elaboration regarding the construction.

Correspondence Received: Ms. Waldman received a correspondence from Civil Service regarding the HELPS program.

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

Committee Report:

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

UNAPPROVED

The committee met on October 23, 2026. How things have been going since the business manager is out, and QuickBooks versus Smart Fusion were discussed. Consulting, and fiscal controls policy was discussed.

Personnel: Darnett Davis, President, Chair: None

Advocacy and Fundraising: Yehudis Gottesfeld, Chair: None

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

Strategic Planning: Ariel Dahan, Chair: None

Buildings and Grounds: Yossi Rubinstein, Chair: None

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to approve the appointment of Edward Falcone, Interim Library Director IV, Administration Department, effective Thursday, October 8, 2026.

A motion was made by Mr. Dahan, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried unanimously to approve the revised operating 2026/2027 budget.

RESOLUTION:
A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to approve the following resolution: Resolved, the Board of Trustees hereby approves a settlement agreement and release with Laura Wolven signed October 19, 2026, and hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the agreement.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to approve the following resolution: Resolved upon the recommendation of the Interim Director, the Board of Trustees hereby approves a settlement agreement and release date of October 27, 2026, and hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the agreement.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to **approve the following resolution: Whereas the Board confirms and wishes to acknowledge Assistant Director Beth Zambito for her professional and noteworthy provision of services in the absence of a director since September 7, 2026.**
And whereas the Board has secured an interim director, but expects the assistant director shall continue to provide valuable services during this time of transition.
And whereas the Board is aware that such services require diligence, flexibility, and attention, different from when a permanent director is in place, be it resolved that the Board directs a one-time stipend of $2,500 to be paid to Assistant Director Beth Zambito in the final October payroll. In recognition of her professionalism, diligence, and clear commitment to the Library. *Ms. Zambito graciously declined.*

A **motion** was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to **rescind the final resolution.**

APPROVED

Mandatory Trustee continuing education was discussed. Ms. Waldman reminded all trustees that they are required to take 2 hours of continuing education every year.

Director search firm was discussed.

A motion was made Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to allow Grace Riario, Executive Director of the Ramapo Catskill Library System, to speak to Civil Service on behalf of the Finkelstein Memorial Library, regarding the Library Director search.

The Civil Service Delegation of Authority was signed.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried unanimously to request the treasurer find and open a credit card for the Finkelstein Memorial Library in the interim director's name.

RESOLUTION and PETITION: Read by Ms. Waldman

RESOLUTION:

We, the undersigned, being the President and Vice President of Finkelstein Memorial Library, a corporation organized and existing pursuant to an absolute charter granted by the Regents of the University of the State of New York, hereby certify that the following is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the affirmative vote of not less than three-fourths of the whole number of trustees at a meeting held on the 28th day of October 2026, and that such resolution remains in full force and effect.

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of the Singleton Memorial Library hereby requests that the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York amend the absolute charter of such corporation to state that trustees shall be elected by the voters of the East Ramapo Central School District; and to state that appointments by the board to fill vacancies due to causes other than the expiration of term shall only be to hold office until the next annual election of trustees; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the President and Vice President of the Corporation, on behalf of the board of trustees, be and they hereby are authorized to execute a petition to be addressed "To the Regents of the University of the State of New York" for such purpose.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Banjo and carried to approve the resolution read by Ms. Waldman. Motion passed with 4 in favor. Mr. Dahan recused himself.

PETITION:

We the undersigned, being the President and Vice President of the Finkelstein Memorial Library do hereby apply to the Regents of the University of the State of New York for an amendment to the absolute charter of Finkelstein Memorial Library, and do make, sign and acknowledge the following statements:

1. The name of the corporation is Finkelstein Memorial Library
2. A provisional charter was granted to this corporation on August 24, 1962; which provisional charter was made absolute on May 27, 1966; and amended on October 8, 2024.
3. The trustees hereby request that the absolute charter be amended to state that trustees shall be elected by the voters of the East Ramapo Central School District; and to state that appointments by the board to fill vacancies due to causes other than the expiration of term shall only be to hold office until the next annual election of trustees.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have made, signed and acknowledged this application on the 28th day of October 2026.

This petition was signed by the President and Vice President.

The IT issue was discussed, and will be revisited at the next meeting.

New Library Policy minimum standards were discussed. Ms. Waldman asked the Bylaws and Policies Committee to ensure the deadline is met for January 1st.

A motion was made Ms. Waldman, seconded by Ms. Banjo and carried unanimously to approve the Library holiday part on the first Friday of December and to close the Library from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on that date and to spend up to $3,000.00.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to approve as written on the agenda to post and fill Accountant III, Administration Department.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to approve as written on the agenda to post and fill Senior Security Aide, Security Department.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to approve as written on the agenda to post and fill Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds I, Buildings and Grounds Department.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to approve as written on the agenda to fill (2) Page (Substitute) positions in the Youth Services Department.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to approve as written on the agenda to fill (1) Clerk-Typist (Substitute) position in the Youth Services Department.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to approve as written on the agenda to fill (2) Security Aide (Substitute) positions.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to approve as written on the agenda to fill (2) Clerk-Typist (Substitute) positions in the Circulation Department.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to accept the resignation of Angel Siquinajay, Page (Substitute), effective end of business September 23, 2026.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to accept the resignation of Tammy Avila, Clerk-Typist (Substitute), effective end of business October 2, 2026.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to accept the resignation for purposes of retirement of Shirley Mills, Clerk-Typist (PT), Circulation Department after 18 years of service. Effective end of business October 2, 2026.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to accept the resignation for purposes of retirement of Rafael Mirabal, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds I, Buildings and Grounds Department after 18 years of service. Effective end of business October 16, 2026.

UNAPPROVED

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to accept the resignation for purposes of retirement of Andrew Koblick, Administration Department after 12 years of service. Effective end of business October 16, 2026.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Dahan and carried unanimously to approve appointment of Khryssie Cinea, Page (Substitute), Youth Services Department, effective Monday, September 15, 2026.

Construction and grants were discussed.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried unanimously to authorize Rifka Feiner to look into the Library grant and bring information that can help with decision-making.

Library Director Transition will continue on the agenda, as there are no updates.

July 2026 Payroll Journals were tabled.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Rubinstein and carried unanimously to approve the Library calendar as it was in the board packet.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 20, 2026. Motion passed with 4 in favor. Mr. Dahan recused himself.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 21, 2026. Motion passed with 4 in favor. Mr. Dahan recused himself.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 27, 2026. Motion passed with 4 in favor. Mr. Dahan recused himself.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 5, 2026. Motion passed with 4 in favor. Mr. Dahan recused himself.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 24, 2026. Motion passed with 4 in favor. Mr. Dahan recused himself.

A motion was made by Ms. Waldman, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 29, 2026. Motion passed with 4 in favor. Mr. Dahan recused himself.

A motion was made by Mr. Rubinstein, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting of the board of trustees was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

THE NEXT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2026.

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

UNAPPROVED