

**LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
LORAIN, OHIO**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

President Ramirez called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 yes, Mr. Schaefer yes, Ms. Thompson yes, Ms. Torres yes, Mr. White yes, Ms. Ramirez yes

#2026-029 Approval of February 19, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Ackerman moved, Mr. Byrne seconded to approve the February 19, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-029: yeas, unanimous

#2026-030 Approval of March 2, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes

Mr. Ackerman moved, Mr. Byrne seconded to approve the March 2, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-030: yeas, unanimous

#2026-031 Approval of January 2026, Fiscal Officer Report

Mr. White moved, Ms. Thompson seconded to approve the January 2026 Fiscal Officer Report.

Mr. Schaefer asked about the reason for the Library's unemployment tax credits. Mr. Scott explained about the previous overpayment and that the Library currently has a credit of about \$19,000 which will cover at least a couple more years of payments.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-031: yeas, unanimous

#2026-032 Appoint Laura R. Bates Director of Finance and Fiscal Officer and Clerk of the Board, effective March 23, 2026, through December 31, 2026, upon Execution of a Surety Bond in the amount of \$100,000

Mr. Byrne moved, Mr. Ackerman seconded to approve Laura R. Bates Director of Finance and Fiscal Officer and Clerk of the Board, effective March 23, 2026, through December 31, 2026, upon Execution of a Surety Bond in the amount of \$100,000.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-032: yeas, unanimous

Report of the Director

CEO Diamond-Ortiz shared with the board members the following:

- Received \$10,000 grant from Lorain County Public Health - Healthy Places Grant
 - Talkbox: Booth, shipping, assembly, privacy glass upgrade, full wrap graphics
- Legislative Day 2026 – Met with representatives and discussed library issues/property taxes

Committee Reports

- a. Finance, Audit and Properties Committee – Committee met on March 6. Mr. Scott is working on providing updated financials. Discussions were had regarding the Columbia property as well as the Lorain property.
- b. Library Services and Personnel Committee – None
- c. Trustee Development and Nominating Committee – None
- d. Friends of the Library – COO Winkler reported the following:
 - The Friends of the Columbia Branch Library raised more than \$400 during their annual rummage sale. The event not only supported the library but also encouraged reuse by giving patrons the opportunity to purchase gently used small appliances and other items.
 - The Friends of the Domonkas Branch Library held a productive and engaging meeting in February. Board member Dick Ackerman attended to discuss the upcoming levy, and members also agreed to attend select programs to briefly share information about the Friends group and how it supports the library. The branch is grateful to have such a dedicated group of advocates who are passionate about supporting library services and programs.
 - The Friends of the Columbia Branch Library, Inc. will host a Nonprofit Night at Red Wagon Brewing on Wednesday, April 29, from 4 to 9 p.m.
- e. Foundation of the Lorain Public Library System – Mr. Ackerman shared that the committee met on March 16, 2026 and that the Foundation is scheduled to meet June 6 for a retreat to discuss the strategic plan and grant guidelines.

Mr. Ackerman provided an update on the Sheffield Lake Levy. The Domonkas Friends Group is rejuvenated and are working on the levy and have provided many yard signs to councilmen and community members.

Audience Participation

Branch Update – Mr. Micheal McConnell provided the following update:

- Lorain City Schools Outreach – Approximately 425 1st graders visiting the Main Library
- February 2026 average program attendance of 1232 (previous year the average was 535)
- 125th Anniversary Decades Party – May 16, 2026
- Collaborating with the City of Lorain to celebrate the country’s 250th anniversary with new programs. The Main Library will work with Jeff Pye to teach art/painting. Jeff Pye painted the mural at Main.

New Business

Consent Agenda

#2026-033 to #2026-039

#2026-033 Approval of Personnel Appointments in February.

APPOINTMENTS								
NAME	POSITION	DATE	PT/FT/ TEMP HOURS	GRADE/ STEP	SALARY	DEPT/ BRANCH	NEW HIRE/ CURRENT STAFF	REASON FOR CHANGE
Avery Barbee	Librarian	3/16/26	PT 29	UJ	\$23.61	Domonkas	Current Staff	Replaces Missy Pearson
Laura Bates	Director of Finance	3/23/26	FT 38	G	\$105,000/year	Main	New Hire	Replaces Chad Angney
Joshua Campbell	STEAM Initiatives Manager	3/30/26	FT 38	E	\$56,000/year	Main	Current Staff	Replaces Tristan Wheeler
Judith Harris	Administrative Assistant	3/30/26	PT 25	C	\$16.92	Main	New Hire	Replaces Loretta Novakovic

#2026-034 Resolution to Approve Laura R. Bates Fiscal Officer, to be an Approved Signatory for the Lorain Public Library System Bank Accounts at Northwest Bank, First Federal Bank of Lakewood, Star Ohio, JP Morgan Chase, Fifth Third Bank, and KeyBank effective March 23, 2026

#2026-035 Resolution to Remove, Effective Immediately, John W. Scott as an Approved Signatory for the Lorain Public Library System Bank Accounts at Northwest Bank, First Federal Bank of Lakewood, Star Ohio, JP Morgan Chase, Fifth Third Bank, and KeyBank effective March 23, 2026

#2026-036 Resolution to Approve the Acceptance of Grant - \$594.50 from the Community Foundation of Lorain County – Willis F. and Etta E. Gove Memorial Fund to support the Lorain Public Library literacy programs for youth

#2026-037 Resolution to Approve the Acceptance of Grant - \$10,992.80 from the Community Foundation of Lorain County – Myrtle’s Endowment Fund to support the purchase of books and media expenses at the Domonkas Branch

#2026-038 Resolution to Approve the Acceptance of Grant - \$17,238.00 from the Community Foundation of Lorain County – Krieg-Winterton Family Fund for Lorain Public Library System to support the operations and programs of the Lorain Public Library System

#2026-039 Resolution to Approve Then and Now Payment to Cengage Group.
Approve a Then and Now payment to Cengage Group for Subscription and Gale Udemy and Peterson Test Prep as follows:

Check #	Amount	Date Paid
7037	\$16,559.81	February 21, 2026

Mr. Byrne moved, Mr. Ackerman seconded approval of all Consent Items #2026-033 to #2026-039.

Roll Call for Resolutions #2026-033 to #2026-039; yeas, unanimous

#2026-040 Resolution to Approve Entering Executive Session to Discuss Matters Related to Collective Bargaining.

Mr. Schaefer moved, Mr. Byrne seconded to approve Entering Executive Session to Discuss Matters Related to Collective Bargaining.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-040: yeas, unanimous

Entered Executive Session at 5:30 p.m.

Reconvened from Executive Session at 5:55 p.m.

Mr. Schaefer moved, Mr. Byrne seconded to Exit Executive Session.

Roll Call: yeas, unanimous

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

ATTEST:



President



Secretary

