

SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Carolyn A. Anthony Business and Community Center

CALL TO ORDER

Michelle Mallari, President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Members present:

- Michelle Mallari, President; Alisa Ungar-Sargon, Vice President, participated remotely; Mary Pietrucha, Secretary; Voula Colburn; Leah Glickman, Amanda Lichtenstein; Ella Whitehead.

Staff present:

- Richard Kong, Executive Director; Laura McGrath, Deputy Director; Amy Koester, Director of Public Services; Amy Holcomb, Learning Experiences Manager; Suzy Rodela-Sulik, Administrative Coordinator.

COMMENTS FROM OBSERVERS

There were no comments from observers.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 14, 2026

At 6:31 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Lichtenstein, seconded by Ms. Colburn:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 14, 2026.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were 7 ayes and 0 nays.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kong provided updates on the delayed distributions for the second installment of property taxes, strategic plan priorities, and clear language staff training. The trustees noted the executive director's report.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 2026 DISBURSEMENT REPORT

The trustees asked some clarifying questions about the disbursements.

At 6:52 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Pietrucha, seconded by Ms. Lichtenstein:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE JANUARY 2026 DISBURSEMENT REPORT.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were 7 ayes and 0 nays.

9 MONTH SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT ENDING 1/31

Mr. Kong provided some details about the report. The trustees asked some clarifying questions and noted the income statement.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

The trustees discussed the reports, STEAM kits, event highlights, and programs.

At 7:04 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Whitehead, seconded by Ms. Colburn:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND THAT THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BE PLACED ON FILE:
 1. REPORTS;
 2. GIFTS:
 - \$50 from Stephen Stroud
 - \$50 from Anna Galland
 3. PERSONNEL:
 - HIRES:
 - Effective February 10, 2026:
Anna Hill, Patron Services Assistant, Access Services.
 - Effective February 23, 2026:
Celina Tran, Training and Development Coordinator, Administration.
 - DEPARTURES:
 - Effective January 11, 2026:
Tristan Muniz, Materials Handler, Access Services.
 - Effective January 31, 2026:
Nathan Michaelson, Experiential Learning Specialist, Learning Experiences.
 - Effective February 27, 2026:
Luke Gilbreth, Information Services Specialist, Patron Engagement.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were 7 ayes and 0 nays.

APPROVAL OF SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Mr. Kong recommended approval of the social media policy, with the recommended revisions from the previous board meeting.

At 7:05 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Lichtenstein, seconded by Ms. Glickman:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY AS PRESENTED.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were 7 ayes and 0 nays.

UPDATE OF ANTICIPATED CAPITAL PROJECTS

Mr. Kong provided details on the update of anticipated capital projects. The trustees asked some clarifying questions and noted the report.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL OF ELECTRICAL ARC FLASH STUDY

Ms. McGrath provided a summary and recommended approval of the proposal. The trustees asked some clarifying questions.

At 7:26 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Whitehead, seconded by Ms. Pietrucha:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE GBA PROPOSAL FOR AN ARC FLASH STUDY AT A TOTAL COST OF \$34,786.00

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were 7 ayes and 0 nays.

APPROVAL OF PILOT PROJECT FOR NEW WEEKEND HOURS

Mr. Kong summarized the pilot for new weekend hours. Ms. Ungar-Sargon thanked the staff who worked on developing the pilot. The trustees asked clarifying questions.

At 7:40 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Glickman, seconded by Ms. Pietrucha:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE PILOT PERIOD FOR NEW WEEKEND HOURS AS PRESENTED.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were 7 ayes and 0 nays.

PROJECTED FY 2026-2027 BUDGET

Mr. Kong provided details on the first look at the draft projected FY26-27 budget, adding that the tax levy increase approved last year has been significantly helpful. The trustees asked some clarifying questions about the projected budget.

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO 5 ILCS 120/2(C)1 AND 120/2(C)2

At 8:09 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Lichtenstein, seconded by Ms. Colburn:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO 5 ILCS 120/2(C)1 OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT TO DISCUSS THE COMPENSATION OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC BODY, AND 5 ILCS 120/2(C)2 TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Ms. Ungar-Sargon, Ms. Koester, and Ms. Holcomb left the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Ms. McGrath and Ms. Rodela-Sulik left the meeting at 8:55 pm.

ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION

At 9:12 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Lichtenstein, seconded by Ms. Pietrucha:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Ms. Koester, Ms. Holcomb, and Ms. Rodela-Sulik returned to the meeting at 9:14 pm.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES

There were no comments from trustees.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:15 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Whitehead, seconded by Ms. Glickman:

- MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING.

A vote was taken, and the motion passed. There were 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Mary Pietrucha, Secretary