

**INDIANAPOLIS-MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
DECEMBER 8, 2022**

\*\*\*\*\*

The Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Board met in person at the Library Services Center, 2450 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, Indiana on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. pursuant to notice given in accordance with the rules of the Board.

**1. Call To Order**

President Salinas called the meeting to order. Mr. Biederman acted as Secretary.

**2. Roll Call**

Members present: Mr. Biederman, Mr. Bigsbee, Dr. Murtadha, Ms. Payne, Dr. Robinson, Judge Salinas and Ms. Tribble.

Members absent: None.

**3. Resolution 74 – 2022 (Selection of New Chief Executive Officer)**

At this time, Judge Salinas thanked everyone for being here this evening. He noted that the Library Board had been tasked with selecting the next CEO for the Library, a task that the Board has taken with the mission and the health of the organization as our top priority. He noted that we, as a group, have worked together to review the qualifications, experience, and there was evaluation by our Search Committee, interviews, references, and survey feedback from the Library staff. After discussion around all of these factors, we as a Board, are not unanimous in our decision.

And ultimately, our differences in opinion do make us a more well-rounded group. For the benefit of the Library and its staff, its patrons, it is his hope that any patron, staff member or Board member who does not get their preferred outcome will value the Library enough to support the organization in a positive, productive manner as we move forward into the Library's next chapter.

We are here to address the matter of the vacancy of the CEO position for the Indianapolis Public Library. The Board has decided to extend an offer for that position to Dr. Gabriel Morley.

Dr. Murtadha advised that the Board had heard a great deal of comments from our community in written form, in survey form, etc. We received letters from the City-County Council. We received letters from the ministerium. We received letters from staff members. We received letters and comments and phone calls, even letters from those who work with librarians. For us to make this decision considering both the quantitative and qualitative data we received is against what the community has told us.

We have an opportunity to finally choose someone who has come up through the ranks of the Library, who knows the City and who knows the challenges of the City. Someone who has worked hard and diligently and is an experienced leader not only here, but nationally, as well. To ignore that is a travesty.

At this time, there were boos and shouts of “shame” from the audience.

Dr. Murtadha went on to say some believe that this division of beliefs about the candidate makes us stronger. It does not make us stronger. It does not make us stronger at all. The deliberative processes, the conversations that we needed to have got shortchanged in the desire to fulfill a role, when we had someone who was more than willing to continue to support the Library work.

The strength is not from saying that we are working together because we have differences, and that will make us stronger. To the contrary, she commented that she did not see this resolution until it was put before her today. She had not seen it whatsoever until she came into this meeting and turned it over. That's a divisive step, not a unifying step.

Ms. Payne then commented that it was really, really disheartening, and at this moment she was ashamed to even be a part of this Board but she does not intend to step down. She intends to serve out her term.

Dr. Murtadha then made an additional comment. She pointed out that during the public forum held at Central Library, the individual's name that's written on this resolution is the person that showed disrespect to this Board by going over his time that evening. Even the Search Committee did not even interrupt and stop that individual. That person kept going on and on, disrespected this Board, disrespected the audience. He was given an allocated time to talk and disrespected it. This is not the way we move forward. The individual has talked about what has happened in New Orleans and thrown New Orleans leadership under a veil of disgust. How can we say that we are going to work in a unified way to support someone who already has spoken against their last place where they worked? This is not a strong Board that speaks to that. It gives me great sadness to work with a Board that does this kind of thinking.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 74 – 2022, the resolution was adopted on the motion of Ms. Tribble and seconded by Mr. Biederman, to approve Resolution 74 – 2022, the Selection of New Chief Executive Officer.

Resolution 74 – 2022 was approved on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Biederman – Aye	Rev. Robinson – Aye
Mr. Bigsbee – Abstain	Judge Salinas – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Nay	Ms. Tribble – Aye
Ms. Payne – Nay	

The resolution is appended to, and made a part of, these minutes.

**4. Adjournment**

The Secretary announced that there was no further business to come before the Board.

The Chairman then declared the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

---

Raymond Biederman, Secretary to the Board

