



QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 6:15 PM

Central Library

89-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11432

I. CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

Present

ELI SHAPIRO Ed. D LCSW, MATTHEW M. GORTON, CLOYETTE HARRIS-STOUTE, PAULINE HEALY, ANDREW JACKSON, PETER KAUFFMANN, CARL KOERNER, Esq., JAMIE LEE, SELINA LEE, Ph. D., MICHELLE MIAO, Ph. D., GUILLERMO PATINO, GEORGE RUSSO, Esq., EARL G. SIMONS, Ed. D., LYDON SLEEPER-O'CONNELL, and TERRI THOMSON

Excused

JOHANNA CARMONA, Esq., JULISSA GUTIERREZ, JAMES M. HADDAD, Esq., and ALEXANDRIA SUMPTER-DELVES, Esq.

Others Present

ALLAN SWISHER, Esq., JIMMY VAN BRAMER, MATTHEW CARLIN, Esq., DENNIS M. WALCOTT, JUSTIN DEABLER, NICK BURON, SUNG MO KIM, GITTE PENG, STEPHEN MACK, VINEL LIRIANO, WILLIAM FUNK, WILLIAM GOLDBAND, SARA HAUSNER-LEVINE, Esq., MONIQUE HAMILTON, CHAUNCIE BROOKS, KARLIE BURKE, and DANIELLE WALSH

II. APPROVAL OF BOT MINUTES

A) Approval of Minutes of the Board - March 6, 2025

Recommended Motion for Consideration by the Board of Trustees:

I move that the Minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting be

approved as submitted.

Moved by: ANDREW JACKSON

Seconded by: LYDON SLEEPER-O'CONNELL

Carried

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A) Approval of Audit Committee Report - April 24, 2025

Recommended Motion for Consideration by the Board of Trustees:

I move that that the report of the Audit Committee meeting be accepted and approved as submitted.

Moved by: CARL KOERNER, Esq.

Seconded by: ANDREW JACKSON

Carried

IV. AGENDA

Action Item(s)

- A) Approval of Bills for the Month of February 2025

Recommended Motion for Consideration by the Board of Trustees:

I move that the Board of Trustees approve the February 2025 bills in the aggregate sum of \$4,612,031.

Moved by: PAULINE HEALY

Seconded by: GUILLERMO PATINO

Carried

- B) Approval of Bills for the Month of March 2025

Recommended Motion for Consideration by the Board of Trustees:

I move that the Board of Trustees approve the March 2025 bills in the aggregate sum of

\$4,867,569.

Moved by: PAULINE HEALY

Seconded by: GUILLERMO PATINO

Carried

- C) Acceptance of Financial Reports for the Period Ending February 2025

Recommended Motion for Consideration by the Board of Trustees:

I move that the Board of Trustees accept the Budget Reports for Board-approved operating funds and Balance Sheets for all funds as of February 28, 2025.

Moved by: ANDREW JACKSON

Seconded by: LYDON SLEEPER-O'CONNELL

Carried

- D) Acceptance of Financial Reports for the Period Ending March 2025

Recommended Motion for Consideration by the Board of Trustees:

I move that the Board of Trustees accept the Budget Reports for Board-approved operating funds and Balance Sheets for all funds as of March 31, 2025.

Moved by: ANDREW JACKSON

Seconded by: LYDON SLEEPER-O'CONNELL

Carried

- E) Approval of Annual Reports 2025

Recommended Motion for Consideration by the Board of Trustees:

I move that the Board of Trustees accept the Queens Borough Public Library's Annual Report for Library Systems and Annual Report for Public and Association Libraries.

Moved by: ANDREW JACKSON

Seconded by: PAULINE HEALY

Carried

- F) **Contract Authorization - Flushing Auditorium A/V**
Recommended Motion for Consideration by the Board of Trustees:

I move that the Board of Trustees authorize the President and CEO to enter into a contract with Mason Technologies Inc. in the amount of \$380,859.77 for the Flushing library auditorium and conference room audio/visual upgrade project.

Moved by: LYDON SLEEPER-O'CONNELL

Seconded by: ANDREW JACKSON

Carried

Report Item(s)

- G) Payroll for the Month of February 2025
PRESENTED
- H) Payroll for the Month of March 2025
PRESENTED
- I) Purchases Over \$50K - February 2025
PRESENTED
- J) Purchases Over \$50K - March 2025
PRESENTED
- K) Personnel report for March 2025
PRESENTED

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Chair of the Board Eli Shapiro expressed his interest in the Trustees attending an event together during the summer. He also noted the great job that Nick Buron and his team do in selecting library books that are on display in the branches.

VI. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President and CEO, Dennis M. Walcott, congratulated Trustee Earl Simons on his accomplishment of completing the Abbott World Marathon runner's award.

Mr. Walcott asked Sung Mo Kim, Chief Operating Officer and Senior V.P., to provide an overview and update on the threatening emails that were received to our *Contact Us* page on the website. Mr. Kim states the authorities were notified and Flushing and East Flushing library branches were evacuated. After a thorough investigation, it was reported that there was no cause for alarm. Mr. Kim stated that the Health and Safety staff are available to support staff with any concerns and the Library has increased the security presence at the Flushing and East Flushing branches.

Nick Buron, Chief Librarian and Senior V.P., reported that the American Library Association will be conducting interviews for the role of Executive Director and is in the process of taking legal action against the Trump Administration for cutting Federal funding to Libraries and the dismantling of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Mr. Buron reported on the annual internal staff step up ceremony to engage staff on the process of promotions. He thanked everyone for working together to make a successful event. Gitte Peng, Chief of Staff and Senior V.P., provided an update on the Strategic Plan Refresh.

Mr. Walcott announced the unveiling of the new mobile library on April 30. He also invited Trustees to attend the all-staff service award ceremony at Antun's on May 9. The branches will open at 2pm to accommodate the event, as 831 staff are expected to attend.

Mr. Walcott thanked Stephen Mack for his great work with Queens Public Library.

- A) Key Performance Indicators - February 2025
PRESENTED
- B) Key Performance Indicators - March 2025
PRESENTED

VII. **Adjournment**

- A) Motion to Adjourn

Recommended Motion for Consideration

I move that the meeting be adjourned.

Moved by: CARL KOERNER, Esq.

Seconded by: GEORGE RUSSO, Esq.

Carried

Pauline Healy - Secretary