



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
OSHAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**

**Thursday, May 21, 2026 beginning at 6:30 p.m.  
McLaughlin Branch, Boardroom**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chair Eric Guernsey, Vice-Chair Marco Osso, Trustee Mark Ashcroft, Trustee Jim Clapp, Trustee Sacha Fabry, Trustee Elizabeth Jamischak, Trustee Kathryn McMillan and Trustee Alexander Parkin

**Regrets:** Trustee Andrew Holmes, Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri and Trustee Carolyne Willoughby

**Staff:** Frances Newman, Chief Executive Officer  
Stephanie McLean, Executive Assistant, acted as the Recording Secretary

**1. Land Acknowledgement**

The land we are standing on today is the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. We acknowledge that Oshawa is covered under the Williams Treaties and as a settler on these lands we are all treaty people.

May we respectfully honour the knowledge and understanding of the Indigenous stewards of these ancestral lands and ensure that the voices of the First Peoples are represented in our collections, programs and services.

**2. Call to Order / Approval of Agenda**

**(19-26) MOTION** - Moved by Trustee Ashcroft, seconded by Trustee Jamischak,

“That the Oshawa Public Library Board approve the Agenda for the May 21, 2026 Board meeting, as presented.” **CARRIED**

3. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No conflicts were declared.

Trustee Parkin arrived at this point of the meeting.

4. **Approval of the Minutes**

**(20-26) MOTION** – Moved by Trustee Clapp, seconded by Trustee Osso, “That the Oshawa Public Library Board approve the minutes from the March 19, 2026 meeting, as amended.” **CARRIED**

5. **Consent Agenda**

The Board members received each of the following reports in their meeting packages, which were provided in advance of the meeting:

1. CEO Strategic Plan Update and Activity Highlights Report – May 2026
2. Financial Report as at April 30, 2026
3. Q1 2026 Statistics Report

**(21-26) MOTION** - Moved by Trustee Clapp, seconded by Trustee Jamischak, “That the Oshawa Public Library Board approve Consent Agenda items 1 and 3, being the CEO Strategic Plan Update and Activity Highlights Report for May 2026 and the Q1 2026 Statistics Report, as presented, and the Financial Report as at April 30, 2026, be pulled for discussion. **CARRIED**

At this point of the meeting Trustee Fabry arrived to the meeting.

Trustee Clapp referred to the Donations and Sponsorship line item in the Financial Report and suggested that both the recent individual donation and the funds received from the bankruptcy and asset liquidation of Library Services Centre be transferred to the Bequests and Donations Reserve account.

**(22-26) MOTION** - Moved by Trustee Clapp, seconded by Trustee Ashcroft, “That the Oshawa Public Library Board approves the transfer of the donation received in April 2026, together with the funds received as a result of the bankruptcy of Library Services Centre and the liquidation of its assets, to the Library’s Bequests and Donations Reserve account, recognizing both as extraordinary donations; and further, that the Board acknowledges that the donated funds will be used in accordance with the donor’s instructions.” **CARRIED**

**(23-26) MOTION** - Moved by Trustee Clapp, seconded by Trustee Parkin, “That the Oshawa Public Library Board approves Consent Agenda item 2, being the Financial Report as at April 30, 2026.” **CARRIED**

## 6. **Business Arising from Minutes**

### 1. **Governance Committee**

Following up to the March Board meeting each of the following policies were referred back to the Governance Committee for further changes:

- A-01 – Donations, Gifts and Sponsorship Policy
- A-02 – Records Retention Policy
- G-01 – Board of Directors Mandate

It was reported by Chair of the Committee Trustee Fabry that the suggested amendments have been made and are now being recommended for approval by the Board.

**(24-26) MOTION** - Moved by Trustee Fabry, seconded by Trustee Osso, “That upon a recommendation made by the Governance Committee of the Oshawa Public Library Board to review and approve the following revised Board policies as part of the Board’s 4-year Board Policy review cycle, the Board has approved the Donations, Gifts and Sponsorship Policy, Records Retention Policy and Board of Directors Mandate, as presented.”

**CARRIED**

## 7. **New Business**

### 1. **Memo - Alberta Legislature - Bill 28, the Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026**

CEO Newman referred to the memo that was provided to the Board in their advance meeting packages with respect to Alberta Legislature - Bill 28, the *Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026* and reported that the Bill received Royal Assent on May 14. CEO Newman further reported that that the Alberta library community is very concerned with these changes.

CEO Newman advised that Board that Bill 28, the *Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026* gives the Minister of Municipal Affairs new powers to inspect public libraries, make regulations governing access to and borrowing of library materials, and issue directives to library boards — responsibilities that currently rest with locally appointed boards and trained library professionals.

Essentially, Bill 28 requires the physical segregation of library materials the

government deems explicit — affecting not just children’s collections, but teen and adult collections as well.

The legislation also raises serious privacy, intellectual freedom, and access to information concerns, all of which run counter to our core library values:

- Regulations may require age-based restrictions on borrowing, age verification, and explicit parental consent for materials borrowed.
- The Bill also gives the province power to dictate access and potentially monitor customer accounts, including which books people are checking out, a concerning breach of privacy.

CEO Newman reported that the library community in Alberta is deeply concerned with this new legislation, and advised that Board that although it is now too late to stop the legislation, the Board can still communicate their concerns by passing a motion expressing the Board’s disappointment in the decision made by the Alberta government and reaffirming the Library Board’s commitment to intellectual freedom, customer privacy, equitable access to information, and the principles of local governance of public libraries, consistent with the *Public Libraries Act* of Ontario. Following a brief discussion, the following motion was presented:

**(25-26) MOTION** - Moved by Trustee Fabry, seconded by Trustee McMillan, “That the Oshawa Public Library Board endorses the positions of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations, the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, and the Ontario Library Association in opposing Alberta Bill 28, the *Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026*, and, that the Library Board reaffirms its commitment to intellectual freedom, customer privacy, equitable access to information, and the principle of local governance of public libraries, consistent with the Ontario *Public Libraries Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.P44.” **CARRIED**

## **2. In-Camera Session – Labour Relations & Personnel Matter (Public Libraries Act – Sections 16.1(4)(b)(d))**

**(26-26) MOTION** - Moved by Trustee Clapp, seconded by Trustee Parkin, to move in-camera.

**(27-26) MOTION** - Moved by Trustee Clapp, seconded by Trustee Ashcroft, to move out of in-camera.

8. **Other Business, if any**

Chair Guernsey asked the Board members to advise either him or CEO Newman if they intend to re-apply for the next Board term.

9. **Adjournment**

**(28-26) MOTION** - Moved by Trustee Clapp, seconded by Trustee Jamischak,  
“That the meeting adjourn.”

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVED