INDIANAPOLIS-MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 22, 2026

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The Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Board met in person at the Fort Ben Branch Library, 9330 East 56th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, on Monday, June 22, 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, Dr. Riolo and Ms. Woodard.

Members absent: Dr. White.

The Chair recognized a quorum.

At this time, Dr. Murtadha asked for a point of order wherein she requested an adjustment to tonight's Agenda. She moved that Item 6b, the Public Hearing on the 2026-2027 Irvington Branch Renovation and Multi-Facility Long-Term Capital Maintenance and Equipment Update Project Bonds, be moved up to the beginning of the meeting.

Mr. Biederman noted there had been a motion to move Item 6b up to the beginning of the Agenda. Dr. Riolo seconded the motion. The motion was approved on the following roll call vote:

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

6b. President Biederman will Convene a Public Hearing:

Ms. Johnson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting and Convene a Public Hearing. Dr. Riolo seconded the motion. President Biederman adjourned the Regular Meeting and convened a Public Hearing on the following roll call vote:

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

President Biederman announced that this Public Hearing was being held to consider the 2026-2027 Irvington Branch Renovation and Multi-Facility Long-Term Capital Maintenance and Equipment Update Project Bonds.

1) **To consider the 2026-2027 Irvington Branch Renovation and Multi-Facility Long-Term Capital Maintenance and Equipment Update Project Bonds advertised on Juue 12, 2026 in the local newspapers.**

Mr. Jeff Qualkinbush of Barnes and Thornburg noted that the Hearing is the first of two as required by Indiana law in connection with any Library project that's going to be repaid in whole or in part by bond issues that are paid from property taxes. The second Public Hearing will take place at the July 27, 2026 Board Meeting. At the conclusion of that Public Hearing, the Board will consider a consider a resolution known as a Preliminary Determination Reimbursement Resolution. Mr. Qualkinbush noted that the funds would be used for the renovation of the Irvington Branch. There would also be some improvements across the district that will be miscellaneous in nature and then there would be some equipment and materials and some software licenses, eBooks and other things.

At this time, Mr. Jason Tanselle of Baker Tilly addressed the Board. He discussed how the Library would pay for these projects through the issuance of a property tax supported bond in an amount not to exceed $19 million. He reviewed the maximum parameters and how the Library would be positioned to repay these bonds over a four-year term and not increase the debt service levy.

Dr. Murtadha requested that Mr. Tanselle explain what is meant by a debt service levy.

Mr. Tanselle advised that the debt service levy is the request by the Library of a dollar amount to repay the bonds mentioned. The annual payments are roughly $21 million. So, it is specifically the dollar amount requested.

In response to another inquiry about how the net assessed value was done, Mr. Tanselle explained that the amount from the Marion County Assessor's Office is updated annually based upon trending and the assessment of parcels specifically in a scheduled order.

2) **Invite Public Comment from the Audience**

Mr. Biederman invited public comment at this time.

There were no public comments.

c. **President Biederman Will Consider a Motion to Close the Public Hearing**

Ms. Johnson made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Ms. Woodard seconded the motion.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

The Public Hearing was closed at this time and the Regular Meeting was reconvened.

Mr. Biederman then went on with meeting mentioning the playful energy associated with this year's Summer Reading Program which invites all ages to read and play. It is hoped that they exceed their goal of participants reading over 22 million minutes. He then congratulated the Martindale-Brightwood Branch on their recent 125th anniversary. Several patrons and Board Members attended the anniversary festivities. Also, the first-ever Day of Play is coming up at Central Library on Saturday, June 27, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All are encouraged to attend.

3. Branch Manager's Report

a. Fort Ben Branch Report

Ms. Shelby Peak, Manager, Fort Ben Branch, provided some information about their branch and community as follows:

- Fort Ben is the newest branch in the system. It's three years old;
- The branch has a high circulation of the children's World Languages Collection;
- Programming highlights include a model train show, neurodiversity meet-ups, and the branch will soon provide Pathway to Literacy classes; and
- Fort Ben is a pilot location for the Library of Things.

4. Public Comment

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

1) Mr. Jim Perron, from the City of Lawrence Mayor's Office, commented that he was a "proud and happy" patron and thanked the Library for being a part of the Lawrence community.

2) Mr. Michael Torres, Public Services Associate and President, AFSCME, the Library's Union, commented on the information that the Library Board had provided at the last Board Meeting about the CEO salaries at the Indianapolis Airport Authority and IndyGo. He noted that these are not proper comparisons due to differences in organizational size. Mr. Torres advised that the Union had submitted a 2027 salary increase proposal for union-eligible staff for consideration.

3) Ms. Dani Abdullah, a social worker and Fort Ben patron, spoke about the branch becoming a Certified Autism Center and how well the branch staff serves the community.

4) Mr. Johnny Hall, a patron of West Perry, mentioned that libraries belong to the public and that every dollar directed upward is a dollar that cannot be directed outward. He wants to see public money supporting underserved communities.

5) Ms. Lindsay Haddix, Branch Manager at Wayne, shared the Spring 2026 Staff Association scholarship recipients. Staff named were: Ms. Valerie Cobb, Mr. Andrew Cope, Mr. Nick Greensburg, Ms. Sydney Joseph and Ms. Faith Zeller.

6) Ms. Daisy Cook, a patron of both Central Library and the College Branch, spoke about the Board's comparison of our CEO's salary to library leaders in Ohio. She pointed out that, unlike our libraries, which are funded by property taxes, the Ohio libraries used in the comparison receive state funding.

7) Mr. Lucas Lee, who is a veteran, historian and patron of Central Library, stated that there is an "attack on public resources in Indianapolis," including public schools. He said libraries are a potential target for privatization and he wants to encourage others to "choose public good over private gain."

8) Ms. Rissa Wilson, a social worker and longtime IndyPL cardholder, noted that people have a right to a living wage and pointed out the libraries cannot function without library workers and librarians.

9) Ms. Alexandra Chaffin, a Lawrence resident, mentioned that Library workers most recently had received a 3% raise.

10) Ms. Morgan Shu, a staff member from Spades Park, commented that many safe places are disappearing but the Library remains one of the last true "third spaces" where people can gather without being expected to spend money. Providing equitable raises would support front-line Library workers.

11) Ms. Lindsey Holtgrave shared a comment from a Library employee who wished to remain anonymous. The employee noted that the CEO's 30% raise amounts to approximately $60,000 in additional annual compensation and that many employees receive a 3% raise. It was emphasized that employee retention and morale are critical to the Library's long-term success.

12) Mr. Riley Park, a University of Indianapolis doctoral student and Garfield Branch patron, stated that the people who do the work, day in and day out, deserve a raise.

13) Mr. Joe Warner, a Library patron, stated that an increase in the CEO's salary should not be a major priority for the Board at this time.

14) Ms. Marissa Coleman, IndyPL Circulation staff member, shared concerns about challenges she and her colleagues face on the job. She questioned how the Library defines competitive compensation for staff compared to leadership and urged the Board to demonstrate a commitment to providing competitive wages for frontline employees.

15) Mr. Phillip Greene, a Grocer and Central Library patron, said that, as a child, he found a safe space at the old Broad Ripple Branch. He would like to see an investment in Library workers.

16) Ms. Honesty Gleaves, Lawrence branch patron, commented that the people of Indianapolis stand with Library workers in their demand for better compensation and better working conditions.

17) Mr. Stephen Lane, former Board Member and former IndyPL employee, suggested that the Board table the increase until an independent compensation review is conducted and until the Board commits to a minimum 5% cost of living raise for frontline staff. He also praised Nichelle Hayes for her legacy.

18) Ms. Cecilia Gomez, a Central Library patron, spoke about her recent visit to the Library where she had checked out a book and left with information about the Summer Reading Program. She said that she appreciates the Library workers that helped her find things and the welcoming environment the Library offers. She also commented that she would like to see the Library workers get a raise.

19) Mr. Derek Ford, a Central Library patron, pointed out that $60,000 cannot fix the Library system but that the job of a leader is to fight for the institution.

20) Mr. William Wagner, a Fort Ben patron, said that the public sector should be a place where workers are as important as executives.

Mr. Biederman noted that he doesn't usually speak after Public Comment but he advised that he wished to thank everybody. It takes a lot of courage to come out here and talk to the Board. It's really meaningful and the comments don't go unnoticed or undiscussed or unrepresented. It's also meaningful to see how passionate people are about the Library and all the good things that the Library is doing.

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

a. Regular Meeting, May 18, 2026

At this time, the minutes from the Regular Meeting held May 18, 2026, were approved on the motion Dr. Riolo, seconded by Ms. Woodard, and the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye	Dr. Riolo – Abstain
Dr. Murtadha – Aye	Ms. Woodard – Aye
Dr. Palacio – 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 May 2026. As of May 31, 2026, the year-to-date revenue was approximately $5.5 million and the year-to-date expenditures were approximately $22 million..

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

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

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

Dr. Palacio advised that the Committee did not have any items to report.

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

a. **Resolution 22 – 2026 (Approval to Award a Construction Services Contract for the East Washington Branch Concrete Steps Replacement Project)**

Mr. Adam Parsons, Chief Operational Services Officer, explained that the concrete steps at the East Washington Branch had reached the end of their service life. They had been repaired several times but useful repair options have been exhausted. A total replacement of the steps is recommended.

It was determined that a construction services contract for the concrete steps replacement at the East Washington Branch should be awarded to Mattingly Concrete, Inc.in the amount of $74,962.30.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 22 – 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. Murtadha – Aye
Dr. Palacio – Aye
Dr. Riolo – Aye
Ms. Woodard – Aye
Mr. Biederman, President – Aye

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

b. **Resolution 23 – 2026 (Approval to Award a Purchase Order for the Eagle Branch Early Literacy Furniture Project)**

Mr. Parsons advised that it had been determined that a Purchase Order should be issued for Early Literacy Furniture at the Eagle Branch.

It was determined that a Purchase Order should be issued to Commercial Office Environments, Inc. in the amount of $58,356.12 for this Project.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 23 – 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. Riolo – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye	Ms. Woodard – Aye
Dr. Palacio – Aye	Mr. Biederman, President – Aye

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

c. **Resolution 24 – 2026 (Approval to Award a Services Contract for the Michigan Road, Southport, and Warren Branch Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment Replacement Project)**

Mr. Parsons shared that it had been determined that a services contract for the Michigan Road, Southport and Warren Branch furniture, fixtures, and equipment replacement was necessary.

It was determined that a contract should be awarded to RJE Interiors in the amount of $251,272.23 for this Project.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 24 – 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. Riolo – Aye
Dr. Murtadha – Aye	Ms. Woodard – Aye
Dr. Palacio – Aye	Mr. Biederman, President – 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:

<u>**News**</u>

This month, several Library Foundation staff members attended the International Public

Library Fundraising Conference, hosted by the Library Support Network at the Columbus Metropolitan Library. Highlights included connecting with more than 270 library fundraising professionals and leading a session on strategic planning. We were proud to showcase our strategic, effective partnership with the Library on a national stage.

Circulate: Night at the Library is on Saturday, Augst 15 at Central Library. If you have already bought tickets, thank you. If you have not, you can do so at: Circulate – Indy Public Library Foundation.

Donors
Major Donors last month: American Honda Motor Co., Inc; Apex Benefits Group, Inc.; B.E. Reed, LLC; Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, Inc.; RadCare Services; RJE Business Interiors; and The Glick Family Foundation.

Program Support
This month the Foundation provided $80,000 to the Library for: Book Club Kits, East 38th Street Zune Collection and Fall Fest.

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 (25 – 2026)**

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 25 – 2026, the resolution was approved on the motion of Dr. Riolo, seconded by Ms. Woodard, and the following roll call vote:

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

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

b. **Report of the CEO – June 2026**

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

- He shared that in the month of May, the Library had 197,660 visitors and 669,204 items circulated.
- One out of ten Library visitors participated in a program.
- Mr. Hill praised staff for their work on recent programs such as the 125th Anniversary of the Martindale-Brightwood Branch, the Center for Black Literature and Culture Book Fest and Juneteenth Celebration, the Kid Central and Teen Central grand openings, and the recent Heart of Every Neighborhood event at the Lawrence Branch.
- He shared human-centered stories such as the ways branch staff helped impact

food insecurity.

- Mr. Hill also spoke about several upcoming events including the Day of Play at Central Library.

At this time, Mr. Biederman commended Library leadership for how they handled the fractured glass matter at Central Library. He noted that safety had been a top priority.

c. **Report on Long Term Planning – 2028-2030 Strategic Plan Development**

Ms. Marianne McKenzie, Chief Strategy and Analytics Officer, shared the following information:

- Library staff are starting to think about our next Strategic Plan and the ways in which we can ensure it aligns with decisions about programming and budget.
- The next Strategic Plan launches in 2028.
- It was noted that the Library had used consultants in the past on the Plan with regard to community outreach.

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.

Ms. Woodard commented that the Board received a lot of feedback today. She wants to be certain that the Board has an opportunity to digest that feedback. It is important for the Board to acknowledge what was heard and to demonstrate that these conversations do not fall on deaf ears. This matter should be addressed sometime before the end of the year.

Ms. Johnson seconded the comments made by Ms. Woodard.

Mr. Palacio requested that Mr. Parsons provide pictures with the text of his documents and that would help illustrate the projects he brings before the Board.

14. Notice of Special Meetings

None.

15. Notice of Next Regular Meeting

Monday, July 27, 2026, at the East Washington Branch Library, 2822 East Washington Street, 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 8:40 p.m.

INFORMATION

17. Materials

a. **Notes of June 9, 2026 Diversity, Policy and Human Resources Committee Meeting.**

b. **Notes of June 9, 2026 Facilities 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 June 22, 2026 Indianapolis Public Library Board Meeting is available to view at:

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

Lisa Riolo

Dr. Lisa Riolo, Secretary to the Board