

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

Thursday, February 19, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Scranton Public Library met in person and virtually on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at the Albright Memorial Library. President Bazzarri called the meeting to order at 3:34 PM.

**Present:**

Ms. Karen Bazzarri,  
*President*

Mr. Tim McCabe,  
*Vice-President*

Atty. Pat Clark  
*Treasurer*

Ms. Anita Cola,  
*Secretary*

Dr. George Aulisio

Ms. Daysi Carreto

Mr. John Cowder

Ms. Mary Beth D'Andrea

Ms. Channel Evans Kearse

Dr. Daniel Ginsberg

Atty. Jaime Hailstone

Ms. Linda Koons

Atty. Brian Lenahan

Ms. Sharon Quinn

Mr. Keith Williams

**Also:**

Mr. Scott Thomas,  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Ms. Michele Legate,  
*District Consultant*

Ms. Jackie LaPolla,  
*Business Manager*

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

**Absent:**

Mr. William Davis

Mr. Jim Henkelman

Dr. Kenneth Mayers

**Public Comment:**

Ms. Joan Hodowanitz

**January Consent Agenda Items:** Ms. Bazzarri asked if there were any questions regarding the January Consent Agenda. **Action Item:** Ms. Cola moved to approve the December Board Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Statistical Report, and CEO Report. Dr. Ginsberg seconded, and the motion passed.

**Communications**

**Correspondence:** None.

**Public Comment:** Ms. Hodowanitz informed the board that the County Literacy Committee meets on the third Thursday of every month in the Commissioners Conference Room at 5:30PM. She is going to attend the meeting today. A brief discussion followed.

**Treasurer / Finance Committee Report:** Atty. Clark provided the following updates:

**Budget:** The LCLS has not approved the 2026 Allocation to the libraries yet, therefore, the Treasurer's Report for January 2026 shows a tentative budget. Atty Clark reported on the January activity and noted the reasons for some variations. Since the 2026 Budget Process has not been completed, the Atty Lenahan made a motion to Table the Passage of the 2026 Budget this month, Ms. Kearse seconded and the motion passed.

**District Library Center Budget:** Mr. Thomas stated there was nothing new to report.

**SPL Capital Projects List:** Atty. Clark reported this month the only new updates are the book drops for Nancy Kay and Dunmore Community Center have been ordered, the Albright HVAC system updates would be over \$311,000 and the library is looking into replacing the chairs in the Henkelman Room.

**Investment Account Balances:** Atty. Clark reported the overall account balances have increased as of January 31, 2026.

**Wells Fargo Investments and Assets:** Atty. Clark reported that he talked with our investment advisor and the library is in line with the growth projections. The account did well for the month of January 2026. A discussion followed.

**Facilities Committee Report:** Mr. Cowder provided the following updates:

#### **Albright Building**

**Mechanical System:** Mr. Cowder received the final cost report for the HVAC System from Smith Miller Associates, the estimate total construction cost is \$311,610, but it doesn't include the engineering costs. Mr. Cowder is trying to get an updated cost report to reflect the engineering costs and additional revisions.

**Parking:** Mr. Cowder reported during the Facilities Committee, Ms. Bazzarri suggested the library provide a free 15-minute parking spot for in front of the library on Vine Street. A discussion followed.

#### **Children's Library**

**Lease Agreement:** Ms. Bazzarri asked Atty. Hailstone if he could create a draft lease agreement with LCLS and Lackawanna County.

**Exterior Repairs:** The scaffolding was installed and the main entrance is reopened. The county hired GPI Engineers to create an RFP for the repairs and once issued, bids will be submitted and work hopefully will start spring or summer of this year.

#### **Nancy Kay Holmes Branch Library**

**Front Entrance Stairs:** Work is expected to be completed in the spring. KR Construction has indicated that the warranty will be extended for one year following repairs.

**HVAC Analysis:** Mr. Cowder hasn't received the proposal from Smith Miller yet.

**Book Drop:** They have been purchased and will be located near the rear handicap ramp.

**Gutters/Roof:** The gutters and eaves need to be painted; the library maintenance will do the work. Scott will call Dunmore Roofing for an estimate of the roof repairs. A discussion followed.

**SPL Capital Project List:** The Facilities Committee created a wish list for Capital Projects:

- Fencing at Nancy Kay Holmes
- Automatic Blackout Shades for the Henkelman Room
- New Signage for Nancy Kay Holmes and Albright

**Public Relations Committee Report:** Mr. Thomas provided the following updates

**Community Cookbook:** Will be released on March 1 and selling for \$10 each.

**Swingin on Vine 2026:** Planning has begun.

**Fundraising Committee Report:** Mr. Thomas provided the following updates:

**Mini-Golf:** The event made \$5,013 with a net profit of \$4,550.

**Swingin on Vine:** Planning will be starting soon.

**Business Plan for Merchandise Sale:** A University of Scranton professor is working with students to develop a business plan for the library regarding selling merchandise.

**NEPA Gives:** will take place June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> this year.

**Adopt a Book:** Planning will start in April for this new fundraising project.

**Governance Committee Report:** Atty. Lenahan reported there is one candidate for the open board seat, the Committee is accepting recommendations and will do interviews before the March meeting.

**LCLS Relations Committee:** Mr. Thomas reported that the committee met in January. The biggest issue is the handling of the budget process by LCLS. Another concern is Scranton Public Library handling the payroll of the other member libraries and what agreements need to be in place. Mr. Thomas, Ms. LaPolla and Ms. Hendricks met with Ms. Brennan, LCLS Treasurer, and Ms. Longo to discuss this issue. A few additional topics the committee discussed were the LCLS website and the \$45,000 Public Relations Funds. The MOUs for IT, TS and Bookmobile expire at the end of the current year, Mr. Thomas would like to start working on the revisions in the spring.

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

**Bookmobile:** Things are going well and the statistics are also good for it.

**Partnership with Johnson College;** Mr. Henkelman was talking with Johnson College and suggested a partnership where the carpentry, electrical and metal working students will work on designing outdoor holiday lighting for the three libraries.

**Partnership with YMCA:** Mr. McCabe is working with the CEO of the YMCA for the library to have a presence at the YMCA.

**District Consultant Report:** Ms. Legate informed the board that Governor Shapiro's budget keeps funding for libraries at the same rate as last year. Also, the Wayne Library Alliance is doing a feasibility study working with Strategy Solutions and working to make sure that libraries in Wayne County are sustainable for the future. A discussion followed.

**New Business:**

**Annual Statistical Report:** Mr. Thomas reported on the Annual Report. A discussion followed.

**Date Change for December 2026 Meeting:** Ms. Bazzarri asked everyone to check their schedule, if it's possible to move the December meeting from December 17<sup>th</sup> to December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business:**

**St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Board Members are going to march in the Parade with the Friends and the Bookmobile.

**Hold System:** Ms. Serrenti will be at the June meeting to present the Discovery Layer. A discussion followed.

**Friends of the Scranton Public Library Report:** Ms. McGee reported the next Book Sale will be March 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> at the Marketplace at Steamtown. The Friends will be marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Friends Bus Trip to the Bronx Zoo will be on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Friends are selling Cooper's Soup Coupons for \$15 each available at all the library locations.

**Good and Welfare:** Dr. Ginsberg presented his report on Good and Welfare detailing the seven words only in the English language. Ms. Koons mentioned the Book Worms Club that started in the fall. It meets the first Sunday of the month at Albright. The books that have been discussed are *The Grapes of Wrath*, *All the Kings Men*, *A Thread of Grace* and an upcoming book is *1776*.

**Adjourn:** Ms. Koons motioned to adjourn; Ms. Cola seconded, and the motion passed. The meeting ended at 5:05 PM. The next hybrid meeting will be held at the Albright Memorial Library on March 19, 2026, at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anita Cola  
Secretary