



**Meeting of the MCLS & RPL Boards of Trustees  
Board Room, Central Library  
February 25, 2026  
Minutes**

- MCLS Trustees Present:** Gary Brandt, Kimberly Brown, Christopher Corcoran, Amy Moffitt (Vice President), Francesca Padilla, Mei Qi, Jamia Williams (quorum present)
- MCLS Trustees Excused:** Marjorie Shelly (President), Suzanne Stockman
- MCLS Trustees Unexcused:**
- RPL Trustees Present:** Donna Benjamin, Gary Brandt (MCLS Liaison), Marcus Cooper, James Kraus, Matt McDermott (VP), Sarah Murphy Abbamonte (Secretary), Sharon Salluzzo (Reynolds Liaison), Jeffrey Tucker, Mark Wyand (Treasurer) (quorum present)
- RPL Trustees Excused:** Ellen Brenner (President),
- RPL Trustees Unexcused:** None
- Staff and Guests:** Monroe County Administration Liaison, Conor McMahon; Monroe County Law Dept. Liaison, Bridget Cook; City Administration Liaison, Barbara Pierce; City Law Liaison Johanna Brennan; Friends & Foundation of Rochester Public Library Liaison, Donna Borgus; staff members, Emily Clasper, Katy Hasselwander, Sarah Lehman, Debi Mansour, BJ Scanlon, Geraldine Scott, Jennifer Smathers

Vice President Moffitt called the MCLS meeting to order at 9:06 a.m., welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and noted a quorum was present.

Vice President McDermott called the RPL meeting to order at 9:07 a.m., welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and noted a quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MCLS MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 26, 2026, meeting were APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

**APPROVAL OF RPL MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 28, 2026, meeting were APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no members of the public wanting to address the board.

**MCLS FINANCIAL CLAIMS**

Finance Mgr. Hasselwander reviewed the financial claims with the trustees and offered to answer questions. After discussion, Trustee Corcoran MADE A MOTION to approve the financial claims as presented. Trustee Brandt Seconded. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RPL FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Finance Mgr. Hasselwander reviewed the financial reports with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Trustee Salluzzo MADE A MOTION to approve the monthly financial reports as presented and approved by the RPL Finance Committee. Trustee Benjamin seconded. HE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **PERSONNEL CHANGES**

Human Resources Specialist Scott called attention to the personnel changes and staffing levels for January 10–February 13, 2026, and offered to answer questions. Trustee Murphy Abbamonte MADE A MOTION to approve the personnel changes. Trustee Tucker seconded. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

### **Liaison from the Rochester Public Library (RPL)**

RPL Trustee Murphy Abbamonte directed the MCLS trustees to the enclosed RPL Board minutes and offered to answer questions.

### **Liaison from the Monroe County Library System (MCLS)**

MCLS Trustee Brandt directed the RPL trustees to the enclosed MCLS Board minutes and offered to answer questions.

### **Liaison from the Friends & Foundation of the RPL (FFRPL)**

Executive Director Borgus reported that the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library's spring annual campaign letter is scheduled to arrive in homes around March 2. Planning is underway for Library Giving Day on April 1. The Books Sandwiched In spring series will be held on Tuesdays at 12:12 p.m. in the Kate Gleason Auditorium from March 10 through April 21, with registration details and future access to recordings available at [ffrpl.org](http://ffrpl.org). Trustees were also asked to note that the Sokol High School Literary Awards Ceremony and Reception will take place on Thursday, April 23, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the Kate Gleason Auditorium.

She further reported that all required annual reports for the FFRPL Library Grants for Circulating Materials program have been received, and 2026 grant agreements were distributed on February 18. Signed agreements are due by March 31, 2026. In 2025, the program awarded \$844,161.19 to 62 eligible libraries in the Monroe County, OWWL, and Nioga Library Systems, resulting in the purchase of 32,846 supplemental items, including 19,335 print books, 7,125 e-books, and 6,386 audiobooks. For 2026, a total allocation of \$914,541.78 will be distributed. Of that amount, the Monroe County Library System will receive \$687,397.84, including \$117,258.24 for the Rochester Public Library.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Director's Report**

Director Clasper reported that her first year as Director has been challenging but successful, and she expressed appreciation to the Board and staff for their support during this period. She stated that her recent and upcoming work is focused on strategic planning for both RPL and MCLS, including development of the five-year plan of service, review of RPL policies, and internal reorganization to support future transformation. She emphasized that although much of this work is not immediately visible, it is foundational for long-term change.

Director Clasper also underscored the urgency of state-level advocacy for library funding, noting that the Governor's proposed budget reduces both construction aid and library aid. She urged trustees to contact their state legislators as soon as possible in support of restoring and increasing library funding, commenting that while email is helpful, phone calls are even more effective.

*Trustee Brown joined the meeting at 9:17 a.m.*

### **MCLS Associate Director's Report**

Associate Director Smathers reported briefly, reinforcing the Director's call for advocacy. She explained that the Legislature is currently working on the "one house" budget bills, during which the Assembly and Senate attempt to restore funding removed in the Governor's proposal, making this a critical moment for outreach to state legislators. She advised that any email communications to legislators should be personalized, even slightly, to attract more attention. Smathers also noted that a pre-Advocacy Day meeting had been held to identify ways to help trustees and others become more effective advocates, and that staff will be developing additional opportunities over the coming year for trustees to learn and practice advocacy skills.

### **Central Associate Director's Report**

Associate Director Lehman reported that she, along with other representatives of MCLS and RPL, attended Advocacy Day at the beginning of the month and met with several state legislators and lawmakers. She indicated that her written report outlines the main state-level priorities they advanced during those meetings and offered to answer any questions regarding those advocacy points.

Next, she announced that Roc Paint will be coming to the Central Library in March to complete mural work on interior walls. In preparation, a survey will be distributed to patrons and staff to gather feedback on desired themes, content, and what the library means to them.

### **Community Libraries Deputy Director's Report**

Deputy Director Scanlon added to the advocacy discussion that letters have been drafted to all Assembly members and Senators the group met with, summarizing key talking points and specific advocacy requests. He stated that these materials will be distilled into bullet points and shared with trustees to support their ongoing advocacy. Scanlon further reported that a new heating unit for the Wheatley branch is expected to arrive in the United States next month and be installed in April, and that the damaged carpet there has already been replaced with an economical but attractive option. He informed the Board that the People's Pantry, a tenant at the Lincoln Branch Library, is seeking to extend its lease and appears to be investing in the space, including adding a new freezer, which signals a continued long-term commitment to the neighborhood. He also described discussions with the Father Tracy Advocacy Center regarding expanding their presence and services at library locations, including additional days at Central and potential expansion to the Lyell Branch, as well as possible future staff space needs in the Central Library. Finally, Scanlon noted that he is approaching his one-year anniversary in his current role and is very happy to be working at RPL.

## **NEW MCLS BUSINESS**

### **Nominating Committee Recommendation**

Trustee Padilla presented the item to the trustees and offered to answer questions. Trustee Brandt MADE A MOTION to appoint Ichin Zinn to complete the unexpired term of Peter W. Knapp, effective immediately, with a term ending date of June 30, 2027. Trustee Qi SECONDED. After discussion, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Telecommunication Agreements**

Finance Mgr. Hasselwander presented the item to the trustees and offered to answer questions. Trustee Corcoran MADE A MOTION to approve a professional services agreement for digital transmission services with Crown Castle Fiber, LLC, with a term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029. And to approve a professional services agreement for internet services with First Light Fiber with a term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029. Trustee Williams SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Annual Library Automation Services Agreement**

Finance Mgr. Hasselwander presented the item to the trustees and offered to answer questions. She noted the dates in the board documents were incorrect and should be February 25, 2026, through December 31, 2026. Trustee Corcoran MADE A MOTION to approve a professional services agreement with CampbellNet Solutions for a term of February 25, 2026, through December 31, 2026, with maximum compensation not to exceed \$5,000. Trustee Brandt SECONDED. After discussion, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**JOINT NEW BUSINESS**

**Proposed FY27 Central Library Budget**

Finance Mgr. Hasselwander presented the item to the trustees and offered to answer questions.

RPL Vice President McDermott made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, or removal of particular people. Trustee Kraus seconded. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MCLS Vice President Moffitt made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, or removal of particular people. Trustee Brandt seconded. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Both Boards moved into Executive Session at 9:58 a.m. Staff and guests were excused.

RPL Trustee Wyand made a motion to exit Executive Session. Trustee Salluzzo seconded. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MCLS Vice President Moffitt made a motion to exit Executive Session. Trustee Brandt seconded. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Both Boards exited the Executive Session at 10:15 a.m.

MCLS Trustee Brandt MADE A MOTION to approve the proposed 2026-27 Central Library Budget. MCLS Trustee Corcoran SECONDED. After discussion, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

RPL Trustee Wyand MADE A MOTION to approve the proposed 2026-27 Central Library Budget. RPL Trustee Cooper SECONDED. After discussion, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RPL NEW BUSINESS**

**Proposed FY27 Community Library Budget**

Finance Mgr. Hasselwander presented the item to the trustees and offered to answer questions. Trustee Benjamin MADE A MOTION to approve the proposed 2026-27 Community Library Budget. Trustee Murphy Abbamonte SECONDED. After discussion, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Grant Acceptance, Rochester Regional Library Council**

Deputy Director Scanlon presented the item to the trustees and offered to answer questions. Trustee Murphy Abbamonte MADE A MOTION to accept a grant of \$3,500 from the Rochester Regional Library Council. Trustee Cooper SECONDED. After discussion, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Close All Branches for Community Library Training Day**

Deputy Director Scanlon presented the item to the trustees and offered to answer questions. Trustee Kraus MADE A MOTION to approve the closure of the ten community branch libraries on Thursday, April 30, 2026, for an all-branch training day. Trustee Salluzzo SECONDED. After discussion, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice President Moffit reminded MCLS trustees that the next meeting is March 16, 2026.

Vice President McDermott reminded RPL trustees that the next meeting is March 25, 2026.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Both Boards adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

*Emily Clasper, MCLS Secretary*

*Sarah Murphy Abbamonte, RPL Secretary*

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