

MINUTES
OCPL Board of Trustees' Meeting
July 15, 2026
Central Library, Board Room
4:00 p.m.

ATTENDING

M. Bilbo Coughlin	B. Lane
J. Hurst-Wahl	M. Mahar
E. James Mbuqe	T. Mulvey
E. Kochian	J. Reidy

ABSENT

D. Dixie**	S. Edelstein*
L. Dyer*	

ALSO PRESENT

J. Bleich	A. Perrine
R. Gilbert	S. Rorer
K. Kleinhans Lighton	S. Tucker
V. Massulik	

WELCOME

Ms. Bilbo Coughlin called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

John Reidy has been appointed as a new member of the Board of Trustees. All Board members introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Kochian moved the consent agenda, which includes the amended minutes from the June 17, 2026 meeting.

A short discussion followed regarding the notation of excused and unexcused absences.

Mr. Mulvey seconded; motion passed unanimously.

*Excused Absence
**Unexcused Absence

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution: 26-29

Ms. Hurst-Wahl moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves advancing the 2027 draft budget as stated in concept to the County.

A discussion followed regarding bringing items needed to the attention of the County Executive in advance for possible year-end fund balance allocation.

Ms. Lane seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: 26-30

Ms. Lane moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees acknowledges and thanks the Friends of the Central Library for their generous gift of \$40,000. Of the \$40,000, \$30,000 will be deposited into the Board of Trustees Account and \$10,000 will be deposited into the Onondaga County OCPL grants fund.

Ms. Hurst-Wahl seconded; A short discussion followed

Ms. Lane moved to amend the resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees acknowledges and thanks the Friends of the Central Library for their unrestricted generous gift of \$40,000. Of the \$40,000, \$30,000 will be deposited into the Board of Trustees Account with Board approval of expenditures and \$10,000 will be deposited into the Onondaga County OCPL grants fund.

Ms. Perrine spoke further regarding the \$10,000 deposit going into the Onondaga County OCPL grants fund.

Mr. Kochian seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: 26-31

Mr. Kochian moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves to support the expenditure up to \$16,000 for a Moxie XL(18) Quilting Machine on a 10' Frame with the ProStitcher Lite Package for Central Library's Makerspace paid from the recent unrestricted FOCL donation to the OCPL Board of Trustees Fund.

Mr. Mulvey seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Resolution: 26-32

Ms. Hurst-Wahl moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2026, Governor Kathy Hochul signed Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2026, Part OO of which extended through July 15, 2028, without other modification, the provisions of the Open Meetings Law authorizing public bodies to use videoconferencing under extraordinary circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the OCPL Board Hybrid Meeting Policy was adopted on May 15, 2024, by Resolution No. 24-18, pursuant to those provisions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OCPL Board Hybrid Meeting Policy is extended through July 15, 2028, with all other provisions remaining unchanged.

Ms. Lane seconded; motion passed unanimously.

MOTION

Resolution: 26-33

Mr. Kochian moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That the OCPL Board of Trustees approves to remove Rene Battelle, Administrator for Public Services and Special Initiatives effective immediately; and add Kimberly Kleinhans Lighton, Central Administrator; retain Brianah Lane, OCPL Board Treasurer; retain Amanda Perrine, Executive Director; Sam Edelstein, OCPL Board President; as authorized to sign checks drawn on the Trustees accounts including, the transfer of funds to/from all Trustees accounts.

Mr. Mulvey seconded; motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Executive Director Updates

Ms. Perrine gave highlights from her report, which has a focus on metrics.

Petit Community Room

The County has approved a contract with the architectural firm. OCPL is continuing to wait for updates on next steps for construction. The Board discussed construction grant funding.

Ms. Perrine has met with the State. The construction grant funding previously allocated for the Petit Community Room project has not been used so it will be required to be sent back to the state. They are working with us to make sure we have maximum flexibility for construction grants going forward.

Ms. Perrine is working with the Board Policy Committee on a policy which will include procedure on how construction grants work within the system.

Central Security

Weekly meetings are working well. Staff are managing incidents effectively. Increased security is key. The County has included it in our budget for next year.

Incidents at White Branch

Security incidents have increased. The front door has been locked until further notice. The entrance is now at the side door. Ms. Perrine has made the executive decision to close White Branch on Wednesday nights. This will not affect the required state-mandated hours of operation. The Board appreciates being kept up to date.

Forthcoming

Statistics will focus more on Central and Branches in relation to visits and programs. They will be presented at the next board meeting as well as on a quarterly basis.

Committee Reports

- Policy Committee – Several existing policies require updates, and additional policies need to be developed. The Committee has asked staff (through Ms. Perrine) to prepare draft policies that fall within their areas of expertise. The Committee is also collaborating with the Finance Committee to develop policies. The Committee is seeking policy examples from other institutions that can be adapted and refined to meet OCPL needs.
- Finance Committee – Working on policies. Policies will be divided into two categories based on County Funds or Trustee Funds. The Committee is looking to create an Investment Committee to govern Endowment Fund investments. Mr. Mulvey complimented Ms. Lane for her outstanding work.
- Government Relations Committee – Some members of the Committee are planning on attending the next full session of the County Legislature to make some comments. They would like to advocate for ways to reduce Summer Reading Loss as well as enhance reading skills with the Summer Reading Programs by inviting children to come into air-conditioned libraries. They will provide flyers for the Legislators. Board members were invited to attend the Legislative session.
- Executive Committee – No report.

FOCL – Sara Tucker

Finding Gobi, author Dion Leonard and his dog Gobi will be coming to Central Library August 1st for Storytime as well as a lecture later in the afternoon. Ms. Tucker passed out flyers and bookmarks.

New Central Administrator

Ms. Perrine introduced Kimberly Kleinhans Lighton. She has been with OCPL for over 20 years, leading and supporting in various roles. She would like to make Central Library both the Front Door of the City of Syracuse and a Destination Library within the county. The Board welcomed Ms. Lighton.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Hurst-Wahl moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Lane seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Bilbo Coughlin adjourned the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Sharon Rorer
Administrative Assistant

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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