LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
LORAIN, OHIO

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 15, 2026

President Ramirez called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. President Ramirez asked if any Board members had a conflict with the agenda. No Trustees indicated a conflict with the business for this evening.

Roll Call – Mr. Ackerman yes, Mr. Byrne Excused, Ms. Engle yes, Mr. Schaefer Absent, Ms. Thompson yes, Mr. White yes, Ms. Ramirez yes

#2026-097 Approval of September 17, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Ackerman moved, Ms. Thompson seconded to approve the September 17, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-097: yeas, unanimous

#2026-098 Approval of September 2026, Fiscal Officer Report

Ms. Thompson moved, Ms. Engle seconded to approve the September 2026, Fiscal Officer Report.

Fiscal Officer Bates provided an update on the financials to include the combining of bank accounts, capitalizing on interest rates from other accounts; balancing January's account; and currently working on closing February. The Board of Trustees shared that they would like to see the reports monthly to review the progress.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-098: yeas, unanimous

Report of the Director

CEO Diamond-Ortiz shared highlights from the successful Staff Development Day at Hotel at Oberlin. Mr. Ackerman represented the Board and the Foundation and welcomed the staff to kick off the day. CEO Diamond-Ortiz gave an update on the building purchase from Raise Up; they are currently waiting to hear from the City of Lorain and HUD. Mr. Ackerman asked about the current rental spaces we are renting out and whether they are month-to-month rentals, and CEO Diamond-Ortiz confirmed they are. CEO Diamond-Ortiz also shared that numbers are up for visiting the library system to include programming and attendance.

Committee Reports

a. Finance, Audit and Properties Committee – Committee met on October 2 and they discussed updating the Fiscal Policies, compensation for non-bargaining employees, and Fiscal Officer Bates provided a Fiscal update.
b. Library Services and Personnel Committee – Committee met on October 1 and discussed Code of Conduct, Patron policy changes, and Employee Handbook and Benefits.
c. Trustee Development and Nominating Committee – None
d. Friends of the Library – Columbia Branch recently had a very successful Bingo fundraiser. More information to come.
e. Foundation of the Lorain Public Library System – Mr. Ackerman shared that the Foundation will be meeting on October 19. Mr. Ackerman will recommend to hire a professional to help with fundraising.

Branch Update

Joe Taylor, Branch Manager, Columbia Branch

- Welcome to Columbia!
- Since the Board last met at Columbia
  - Updates to the toys in the children's department
  - Made some changes to the materials on the shelves to be more easily browsed
- Highlights
  - Browser's Library Birthday Bash on Sat, 9/12
    - 28 attendees; Dog-themed activities, balloon artist, therapy dogs
  - Fall Puzzle Frames on Sat, 9/29
    - 13 attendees; Designed pictures using repurposed puzzle pieces to create an autumn themed photo display
- Working on / Looking forward to
  - Trunk or Treat this Saturday, 10/17
  - Friends Appreciation Open House, Saturday 10/24
  - Mario Kart Tournament, Saturday 11/7

New Business

Consent Agenda
#2026-099 to #2026-105

#2026-099 APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS IN SEPTEMBER

APPOINTMENTS								
NAME	POSITION	DATE	PT/FT/ TEMP HOURS	GRADE/ STEP	SALARY	DEPT/ BRANCH	NEW HIRE/ CURRENT STAFF	REASON FOR CHANGE
Elizabeth Weislak	Interim Branch Manager	9/10	38/FT	F	$60,000	South	Current	Interim for D. Coward

Chris Caldera	Public Services Associate	9/14	38/FT	UH/4	$19.87	Main	Current	Replaces E. Potter
Aliyah Cruz	Librarian	9/14	38/FT	UJ/3	$24.08	South	Current	Promotion
Cameron Shannon	Public Services Professional/Technical Services Dept. System Wide Floater	9/28	38/FT	UI/1	$20.80	System Wide	New Hire	
Rebecca Lewis	Public Services Professional	9/28	25/PT	UI/1	$20.80	North Ridgeville	New Hire	

#2026-100 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE CHANGES TO BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION AND TO EXPEND FUNDS TO PAY THE EMPLOYEE SHARE OF BENEFITS IN NOVEMBER 2026 FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $20,000

#2026-101 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REVISIONS TO THE LIBRARY'S FEE SCHEDULE TO IMPLEMENT CHANGES RELATED TO CREATE SPACE MATERIALS

#2026-102 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REVISIONS TO THE LIBRARY'S CODE OF CONDUCT

#2026-103 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REVISIONS TO THE LIBRARY'S FISCAL POLICIES

#2026-104 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO CLOSE CHASE SAVINGS ACCOUNT AND TRANSFER FUNDS TO STAR OHIO ACCOUNT

#2026-105 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO CLOSE NORTHWEST MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT AND TRANSFER FUNDS TO NORTHWEST CHECKING ACCOUNT

Mr. Ackerman moved, Mr. White seconded approval of all Consent Items #2026-099 to #2026-105.

Roll Call for Resolutions #2026-099 to #2026-105: yeas, unanimous

#2026-106 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

WHEREAS, The Library Board of Trustees in accordance with the provisions of law has previously adopted a Tax Budget for the next succeeding fiscal year commencing January 1st, 2027; and

WHEREAS, The Budget Commission of Lorain County, Ohio, has certified its action thereon to this Board together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by this Board, and what part thereof is without, and what part within, the ten mill tax limitation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Library Board of Trustees of the Lorain Public Library System, Lorain County, Ohio, that the amounts and rates, as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be and the same are hereby accepted; and be it further

RESOLVED, That there be and is hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said Library District the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitation as follows:

LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

SCHEDULE A

SUMMARY OF AMOUNTS REQUIRED FROM GENERAL PROPERTY TAX APPROVED BY BUDGET COMMISSION, AND COUNTY AUDITOR'S ESTIMATED TAX RATES

FUND	Amount to Be Derived from Levies Outside 10 Mill Limitation	Amount Approved by Budget Commission Inside 10 Mill Limitation	County Auditor's Estimate of Tax Rate to Be Levied	
			Inside 10 Mill Limit	Outside 10 Mill Limit
	Column III	Column IV	V	VI
Lorain CSD	2,403,917			4.080
Lorain CSD	1,107,889			1.870
Sheffield Lake City	345,210			2.200
Sheffield Lake City	117,686			0.750
Avon City	2,114,629			2.000
North Ridgeville City	1,640,127			1.910
Columbia Township	769,154			1.740
TOTAL	8,498,612	0.000	0.000	14.550

SCHEDULE B

LEVIES OUTSIDE 10 MILL LIMITATION, EXCLUSIVE OF DEBT LEVIES

FUND	Maximum Rate Authorized to Be Levied		
General Fund			
Lorain CSD			
Renewal Passed 05/05/2026			
Current Expense Levy authorized by voters on 05/05/26			
for not to exceed 10 years	4.080		
Beginning 2026 Duplicate Expiring Last Collection 2036			
Renewal Passed 05/05/2026			
Current Expense Levy authorized by voters on 05/05/26			
for not to exceed 10 years	1.870		
Beginning 2026 Duplicate Expiring Last Collection 2036			
Special Revenue Funds:			
Additional Passed 05/05/2026			
Sheffield Lake City			
Library Levy authorized by voters 05/04/21			
for not to exceed 5 years	2.200		
Beginning 2026 Duplicate Expiring Last Collection 2032			
Sheffield Lake City			
Library Levy authorized by voters 05/04/21			
for not to exceed 5 years	0.750		
Beginning 2021 Duplicate Expiring Last Collection 2026			
Avon City			
Library Levy authorized by voters 03/17/20			
for not to exceed 20 years	2.000		
Beginning 2020 Duplicate Expiring Last Collection 2040			
North Ridgeville City			
Library Levy authorized by voters 03/19/24			
for not to exceed 5 years	1.910		
Beginning 2024 Duplicate Expiring Last Collection 2029			
Columbia Township			
Library Levy authorized by voters 05/06/2025			
for not to exceed 5 years	1.740		
Beginning 2025 Duplicate Expiring Last Collection 2030			
	14.550		

Mr. Ackerman moved, Ms. Engle seconded to approve Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying Them to the County Auditor.

A brief explanation was shared regarding the delay in collecting the tax revenues from the new Sheffield Lake levy which will not be reflected in the Library's revenues until CY 2028.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-106: yeas, unanimous

#2026-107 RESOLUTION OF RECOMMENDATION TO THE LORAIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR REAPPOINTMENT OF LEA S. ENGLE FOR A TERM AS TRUSTEE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2027 TO DECEMBER 31, 2030

Mr. Ackerman moved, Mr. White seconded to approve Recommendation to the Lorain City School District, Board of Education for Reappointment of Lea S. Engle for a term as Trustee for the period January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2030.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-107: yeas, unanimous

#2026-108 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR NON-BARGAINING UNIT STAFF, RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2026.

Ms. Thompson moved, Ms. Engle seconded to approve Resolution Authorizing Salary Adjustments for Non-Bargaining Unit Staff, Retroactive to January 1, 2026.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-108: yeas, unanimous

Other Agenda Items

- Director Diamond-Ortiz mentioned the Sheffield Village & Sheffield Lake Magazine & Community Guide that was given to each trustee. Mr. Ackerman and Bethany Bonafield, Branch Manager of the Domonkas Branch, are featured on the cover of the magazine and the photo was taken inside the Domonkas Branch.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

ATTEST:

President **Secretary**