

**LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM  
LORAIN, OHIO**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, February 19, 2026**

President Ramirez called the meeting to order at 4:59 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 excused, Mr. White excused, Ms. Ramirez yes

**#2026-016 Approval of January 15, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Ackerman moved, Mr. Byrne seconded to approve the January 15, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2026-016: yeas, unanimous - Mr. Schaefer abstained from voting**

**#2026-017 Approval of January 2026, Fiscal Officer Report**

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

Mr. Scott, Interim Fiscal Officer explained the new format for the reports.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2026-017: yeas, unanimous**

**#2026-018 Approval of February 9, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Ackerman moved, Mr. Byrne seconded to approve the February 9, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2026-018: yeas, unanimous**

**Report of the Director**

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

- LPLS new Strategic Plan
- Connections magazine
- Spirit of '76 Speaker Series Schedule

- Library Legislative Day will be on March 18, 2026
- LPLS received a \$10,000 donation from the Carnegie Foundation
- Toni Morrison celebrations have begun and will be celebrated throughout the whole year ending February 18, 2027. CEO Diamond-Ortiz to send a link for the year-long celebration to the board with additional information.

Mr. Schaefer was in attendance at the Toni Morrison kick-off in Columbus and shared that it was a great event.

Mr. Ackerman gave a shout out to Ms. Jennifer Black, PR/Marketing Director for the full-page ad in the newspaper on Toni Morrison.

### Committee Reports

- a. Finance, Audit and Properties Committee – None – Next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2026
- 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 will actively support the branch this spring by staffing a table at the community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28, hosting a Nonprofit Night at Red Wagon Brewing on Wednesday, April 29 (4:00–9:00 p.m.), and approving \$800 to support branch programming, including the 125th Anniversary initiative.
  - The Friends of the Domonkas Library held their annual Soup Potluck and White Elephant gift exchange on January 14. During the meeting, members approved the 2026 budget and discussed plans for the upcoming March Book Sale.
  - The Friends of the Lorain Public Library hosted another successful January Book Sale—despite some very cold and snowy days—raising an impressive **\$1,991.28** in support of library programs and services. The Main Friends continue to be incredibly generous in their support of programs at both the Main Library and South Lorain Branch. Their contributions help make possible the 125th Anniversary initiative, the South Lorain art series, and the Sunday series at Main, enriching our community in meaningful ways.
- e. Foundation of the Lorain Public Library System – None – Next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2026.

### Audience Participation

**Branch Update** – Ms. Anne Godec, North Ridgeville Branch Manager,

- North Ridgeville is holding a "Meet the Elected Officials Night" on February 23 where North Ridgeville residents can meet informally with the Mayor and Councilmembers.
- In partnership with the American Heart Association, there is a new blood pressure kiosk at the branch. Patrons can stop in during regular library hours and check their blood pressure.

- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten launched this month. Already there are over 105 children registered for the program across the system, 48 of them from North Ridgeville.

**New Business**

**Consent Agenda**

**#2026-019 to #2026-021**

**#2026-019 Approval of Personnel Appointments in January**

APPOINTMENTS								
NAME	POSITION	DATE	PT/FT/ TEMP HOURS	GRADE/ STEP	SALARY	DEPT/ BRANCH	NEW HIRE/ CURRENT STAFF	REASON FOR CHANGE
Sarah White	Children's Librarian	12/22/25	FT 38	UJ	\$24.08	Main	Current Staff	Lateral Change from Outreach Librarian to Children's Librarian
Melissa Pearson	Public Services Associate	1/19/26	FT 38	UH	\$19.87	Main	Current Staff	Replaces Cosma Marciniak
John Scott	Interim Fiscal Officer	1/29/26	PT 15		\$85.00/hr.	Main	Contracted Interim Fiscal Officer	Replaces Chad Angney
Deena Williams	Public Services Professional	2/2/26	FT 38	UI	\$22.21	Main	Current Staff	New Position
Riley Potts	Student Library Aide	2/2/26	PT 15	Grade A	\$11.00	Domonkas	New Hire	Replaces Elaina Hollandsworth
Avery Barbee	Librarian	2/2/26	PT 25	UJ	\$23.61	Main	Current Staff	Position Reassignment
William Peterson	Public Services Professional	2/2/26	PT 25	UI	\$20.80	South	Current Staff	Replaces Aliyah Cruz

**#2026-020 Resolution to Approve Then and Now Payment to Gergely's Maintenance King. Approve a Then and Now payment to Gergely's Maintenance King for Janitorial services (January) as follows:**

Check #	Amount	Date Paid
6916	\$3,453.00	January 27, 2026
6916	\$4,374.00	January 27, 2026

**#2026-021 Resolution to Approve Then and Now Payment to Reading House LLC.  
Approve a Then and Now payment to Reading House LLC for Yearly Subscriptions (New Book Alerts and Author Check) as follows:**

Check #	Amount	Date Paid
6976	\$3,800.00	January 30, 2026

Mr. Byrne moved, Mr. Schaefer seconded approval of all Consent Items #2026-019 to #2026-021.

**Roll Call for Resolutions #2026-019 to #2026-021; yeas, unanimous**

**#2026-022 Resolution to Adopt Proposed By-Law Revisions/Amendments**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Lorain Public Library System desires to amend Section 7 of Article IV of the By-Laws to clarify the supervisory relationship of the Fiscal Officer and the reporting obligations to the Board;

WHEREAS, any amendment to the By-laws requires majority vote of the Board of Trustees at a regular meeting, following specific notice of the proposed amendment given at the previous regular meeting.

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

1. Section 7 of Article IV of the By-Laws is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 7. The Chief Fiscal Officer shall be the treasurer of the library funds. Before assuming duties or being reappointed, the Chief Fiscal Officer will be bonded.

The Fiscal Officer shall be supervised by the Chief Executive Officer for operational purposes. However, the Fiscal Officer remains directly accountable to the Board of Trustees for financial reporting obligations.

The Chief Fiscal Officer shall keep an account of the funds credited to the Board upon such forms as are prescribed and approved by the Ohio Auditor of State, and shall render a statement to the Board monthly showing the revenues and receipts from whatever sources derived, and disbursements and the purposes for such disbursements, and the assets and liabilities of the Board, and the relation of the several items of the foregoing to the budget. The Chief Fiscal Officer shall represent the Board before the County Budget Commission.

At the end of the fiscal year, the Chief Fiscal Officer shall submit to the Board a complete financial statement showing the receipts and expenditures in detail for the entire fiscal year.

~~The Chief Fiscal Officer shall be responsible to and evaluated by the Board of Trustees.~~

In the absence or unavailability of the Chief Fiscal Officer, the Assistant Chief Fiscal Officer shall act for and perform the functions of the Chief Fiscal Officer. The Assistant Chief Fiscal Officer shall be bonded.

Mr. Ackerman moved, Mr. Byrne seconded Resolution to Propose By-Law Revisions/Amendments.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2026-022: yeas, unanimous**

**#2026-023 Resolution to Approve John W. Scott 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, and JP Morgan Chase**

Mr. Ackerman moved, Mr. Byrne seconded to approve John W. Scott 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, and JP Morgan Chase.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2026-023: yeas, unanimous**

**#2026-024 Resolution to Remove, Effective Immediately, Chad Angney as an Approved Signatory for the Lorain Public Library System Bank Accounts at Northwest Bank, First Federal Bank of Lakewood, Star Ohio, and JP Morgan Chase**

Mr. Ackerman moved, Mr. Byrne seconded to Remove, Effective Immediately, Chad Angney as an Approved Signatory for the Lorain Public Library System Bank Accounts at Northwest Bank, First Federal Bank of Lakewood, Star Ohio, and JP Morgan Chase.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2026-024: yeas, unanimous**

**#2026-025 Resolution to Approve Entering Executive Session to Discuss Legal Matters Related to Considering the Purchase of Property for Public Purposes and the Employment of a Public Employee**

Ms. Thompson moved, Mr. Byrne seconded to Approve Entering Executive Session to Discuss Legal Matters Related to Considering the Purchase of Property for Public Purposes and the Employment of a Public Employee.

**Roll Call for Resolution #2026-025: yeas, unanimous**

**Entered Executive Session at 5:19 p.m.**

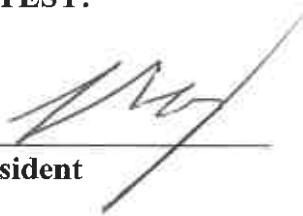
**Reconvened from Executive Session at 6:24 p.m.**

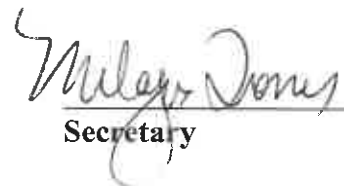
Mr. Byrne moved, Mr. Ackerman seconded to Exit Executive Session.

**Roll Call: yeas, unanimous**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

  
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**President**

  
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**Secretary**