

**INDIANAPOLIS-MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 27, 2026**

The Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Board met in person and via Zoom at the Decatur Branch Library, 5301 Kentucky Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana, on Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., pursuant to notice given in accordance with the rules of the Board.

1. Call To Order

Mr. Biederman presided as President and called the meeting to order. Dr. Riolo acted as Secretary.

2. Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Biederman, Ms. Johnson, Dr. Murtadha, Dr. Palacio (Via Zoom), Dr. Riolo, Dr. White and Ms. Woodard.

Members absent: None

The Chair recognized a quorum.

Mr. Biederman reminded everyone that the Library is in its ongoing Library Card Renewal Campaign. He noted that many patrons are unaware that their cards must be renewed every three years. He pointed out that active cardholders are critical to demonstrating the Library's value to taxpayers and ensuring continued access to its extensive resources.

He also mentioned some of the Library's upcoming projects including taking delivery of two new bookmobiles, the unveiling of the new Kid Central and Teen Central spaces at Central Library and the start of the 2026 Summer Reading Program.

Board members expressed enthusiasm about the Library's growth and the upcoming projects.

3. Branch Manager's Report and Department Overview

a. Decatur Branch Library Report

Ms. Doriene Smither, Manager, Decatur Branch, provided some statistics about their branch and community as follows:

- 11 staff members
- Service population: 43,008

- 11 public schools, one charter school, 31 places of worship, and one community center
- 35% of residents are people of color
- 9% of households speak Spanish
- 7.7% of households lack internet or computer access
- 6,551 public computer users
- Over 2,400 seed packets distributed
- 450 Summer Reading Program participants

Ms. Smither commented that the branch continues to offer consistent programming, including weekly storytimes, monthly “Craft and Chat” sessions and Paws to Read events.

b. Report on Bilingual Story Times at the Library

Ms. Sakura Fuqua, Program Specialist and Ms. Jess Neeb-Smith, Program Specialist, from the Program Development Area, reviewed the Report. They discussed the Library’s bilingual and multilingual programming efforts which emphasized the importance of serving a diverse and evolving community.

Programming Highlights

- Spanish, American Sign Language (“ASL”) and Ukrainian storytimes offered
- Spanish-language programming remains the most attended
- Ukrainian programming offered through a community partnership at the Nora Branch
- Farsi storytime planned for launch in the Fall

Program Participants

- Spanish: 101 programs, 1,618 attendees
- ASL: 13 programs, 255 attendees
- Ukrainian: Four programs, 92 attendees

Staff noted continued demand for multilingual adult programming, including arts, music and outdoor activities. Challenges remain in identifying qualified presenters who are both subject matter experts and fluent in needed languages.

A discussion took place about the use of remote sign language interpretation at a recent event. Staff clarified that the technology was tested to expand accessibility but is not currently a primary solution, with live captioning being explored as a more reliable option.

4. Public Comment

a. **Public Comment** (Name and summary of comments follows)

Ms. Kay Washer, a local fourth grade teacher, shared appreciation for a recent student field trip to the Decatur Branch. She noted it increased student engagement and they plan to return in the future.

Ms. Desiree Rojas, a Decatur Central High School student, addressed the Board. She expressed her gratitude for the Library's impact and proposed partnering to host mobile health services, including HIV testing.

The Board mentioned their intent to follow up on this project.

5. Approval Of Minutes: Executive Session, Regular and Special Meetings

a. Regular Meeting, March 23, 2026

At this time, the minutes from the Regular Meeting held March 23, 2026, were approved on the motion of Dr. Murtadha, seconded by Dr. Riolo, and the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye
Dr. Palacio – Aye
Dr. Riolo – Aye

Dr. White – Aye
Ms. Woodard – Aye
Mr. Biederman, President – Aye

COMMITTEE REPORTS

6. Finance Committee (Dr. Eugene G. White, Chair; Ms. Elizabeth N. Johnson, Dr. Khaula Murtadha)

a. Report of the Treasurer

Ms. Lolita Campbell, CFO, and Ms. Mary Rankin, Accounting Director and Treasurer, shared the Report of the Treasurer for March 2026. As of March 31, 2026, the year-to-date revenue was \$1,740,930 and the year-to-date expenditures were approximately \$14,178,370.

The Report of the Treasurer was approved for filing for audit on the motion of Dr. Riolo, seconded by Dr. White, and the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye
Dr. Palacio – Aye
Dr. Riolo – Aye

Dr. White – Aye
Ms. Woodard – Aye
Mr. Biederman, President – Aye

b. Resolution 12 – 2026 (Transfer Between Classifications and Accounts)

Ms. Deb Lambert, Chief Collection Management Officer, explained that this transfer better aligns funding for physical materials and e-resources. She noted that approximately \$1 million is being reallocated. Doing so improves budget clarity and flexibility.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 12 – 2026, it was noted this resolution received a favorable recommendation from the Finance Committee. Dr. Riolo seconded the recommendation. The resolution was approved on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye	Dr. White – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye	Ms. Woodard – Aye
Dr. Palacio – Aye	Mr. Biederman, President – Aye
Dr. Riolo – Aye	

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

Ms. Campbell announced that the Library was again recognized for receiving a financial achievement award from the Government Finance Officers Association.

7. Diversity, Policy and Human Resources Committee (Dr. Luis A. Palacio, Chair; Dr. Eugene G. White, Ms. Natissa S. Woodard)

Dr. Palacio shared that the Committee did not have any resolutions this month but several policy updates are under review and expected to be brought before the Board in May for approval.

8. Facilities Committee (Dr. Lisa Riolo, Chair; Ms. Elizabeth N. Johnson, Ms. Natissa Woodard)

a. Resolution 13 – 2026 (Approval to Award a Construction Services Contract for the Central Library Atrium Ceiling Repairs Project)

Mr. Adam Parsons, Chief Operational Services Officer, stated that the roof in the Atrium area of Central Library needed repairs due to aging sealant and leaks. It is being recommended that the contract be awarded to Wells Masonry & Restoration, Inc. in the total amount of \$159,880.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 13 – 2026, it was noted this resolution received a favorable recommendation from the Facilities Committee. Ms. Woodard seconded the recommendation. The resolution was approved on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye	Dr. White – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye	Ms. Woodard – Aye
Dr. Palacio – Aye	Mr. Biederman, President – Aye
Dr. Riolo – Aye	

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

b. Resolution 14 – 2026 (Approval to Award a Services Contract for Systemwide Trash Removal)

Mr. Parsons explained that the contract with Republic Services, Inc. runs through August 2026. The Library plans to renew the contract with Republic. They have offered a 31% cost reduction from the previous three-year contract. The annual cost is \$73,620 for the first year, starting September 1, 2026, with a 5% cost increase every year.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 14 – 2026, it was noted this resolution received a favorable recommendation from the Facilities Committee. Ms. Woodard seconded the recommendation. The resolution was approved on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye	Dr. White – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye	Ms. Woodard – Aye
Dr. Palacio – Aye	Mr. Biederman, President – Aye
Dr. Riolo – Aye	

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

c. Resolution 15 – 2026 (Approval to Award a Construction Services Contract for the Pike Egress Improvements Project)

Mr. Parsons explained that during the recent renovations at the Pike Branch it was noted that other exterior improvements were necessary to address ADA-compliant paths, parking adjustments, and egress improvements. It is the Committee’s recommendation that a contract be awarded to Holladay Construction Group in the amount of \$110,887.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 15 – 2026, it was noted this resolution received a favorable recommendation from the Facilities Committee. Ms. Johnson seconded the recommendation. The resolution was approved on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye	Dr. White – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye	Ms. Woodard – Aye
Dr. Palacio – Aye	Mr. Biederman, President – Aye
Dr. Riolo – Aye	

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

9. Library Foundation Update

Dr. Riolo provided the Foundation Update as follows:

News

The Library Foundation is a 2026 Silver Recipient of the Bell Seal for Workplace Mental Health, the nation’s leading recognition for US employers committed to creating mentally

healthy workplaces. We are proud to join the Library, a 2025 Gold recipient, in prioritizing employee wellbeing.

Circulate: Night at the Library tickets are on sale now! Please join us for our annual fundraiser on our new date: Saturday, August 15, 2026 at Central Library. You can purchase tickets here: <https://indyplfoundation.org/circulate>

Donors

Major Donors last month: Barnes & Thornburg LLP; Fulner Family Foundation, Inc.; Indianapolis Airport Authority; krM Architecture; Luminaut; Rowland; Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust; One America Financial; Providence Outdoors, Inc. and Ratio Architects, LLC.

Program Support

This month the Foundation provided \$440,000 to the Library for: Summer Reading Program; Fall Fest; Intro to Gardening; and Making Together: Collaborative Art Project.

10. Report of the CEO

Mr. Gregory Hill, CEO of the Indianapolis Public Library, gave his Report as follows:

a. Confirming Resolutions

1) Resolution Regarding Finances, Personnel and Travel (16 – 2026)

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 16 – 2026, the resolution was approved on the motion of Dr. White, seconded by Dr. Murtadha, and the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye	Dr. White – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye	Ms. Woodard – Aye
Dr. Palacio – Aye	Mr. Biederman, President – Aye
Dr. Riolo – Aye	

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

b. Report of the CEO – April 2026

Mr. Hill discussed his Report which included information on programs, services and initiatives as follows for the month of March:

Key Data Points (Monthly)

- 6,123 average daily visitors
- 12,832 average daily circulation

Program Attendance

- Adult: 318 programs (3,455 attendees)
- All Ages: 46 programs (847 attendees)
- Youth: 566 participants (11,739 attendees)

Star Award Winners

- Patron Services: Glynnis Kunkei-Ruiz
- Peer Support: Laura Cooper
- Page Excellence: Eve Xavier St. Jane
- Community Involvement: Kasey Panighetti, Liana Meeker, Bri Dunham
- Volunteers and Partnerships: The Nest Event Center
- Other Duties Assigned: Elizabeth “Beth” Sheriff
- Team Excellence: Central Library Control Room

Mr. Hill mentioned the success of the recent Heart of Every Neighborhood event at the East 38th Street Branch with many patrons and Board Members attending. The next event will take place on June 17, 2026 at the Lawrence Branch Library.

c. **Quarterly Statistical Report on Library Operations – Quarter 1 – 2026**

Ms. Marianne McKenzie, Chief Strategy and Analytics Officer, shared the following information for Quarter 1 – 2026:

Quarter 1 Cardholder Data

- 181,407 active/new cardholders
- 297,008 total cardholders
- 61% of service area actively engaged

Quarter 1 2026 Circulation

- 8.77 million items borrowed/renewed
- 12 items per active cardholder

Ms. McKenzie commented that Quarter 1 data revealed Central Library’s temporary closure for repairs impacted circulation and visitation, though other branches have absorbed the increased traffic.

Community Impact

- Public computer sessions average 1.07 hours
- Expanded tracking of multilingual service interactions

Quarter 1 2026 Programming

- 2,549 programs
- 46,073 attendees
- Strong participation among adults and preschool-aged children

Additional Notes

- Updated reporting methods for reference interactions
- Clarification provided on differences between expired and lapsed cardholders

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. None.

NEW BUSINESS

12. None.

DISCUSSION AND AGENDA BUILDING

13. **Future Agenda Items** – This time is made available for discussion of items not on the Agenda which are of interest to the Library Board members and the opportunity to suggest items to be included on future Library Board Meeting Agendas.

Board Members requested future reports on certified XBE vendors as well as employee turnover and retention strategies.

14. **Notice of Special Meetings**

None.

15. **Notice of Next Regular Meeting**

Monday, May 18, 2026, at the Eagle Branch Library, 3905 Moller Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46254, at 6:30 p.m.

16. **Adjournment**

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

The Chairman then declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

INFORMATION

17. **Materials**


- a. **Notes of April 14, 2026 Diversity, Policy and Human Resources Committee Meeting.**
- b. **Notes of April 14, 2026 Facilities Committee Meeting.**
- c. **Notes of April 14, 2026 Finance Committee Meeting.**

18. Board Meeting Schedule for 2026 (Notice of Date and Place of Meeting) and Upcoming Events

- a. **Board Meeting Schedule** for 2026 will be updated as necessary.
- b. **Library Programs/Free Upcoming Events** may be found at attend.indypl.org.

The April 27, 2026 Indianapolis Public Library Board Meeting is available to view at:

<https://www.indypl.org/about-the-library/board-meeting-times-committees>



Dr. Lisa Riolo, Secretary to the Board
ELIZABETH
N. JOHNSON,
ACTING SECRETARY
TO THE BOARD