

**SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Thursday, June 26, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the Scranton Public Library met in person and virtually on Thursday, June 26, 2025, at the Albright Memorial Library. Vice President Bazzarri called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM.

**Present:**

Ms. Sharon Quinn,  
*President*

Ms. Karen Bazzarri,  
*Vice-President*

Atty. Pat Clark  
*Treasurer*

Mr. Tim McCabe,  
*Secretary*

Dr. George Aulisio

Ms. Daysi Carreto

Ms. Anita Cola

Mr. John Cowder

Mr. Joseph X. Garvey

Dr. Daniel Ginsberg

Atty. Jaime Hailstone

Ms. Linda Koons

**Also:**

Mr. Scott Thomas,  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Ms. Jenny Shoener,  
*Assistant to the CEO*

Ms. Michele Legate,  
*District Consultant*

Ms. Barbara McGee,  
*Friends of the  
Scranton Public Library Liaison*

**Public Comment:**

Ms. Joan Hodowanitz

**Absent:**

Mr. William Davis

Ms. Mary Beth D'Andrea

Mr. Jim Henkelman

Ms. Glynis Johns

Atty. Brian Lenahan

Dr. Kenneth Mayers

**May Consent Agenda Items:** Ms. Bazzarri asked if anyone had questions regarding the May Consent Agenda items. **Action Item:** Mr. Garvey moved to accept the May Board Meeting Minutes, the Treasurer's Report, the Statistical Report, and the CEO Report as presented. Mr. McCabe seconded the motion, which passed.

**Communications**

**Correspondence:** None.

**Public Comment:** Ms. Hodowanitz was very pleased with the turnout at the recent sidewalk sale. She also shared a guide she discovered in the Reference department titled "A History Set in Stone: A Guide to Downtown Scranton Architecture," which was published by the Lackawanna Historical Society and LHVA.

**Treasurer / Finance Committee Report:** Although expenditure on the Building and Grounds and eResource line items have exceeded the year-to-date budget, Atty. Clark reported that the overall budget remains on track. Investments have yielded good returns this month, with the three replaced funds showing a total increase of 11%. Additionally, state reimbursement for the NKH renovation project has been received. LCLS shared the draft of the 2024 Financial Statements with the Committee for finalization.

**Facilities Committee Report:** Mr. Cowder reported the following building updates-

**Albright Building**

**Mechanical:** Mr. Thomas is seeking funding to initiate the \$12,000 HVAC repairs proposed by GPI Engineers.

**Sewer:** Mr. Cowder suggested that GPI Engineers meet with Mr. Keating to discuss the scope of the sewer line and to investigate the backflow. He noted that the settlement of the line should not pose a significant issue. If Dix Court is involved, the City may also need to be consulted. The meeting is still pending.

**Vine Street Commons:** Nothing new to report. Mr. Thomas intends to follow up with Lackawanna College.

**Nancy Kay Holmes Branch Library Upgrade Renovations**

**Automatic Door:** The project electrician conducted an on-site investigation last week regarding the periodic shutdown of the door system. A report has not yet been received.

**Fencing:** A proposal for \$6,200 was received from Tom King Construction, Inc.; however, it did not align with Mr. Cowder's drawings or specifications. Since a revised proposal has not been received, Mr. Cowder will seek quotes from other contractors.

**Silkman House:** *Discussed during Old Business.*

**Public Relations Committee Report:** Mr. Thomas announced that the Scranton Times is writing an article on the new Bookmobile. SummerQuest will begin June 30. This year's theme is "Color Our World," featuring reading challenges, activities, and events. The Children's Library's ducklings have hatched, and the social media posts about them have gotten high engagement.

**Governance Committee Report:** Nothing new to report.

**CEO Report:** Mr. Thomas reported the following updates:

**Swingin' on Vine Financials:** Mr. Thomas considered the event a success despite the weather. Attendees appreciated the additional tents, tables, and chairs for dining, as well as access to the Henkelman Room for indoor seating.

**Bookmobile:** The potential arrangement for storing the Bookmobile behind the Taylor Community Center fell through. It will be temporarily stored at the Silkman House. In the meantime, permanent storage options are being pursued with Lackawanna County, the City of Scranton, Lackawanna College, and Johnson College. On June 24, Mr. Thomas, along with Outreach staff, visited TechOps in Maryland to inspect the vehicle. Mr. Thomas gave the Board an overview of the interior and exterior specs and features, which include a security camera system and an accessible chair lift. Delivery, training, and titling are scheduled for July 3. Setup and troubleshooting will be completed the week of July 7. A soft opening at the Geneva House is scheduled for Wednesday, the 9th.

**District Consultant Report:** Ms. Legate announced that the Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL) has engaged Blue Willow Consulting to assess the future role of public libraries in Pennsylvania. Ms. Legate, Mr. Thomas, and Briana Cimino, the Circulation and Youth Services Manager, participated in a focus group, which is the first step in developing a plan. The process

was discussed, which includes a survey to gather input for new public relations materials. Ms. Legate will share the materials once they are released by the OCL.

### **New Business:**

**Facilities Committee Reappointment:** President Quinn appointed several new members to the Facilities Committee to assist with relocating the SPL Technical Services department from Silkman House. They are as follows:

Chair: John Cowder, AIA

Members: Karen Bazzarri, Linda Koons, Mary Beth D'Andrea, George Aulisio, Anita Cola, Scott Thomas, and Michael LaPolla, SPL Head of Maintenance.

### **Old Business:**

**Resolution for Silkman House:** The Agency for Community Empowerment has signed the sales agreement with a closing date slated for August 29. The Authority will sign the agreement upon completion of a side agreement that allows SPL to continue using the location for Tech Services, van storage, and Bookmobile storage until November 15, 2025, if needed. There has been no word from the County regarding potential new locations for the Tech Services department.

**Strategic Plan:** A complaint on the LCLS website was filed with the Office for Civil Rights, US Department of Education for ADA compliance issues. The current website host is working to rectify the issue.

Atty. Clark stated that with the return of the Nancy Kay Holmes Branch and the addition of the Bookmobile, the statistical report predicts a positive outlook for the upcoming year.

**Friends of the Scranton Public Library Report:** Ms. McGee reported the following updates-

**Board Members:** The group welcomed a new member, Felicia Snyder. Felicia is a pharmacist at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

**Book Sale:** The June 21 sidewalk book sale was very successful. They made \$2,939.50, which is about \$707 more than their average and \$1,258 more than their last sidewalk sale. They also received \$98 in donations. The next sidewalk sale will be held in front of Albright on Saturday, July 19, with a rain date of July 26 from 10 AM - 3:30 PM. The next sale at the Marketplace at Stamtown is scheduled for September 9 through 13.

**Bus Trip to the Franklin Institute:** The bus trip to the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia on August 16. The registration deadline is July 14, and space is still available.

**Good and Welfare:** Dr. Ginsberg shared a study on gerontology that shows laughter can improve longevity. Mr. Thomas announced that Ms. Legate received the "Advisor of the Year" award from Leadership Lackawanna. Ms. Legate congratulated Ms. Carreto on being a 2025 graduate of the organization's Core Program. During a recent trip to Paris, Mr. McCabe visited the Musée de Cluny, which inspired the Albright Library's architecture, allowing him to compare the two buildings.

**Adjourn:** Mr. Garvey motioned to adjourn; Ms. Quinn seconded, and the motion passed. The meeting ended at 4:41 PM.

The next hybrid meeting will be held at the Albright Memorial Library on July 17, 2025, at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. McCabe", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim McCabe  
Secretary