

MINUTES
OCPL Board of Trustees' Meeting
February 25, 2026
Central Library, Board Room
4:00 p.m.

ATTENDING

M. Bilbo Coughlin	E. Kochian
L. Dyer	M. Mahar
J. Hurst-Wahl	T. Mulvey
E. James Mbuqe	

ABSENT

D. Dixie	S. Edelstein
B. Lane	

ALSO PRESENT

R. Battelle	S. Rorer
R. Gilbert	

WELCOME

Ms. Bilbo Coughlin called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

Ms. Bilbo Coughlin announced that board member Mr. Gonzalez has resigned. She thanked him for his contributions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Kochian moved the consent agenda, which includes the minutes from the January 21, 2026 meeting.

Mr. Mulvey seconded; motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Executive Director Updates

Ms. Battelle gave some updates on behalf of Ms. Perrine who was unable to attend.

- Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County staff site visit at Central. It was a great opportunity to share information and ideas. They were interested in things we do here such as:
 - Centralized Collection Development-would like to implement in their libraries
 - Safety and SecurityOverall, it was a great visit.
- St. Patrick's Day Parade – Ms. Battelle invited the Board members to march in the parade with the library. It will take place on March 14.
- Patron Statistics – Last year there was a small dip in patron visits, although circulation was up across the board along with program attendance. January 2026 remained strong throughout the month.
- Petit Construction Project – Ms. Gilbert gave some background and updates on the project. There have been many delays. The cost estimate for this project was calculated at pre-covid costs when NYS aid was originally applied for. Construction costs have since skyrocketed. Many efforts have been made to cut costs including rewriting plans as well as asking the county legislature for more funding. The NYS aid funding deadline is the end of June 2026. Full completion of the project is required in order to receive NYS aid. This deadline may not be met but plans are underway to move forward using some additional strategies.

The board engaged in conversation and shared ideas. Mr. Kochian offered his expertise. Mr. Mulvey has requested that the Chair continue to keep this project on the agenda for further discussion.

Committee Reports

- Policy Committee – 1st Consideration – OCPL Board of Trustees Code of Ethics
Ms. Hurst-Wahl gave some updates. The committee meets on the first Monday of the month. Last month the committee looked at a Code of Ethics policy that was library centered. They made some changes to reflect things they felt were important to the board. A short discussion followed. Suggestions with examples or edits should be sent to Ms. Hurst-Wahl. This policy will be brought back for a vote next month.
- Finance Committee – Meeting was adjourned until March 18, 2026.

- Government Relations Committee – Ms. Mbuqe gave some updates. The committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month. They will be asking members of the Board to look up who their county legislators are, know what districts they live in, and who their county representatives are. They will be exploring advocacy across the system and hopefully including suburban library board involvement. The Board discussed the process of contacting legislators/representatives by board members that were county employees vs. non-county employees. Ms. Hurst-Wahl suggested the committee attend the meeting in the Fall where the County Legislature receives comments on Budget.

FOCL Updates – Sara Tucker

Ms. Batelle gave some updates for Ms. Tucker who was unable to attend.

- Next FOCL lecture – Natasha Alvord, March 10, 2026
She is a Nottingham High School graduate. Her outreach will be at Nottingham High School.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution: 26-04

Ms. Hurst-Wahl moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves the grant application submission for a Tipperary Hill Neighborhood Association Grant for Hazard Branch Library up to \$655. If awarded, funding will go towards starting a tool kit library at the branch.

Ms. Battelle gave some details about the grant.

Ms. Dyer seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: 26-05

Mr. Mulvey moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves the grant application submission for a CNY Arts Grant for the Central Library MakerSpace up to \$6,650. If awarded, funding will be used to hire an 8-week-Artist-in-Residence during the summer to facilitate creative projects led both by patrons’ personal interests and guided collaboration.

Ms. James Mbuqe seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: 26-06

Mr. Kochian moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves to support the expenditure up to \$500, to cover the cost of refreshments for the Trustee Advisory Committee receptions throughout the year.

Mr. Kochian talked about last year’s Trustee Advisory Committee receptions and encouraged the Board to attend some this year.

Ms. Hurst-Wahl seconded; motion passed unanimously

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion

Ms. Dyer made the following motion:

Resolution: 26-07

Be it Resolved, that per Section 105 of the Public Officers Law, this board shall now move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment histories of particular persons.

Mr. Kochian seconded; motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered executive session at 4:59 p.m.

M. Mahar left at 5:15 p.m.

No actions were taken in Executive Session

Mr. Mulvey made a motion to move back into Open Session. That was seconded by Mr. Kochian. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board reconvened the open session at 5:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Dyer moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mulvey seconded.

Ms. Bilbo Coughlin adjourned the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Sharon Rorer
Administrative Assistant

Central Library located at 447 South Salina Street, Syracuse, NY 13202-2494
Phone 315-435-1900 Fax 315-435-8533 www.onlib.org Amanda Perrine, Executive Director

Beauchamp Branch * Betts Branch * Hazard Branch * Mundy Branch
Paine Branch * Petit Branch * Soule Branch * White Branch