



**Board of Directors
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 10, 2026**

Officers Present: President Dave Hempson, Vice President Katie Armijo, Treasurer Maura Molnar, Secretary Kathryn Carlson

Trustees: Connie Bohrer, Bill Conole, Jennifer Feeney, Susanne Guske, Anne McCarthy, Larry Palmieri, Amy Rolleri, Meghann Sandak, Paul Torrisi, Jr.

Staff: Library Executive Director Andea Snyder, Assistant Director and Librarian for Children & Teens, Mary Beth Schwaltzwalder

Absent: Ralph DeMasi, Kristin LaBeau, Cristina Pietropaoli

Members of the Public: Capital Campaign Director Erin McCormack, Christina Cozowski

Call to order at 6:37pm

Public Comment Period – no comments

Approval of the Minutes – Minutes from the January 13, 2026 regular board meeting were approved.

President's Report

President Hempson reported that the strategic plan committee had recently met and had finalized the draft mission, vision and values statements. It was working on developing goals, objectives and tactics in several key areas (community partnerships, programming, new building, finances, life-long learning, and community outreach). Each committee member was undertaking the researching and drafting of a plan in each of the categories. The next meeting is later this month.

He also recognized the life and accomplishments of David Graham, who recently passed away. Mr. Graham was a past president of the Library Board, among his many other community involvements. He was remembered as warm and personable, and will be greatly missed.

President Hempson reminded the Board of the upcoming tax levy, which is the same time as the school tax vote. Several committees of the Board (Communication, Fund-raising and Friends) are working with a consultant on the best means of communicating the Library proposition to the community.

He also stated that the Barrow separation petition will be delivered to the Attorney General's office next week, which is the culmination of five year's work.

Director's Report

Executive Director Snyder referred the trustees to her report that had been sent electronically. She recommended stopping in on March 27 to see the results of the 15th annual Lego contest. All ages are invited to participate.

She also asked trustees to write what they liked about the library on paper hearts on the table. Many groups are filling out the hearts and they will go on the front window to celebrate Library Lover's month

Director Snyder was in Albany last week for advocacy. Many different organizations were there to champion their causes. The library group met with the legislators to advocate for increased funding for libraries, including library construction aid. Last year the allocation for construction was \$34M. Each county is given an allotment and last year's for Onondaga County was \$1.3M. Of that, Skaneateles received \$1.17M. The library can apply every year for specific projects. She will send out specific information once both houses of the legislature have submitted their proposed budgets. She asked all trustees to write to the local representatives in support of library funding in the state budget.

Trustee Advisory Committee (TAC)

Trustee Carlson reported on the purpose and history of TAC. It was born out of a need for suburban libraries to have a larger voice in the Onondaga County Public Library system (OCPL). It also advocates for libraries in general, and provided educational resources to trustees. Most recently it has offered Zoom workshops from the Mid-Hudson library association:

- **April 16: Hiring and Evaluating the Library Director** presented by Brian Hildreth, Executive Director, Southern Tier Library System
- **June 17: Laws and Regulations** presented by Trustee Handbook Co-author Rebekkah Smith Aldrich
- **October 29: Duties and Responsibilities of Key Officer Roles**, Panel Discussion moderated by Trustee Handbook Co-author Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

Learn more about Trustee Handbook Book Club and check out the [archive of recorded sessions](#). All count towards the two hours of required education for public and association library trustees.

In addition, TAC is offering its own training session via Zoom entitled Understanding OCPL. It will be offered Feb 24, 2026 at 6:00pm. More information and registration can be found at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/R_y_i6H9QKKEDlzoXlHDkg#/registration

Finance Committee Report

Treasurer Molnar reported that at four months into the fiscal year there is still a large amount of cash on hand from the tax levy. There are no deviations from budget for expenses or income. Operating expenses for the month were under \$30K, and for the year-to-date were \$134K. Totals in the investment accounts are approximately \$3M.

For the Fennell Street project funds, she reported that there is \$1.224M on hand for the project. For the month there has been \$122,800 in donations. Expenses were \$43K with \$42K for the architects. Year-to-date expenses are \$104K and overall are \$1.5M.

Treasurer Molnar reviewed estimated project costs based on the construction manager projections and value engineering done by the new building committee. Subtracting the money already spent, the projected pledge and grant income, the sale of the building and the cash already on hand led to an estimated final balance needed at \$8.1M. This would need to be derived from a bond. She then reviewed a table prepared by Christine Crowley of Financial Advisors showing the total costs involved in bonding over either a 20 or 25-year period for both Onondaga County Civil Development Corporation (CDC) and State Dormitory Authority (DASNY) options. In March, the library board will be voting to put forth a proposition on the Skaneateles School District budget vote. The proposition will be for a tax levy that will be used to cover a portion of the library's operating expenses as well as the yearly debt service to pay for the bond.

She especially pointed out that the impact on taxpayers would not be big at all.

Friends of the Library

Committee co-chairperson Trustee Armijo reported that the Skaneateles Fields event for current and prospective Friends was very successful. Attendees were asked to renew their yearly commitment at either the \$35 good friend amount or the \$75 special friend amount. For the \$75 amount, the friend would get a tote bag and sticker. From now on, a \$75 membership will entitle the friend to a Savage Homestead candle in the “Old Book” scent.

Barrow Art Gallery (BAG) Update

Trustee Rolleri reported that 48 of the museum quality identification plaques for the Barrow paintings have been received and installed. There are 142 left to go. This is a community funded project performed by West Lake Conservators at a cost of \$70 per plaque. Trustee Rolleri was thanked for her very informative tour of the gallery before tonight’s meetings by those trustees who attended it.

Fennell Street New Building Committee

President Hempson reported that the schematic design phase was completed in December and design/development is the focus of January. LaChase, the construction managers, was thanked for doing all the costing and re-costing work pro bono for the past two years. They estimated a cost of \$16.5M at the last new building committee meeting, which was reduced to \$15.7M at the meeting. The increase in cost from last year is largely due to the 6% increase in steel prices. Any delay adds \$1M to the cost each year. If all goes according to plan, it is possible that the two buildings now on the property could be demolished in June, and construction could begin in August.

Fund-Raising Committee

Capital Campaign Director McCormack reported that fund-raising is doing well and has raised more than \$7.2M. Momentum is there with many events planned for the spring. There will be a Google calendar of the upcoming events that she will send to trustees. Riveter, the marketing firm, will help with the messaging for an upcoming public information session and the April open house at the site. The Chamber of Commerce is holding its next after-hours event at the library and Capital Campaign Director McCormack will be at a SAVES Board meeting on Thursday. She would like to get to \$8M in donations by May. Naming opportunities are still available.

Public Comment Period – Christina Cozowski first recognized the hard work and dedication of the trustees and staff. She acknowledged the positive energy of the group and also shared several issues she had with library operations. President Hempson acknowledged her issues and offered to meet with her and any of her associates to explore and rectify any issues. He referenced the positive nature of the Library’s mission and goals.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2026 at 6:30 pm at the Library.