

**LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
LORAIN, OHIO**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 20, 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 yes, Ms. Engle yes, Mr. Schaefer yes, Ms. Thompson yes, Mr. White yes, Ms. Ramirez yes

#2026-070 Approval of June 18, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Ackerman moved, Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the June 18, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-070: yeas, unanimous

#2026-071 Approval of July, 2026, Fiscal Officer Report

Mr. White moved, Mr. Ackerman seconded to approve the July, 2026, Fiscal Officer Report.

Fiscal Officer Bates provided an update on the financials regarding the various bank accounts. Most bank accounts are now in balance and they are working on balancing the remaining accounts. Fiscal Officer introduced the new Assistant Fiscal Officer, Beth Krosse, and Ms. Krosse shared her background with the Board members. Fiscal Officer Bates thanked Ms. Krosse as well as Mr. John Mitchell, Technology Manager, for assisting in balancing the accounts. Mr. Ackerman asked when the remaining bank accounts would be balanced and Fiscal Officer Bates said she hoped all accounts would be balanced by the September Board meeting.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-071: yeas, unanimous

Report of the Director

CEO Diamond-Ortiz shared a Proclamation from the Auditor of State as well as a Proclamation from Columbia Township Trustees to commemorate our 125th Anniversary. North Ridgeville will have their 125th Open House in September, South Lorain Branch in October and the Avon Branch in November.

CEO Diamond-Ortiz also shared that the North Ridgeville Branch was featured in the North Ridgeville Community Guide and that there has been an increase in meeting room reservations at the North

Ridgeville, Avon and Main branches. Voter Registration Day is in September and we are currently working with the Board of Elections to have polling machines in our branches for training on the machines with patrons. LPLS will also promote voter registration on our website.

CEO Diamond-Ortiz mentioned an exciting program, Memory Lab at the Main Library, that will have a soft launch in September and the full opening in October. The Memory Lab is a do-it-yourself space where community members can preserve and share their family history by digitizing a variety of audio and visual media formats.

Lastly, CEO Diamond-Ortiz shared that Councilman Angel Arroyo contacted the Library while researching a cigar manufacturing company that was in Lorain. Librarian Cheri Campbell assisted Councilman Arroyo and was able to get the information needed using the Polk's Lorain City Directory.

Committee Reports

- a. Finance, Audit and Properties Committee – Mr. Byrne shared that the Committee met on August 7 and discussed the bids for the Main Library renovations, the status of the elevator, the Raise Up property on Kansas Avenue, the 2023-2024 Audit Report, as well as an update on the Collective Bargaining agreement.
- b. Library Services and Personnel Committee - None
- c. Trustee Development and Nominating Committee – None
- d. Friends of the Library –
 - The Friends of the Columbia Branch Library raised \$1,927 through their popular raffle basket fundraiser during Columbia Homecoming Days and received a \$1,925 sponsorship from Pulte Homes, strengthening their support of library programs and community initiatives.
 - Friends of the Lorain Public Library, Inc. hosted an appreciation dinner recognizing its dedicated volunteers. The event also showcased LPLS's Culinary Literacy and Urban Agriculture initiatives, incorporating fresh herbs and vegetables from the South Lorain Urban Farm into seasonal dishes and a specialty beverage.
 - Upcoming Friends events include the Friends of the Lorain Library Fall Book Sale, September 10–17; Friends of the Domonkas Library Fall Book Sale, September 30–October 3; Friends of the North Ridgeville Branch Library Fall Book Sale, October 1–4; and Friends of the Columbia Library Third Annual Bingo Bonanza, October 14 from 6:00–9:00 p.m. at Columbia FOE.
- e. Foundation of the Lorain Public Library System – Mr. Ackerman shared that the Foundation will have their next meeting September 18 at Avon and mentioned the retreat they had on June 5 where they discussed forward thinking on what can be done to help with fundraising.

Branch Update

- Micheal McConnell, Branch Manager, Main Library Branch, shared various programs and activities the Main Library Branch has offered to include Lorain City Schools visits, the 125th Anniversary Open House, Lorain with Littles, GEAR UP, Start with Art, and a booth at the Lorain International Festival. The Little Library on the Lake was featured on New Day Cleveland and

the Library participated in the Sunset Beach Fest presented by the Lorain County Metro Parks at Lakeview.

New Business

Consent Agenda

#2026-072 to #2026-080

#2026-072 RESOLUTION TO APPOINT BETH KROSSE, ASSISTANT FISCAL OFFICER, EFFECTIVE JULY 30 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026.

#2026-073 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE BETH KROSSE, ASSISTANT FISCAL OFFICER, TO BE AN APPROVED SIGNATORY FOR THE LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM BANK ACCOUNTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO NORTHWEST BANK, FIRST FEDERAL BANK OF LAKEWOOD, STAR OHIO, AND JP MORGAN CHASE, FIFTH THIRD BANK, AND KEYBANK EFFECTIVE JULY 30, 2026.

#2026-074 RESOLUTION TO REMOVE, EFFECTIVELY IMMEDIATELY, CONNIE WILSON AS AN APPROVED SIGNATORY FOR THE LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM BANK ACCOUNTS AND NORTHWEST BANK, FIRST FEDERAL BANK OF LAKEWOOD, STAR OHIO, AND JP MORGAN CHASE, FIFTH THIRD BANK, AND KEYBANK EFFECTIVE JULY 30, 2026.

#2026-075 RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AUTHORIZE THE FISCAL OFFICER TO CONDUCT ACH (AUTOMATED CLEARING HOUSE) TRANSACTIONS WITH LORAIN COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSES OF SENDING AND RECEIVING MONIES IN LIEU OF PAPER CHECKS.

#2026-076 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT - \$1,000 (\$500 FOR BOOKS AND \$500 FOR FREEDGE SUPPLIES) FROM THE ROTARIAN GERALD PRUCHA WHO GRACIOUSLY PROVIDED A BEQUEST TO BE USED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF LORAIN.

#2026-077 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION - \$2,500 DOUGLAS R. PETERSEN – IN MEMORY OF KATHY PETERSEN TO SUPPORT THE AVON BRANCH WITH NO RESTRICTION ON USE.

#2026-078 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION - \$5,000 THE PARK FOUNDATION IN MEMORY OF CAROLE BARTOLOVICH TO SUPPORT THE AVON BRANCH WITH NO RESTRICTION ON USE.

#2026-079 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT - \$500 LAKELAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND FOR ART IN THE PARK PROGRAMMING.

#2026-080 APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS IN JUNE AND JULY.

APPOINTMENTS								
NAME	POSITION	DATE	PT/FT/ TEMP HOURS	GRADE/ STEP	SALARY	DEPT/ BRANCH	NEW HIRE/ CURRENT STAFF	REASON FOR CHANGE
Kathy Niehm	Executive Assistant	Rehired 6/2/2026	PT	D	\$30.00	Admin	Re-Hire	Assistance in Fiscal Department
John Scott	Interim Fiscal Director	6/6/2026	PT		\$85.00	Admin		Temporary Assignment Ended
Nya Washington	Public Services Professional	6/8/2026	PT	UI	\$20.80	Main		Voluntary Termination
Jocelyn-Colon Nunez	Public Services Professional	6/9/2026	PT	UI	\$20.80	South		Voluntary Termination
Judith Harris	Administrative Assistant	6/26/2026	FT	D	\$25.30	Main		Voluntary Termination
Isabella Pan	Student Library Aide	6/29/2026	PT	A	\$11.00	Avon	New Hire	Replacement
Nadia Brailer	Student Aide	6/30/2026	PT	A	\$11.00	North Ridgeville		Voluntary Termination
Kim Edsell	Interim Branch Manager	7/6/2026	FT	F	\$64,589.91	Avon	Current Staff	Temporary Assignment
Alexandra Faulk	Public Services Associate	7/6/2026	PT	C	\$18.87	Main	Current	Replacement PSP position (A.Barbee) changed to PSA position
Avery Barbee	Interim Assistant Manager	7/20/2026	FT	E	\$56,000	Avon	Current Staff	Temporary Assignment
Alyssa Evans	Public Services Assistant	7/20/2026	PT	UH	\$18.73	Domonkas	New Hire	Replaces Missy Pearson
Beth Krosse	Assistant Fiscal Officer	7/30/2026	FT	G	\$85,000	Admin	New Hire	Replaces Connie Wilson

Mr. Byrne moved, Mr. Schaefer seconded approval of all Consent Items #2026-072 to #2026-080.

Roll Call for Consent Items #2026-072 to #2026-080: yeas, unanimous

#2026-081 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY FOR LIBRARY PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Lorain Public Library System (the "Library") is authorized pursuant to Section 3375.40 of the Ohio Revised Code to acquire, hold, and possess real property for library purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is necessary and in the best interests of the Library and the communities it serves to acquire certain real property located at 1600 and 1604 Kansas Avenue, Lorain, Ohio (the "Property"), Permanent Parcel Numbers 02-00-051-136-073, and 02-00-051-136-033, respectfully, for public library purposes; and

WHEREAS, a Purchase and Sale Agreement (the "Agreement") in substantially the form hereto referred to as Exhibit A has been negotiated for the acquisition of the Property from Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority (doing business as RAISE UP) (the "Seller") for the total purchase price of **\$1,740,000.00**;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Lorain Public Library System], County of Lorain, State of Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. The Board hereby approves the acquisition of the Property (Permanent Parcel Number: 02-00-051-136-073, and 02-00-051-136-033, respectfully, from the Seller for a purchase price not to exceed **\$1,740,000.00**, plus reasonable and customary closing costs subject to the final terms and conditions of the Agreement.

SECTION 2. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is hereby authorized, directed, and empowered, in the name of and on behalf of the Library, to execute and enter into the Agreement, along with any amendments, closing statements, deeds, easements, and other necessary legal instruments or documents required to complete the transfer and acquisition of the Property.

SECTION 3. The CEO, Fiscal Officer, and legal counsel are authorized to take all further actions, perform all due diligence (including environmental, zoning, and title reviews), and expend such funds as are reasonably necessary to close the transaction in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

SECTION 4. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 5. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.

Mr. Byrne moved, Mr. White seconded authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to execute and enter into a purchase agreement for the acquisition of real property for library purposes.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-081: yeas, unanimous

#2026-082 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PARTICIPATING IN THE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAMS OF THE OHIO SCHOOLS COUNCIL, A COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS ORGANIZATION UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO.

WHEREAS, the Lorain Public Library System Board of Trustees is desirous of participating in certain of the cooperative purchasing programs of the Ohio Schools Council, a council of governments organization under the laws of the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Lorain Public Library System Board of Trustees has reviewed the Agreement and Bylaws of the of the Ohio Schools Council and agrees to abide by them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lorain Public Library System Board of Trustees authorizes its Director/CEO to execute and initial the Agreement and Bylaws of the Ohio Schools Council and for its Finance Director to pay the annual fee.

Mr. Ackerman moved, Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve participating in the cooperative purchasing programs of the Ohio Schools Council, a council of governments organization under the laws of the state of Ohio.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-082: yeas, unanimous

#2026-083 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AUTHORIZING THE LIBRARY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH METRO PROPERTY SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED THIRTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$513,000) TO PROVIDE GENERAL TRADES CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR SERVICES TO THE LIBRARY FOR THE MAIN LIBRARY RENOVATION PROJECT.

Mr. Ackerman moved, Mr. Byrne seconded to authorize the Library to enter into an agreement with Metro Property Services in an amount not to exceed five hundred thirteen thousand dollars (\$513,000) to provide general trades construction contractor services to the Library for the Main Library renovation project.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-083: yeas, unanimous

#2026-084 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF FURNITURE FROM CONTRACT SOURCE, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED ELEVEN FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE DOLLARS (\$211,533) FOR THE MAIN LIBRARY RENOVATION PROJECT.

Mr. Ackerman moved, Mr. White seconded to approve the purchase of furniture from Contract Source, Inc. in an amount not to exceed two hundred eleven five hundred thirty-three dollars (\$211,533) for the Main Library renovation project.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-084: yeas, unanimous

#2026-085 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ENTERING EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

Mr. Schaefer moved, Mr. Byrne seconded to approve entering executive session to discuss employment of a public employee and collective bargaining.

Roll Call for Resolution #2026-085: yeas, unanimous

Time Entered into Executive Session 5:41 p.m.

Reconvened 6:56 p.m.

Other Agenda Items

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

ATTEST:



President



Secretary

