

**INDIANAPOLIS-MARION COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
MAY 18, 2026**

The Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Board met in person at the Beech Grove Branch Library, 1102 Main Street, Beech Grove, Indiana, on Monday, May 18, 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. In the absence of Dr. Riolo, Ms. Johnson acted as Secretary.

2. Roll Call

Members present: Mr. Biederman, Ms. Johnson, Dr. Murtadha, Dr. Palacio, Dr. White and Ms. Woodard.

Members absent: Dr. Riolo

The Chair recognized a quorum.

Mr. Biederman announced that he was pleased to share that the Library had been named a 2026 Top Workplace by the Indianapolis Star.

More good news is that the Library has received their two new bookmobiles which will be revealed to the public at the 500 Festival Parade on May 23, 2026. This year’s Summer Reading Program (“SRP”), with the theme “Play Your Way,” will take place from May 30-August 1, 2026 at all Library locations. The public is invited to attend the SRP kick-off events planned.

3. Branch Manager’s Report and Department Overview

a. Beech Grove Branch Library Report

Mr. Todd Gilbert, Manager, Beech Grove Branch, provided some information about their branch and community as follows:

- The branch has seen an increase in door count year after year from 64,783 in 2024 to 75,108 in 2025.
- There has also been an increase in the number of programs offered and the number of programs attended.

- The branch staff has gone through training and earned several certifications to assist them in serving the community. They have received certifications for: Dementia Friendly, Safe Place and as an Autism Center.

b. Report on Center for Black Literature and Culture (“CBLC”) at Central Library

Ms. Hallie Raikes, Manager, CBLC, explained that the CBLC centers the community and is an inclusive third place. They have discovered that young people are unaware of the CBLC and it could be a trust issue. They are in the process of reimagining the space and are increasing its visibility. They launched the CBLC Instagram account - [cblc.indylibrary](https://www.instagram.com/cblc.indylibrary) - in February 2026. Upcoming programs include the 9th Annual Book Fest and Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They also hope to institute a lecture series.

Dr. White suggested that former Board Member Dr. Pat Payne be invited to speak. She has in-depth knowledge of segregation, Africa and Egypt which she could impart to those attending the lecture.

Dr. Murtadha shared her concern about the “trust issue” mentioned by Ms. Raikes and the need to remedy that perception.

4. Public Comment

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

Mr. Michael Torres, a Public Services Associate at Central Library and President of the Library’s Union AFSCME, addressed the Board. He thanked Ms. Barbara Ann O’Leary, a Youth Technology Specialist at Kid Central at Central Library who recently left IndyPL. He pointed out how well she had always engaged families and displayed a positive energy in her role.

Mr. Torres then inquired about Resolution 19 – 2026, Amending Pay Grade 20, which was on this evening’s Agenda. He requested that the Board share the data used to determine the increase in the pay grade for the CEO position. Mr. Biederman advised that the Board had researched other municipal corporations in the City of Indianapolis and several comparable libraries in Ohio. They determined that the proposed raise for Mr. Hill was warranted and justified based on his excellent performance.

Ms. Laura Hammack, the Superintendent of Beech Grove Schools, expressed her appreciation for the partnership between the schools and the Beech Grove Branch Library. She noted that the branch opens its doors to fifth and sixth graders from Central Intermediate School who visit the branch during the school day. The branch makes certain that students have library cards and that the students know they have access, that they are welcome and that they matter.

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

a. Executive Session, April 20, 2026

At this time, the minutes from the Executive Session held April 20, 2026, were approved on the motion of Dr. White, seconded by Ms. Woodard, and the following roll call vote:

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

b. Regular Meeting, April 27, 2026

At this time, the minutes from the Regular Meeting held April 27, 2026, were approved on the motion 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

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 April 2026. As of April 30, 2026, the year-to-date revenue was \$3,400,734 and the year-to-date expenditures were approximately \$18,880,038.

The Report of the Treasurer was approved for filing for audit 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

b. Resolution 17 – 2026 (OCLC Cataloging, Metadata and ILL Subscription Services Transfer Between Classifications and Accounts)

Ms. Deb Lambert, Chief Collection Management Officer, explained that the referenced suite of cataloging management tools and services is used for creating database records for all the Library's print and electronic resources.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 17 – 2026, it was noted this resolution received a favorable recommendation from the Finance Committee. Dr. Murtadha 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

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

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

a. Resolution 18 – 2026 (Update of Library Policies Related to Public Services)

Mr. John Helling, Chief Public Services Officer, advised that the changes made to the referenced policies include organizational and position changes, clarifications and changes regarding policy language and organizational structure.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 18 – 2026, it was noted this resolution received a favorable recommendation from the Diversity, Policy and Human Resources Committee. Dr. White 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

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

b. Resolution 19– 2026 (Resolution Amending Pay Grade 20, Chief Executive Officer)

Ms. Tisha Galarce, Chief Talent and Development Officer, advised that Pay Grade 20, Chief Executive Officer, is currently set at the maximum annual amount of \$220,000. The resolution proposes that the maximum amount for Pay Grade 20 be increased to \$270,000.

Following an inquiry by Dr. Murtadha, Mr. Biederman advised that the Diversity, Policy and Human Resources Committee had studied the salaries of comparable executives at the other Marion County Municipal Corporations. The Board also reviewed CEO salaries for comparable libraries outside of Indianapolis including those in Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus. Several Board members commented that Mr. Hill has done an excellent job and they wished to keep his compensation competitive. Dr. Murtadha and Dr. White agreed on the importance of equity and

increasing staff pay to retain excellent employees within the organization and cut down on staff turnover.

Mr. Russell Brown, Board attorney, noted that the resolution listed the maximum amount for Pay Grade 20 as \$265,000 but the attached table listed the maximum amount as \$270,000. He asked the Board for clarification of the correct amount.

The Board clarified that the correct amount should be \$270,000.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 19 – 2026, as amended, Dr. White made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Woodard, to approve the resolution. The resolution was approved on the following roll call vote:

Ms. Johnson – Aye	Dr. White – 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.

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

a. Resolution 20 – 2026 (Approval to Award a Design Services Contract for the Central Library Restroom Update Project)

Mr. Adam Parsons, Chief Operational Services Officer, participated in the meeting virtually, via Zoom. He shared that the Facilities Committee, based on information received, had determined that the contract for the Central Library Restroom Update Project should be awarded to krM Architecture for the proposed cost of \$94,000.

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 20 – 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

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

9. Library Foundation Update

Mr. Biederman provided the Foundation Update as follows:

News

The Library Foundation Board of Directors elected new officers at their May 12, 2026 Annual Meeting. We are pleased to announce our new officers: Keri Jeter Lewis, Chair;

Marcio Donatelli, Vice Chair; Suzann Lupton, Secretary; Berthran Ugeh, Treasurer; and Brad Holtz, Immediate Past Chair.

Donors

Major Donors last month: Allen Whitehall Clowes Charitable Foundation, Inc.; American Honda Motor Co., Inc.; Apex Benefits Group, Inc.; Barnes & Thornburg LLP; Citizens Energy Group; Cummins, Inc.; Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, Inc.; forvis mazars; Katz, Sapper & Miller; Ritz Charles Inc.; and Woodley Farrar Manion Portfolio Management, Inc.

Program Support

This month the Foundation provided \$100,000 to the Library for: Book Bonanza, World Cultural Celebrations, Concert Series, and Summer Reading Program.

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 (21 – 2026)

After full discussion and careful consideration of Resolution 21 – 2026, the resolution was approved on the motion of Dr. Murtadha, seconded by Ms. Woodard, 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

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

b. Report of the CEO – May 2026

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

He announced that the Library, in partnership with the Indianapolis Star, was named a 2026 Central Indiana Top Workplace. The award is validated through an employee survey that evaluates feedback from 26 questions. The Library placed 12th among 44 companies ranked in the large employer category.

Key Data Points

- 6,375 average daily visitors
- 11,540 average daily circulation
- 978 patrons used the public computers

Program Attendance

- Adult: 322 programs (4,271 attendees)
- Youth: 575 programs (13,530 attendees)

- All Ages: 64 programs (2.652 attendees)

Star Award Winners

- Patron Services: Michael Werle
- Peer Support: Lexi Owens
- Community Involvement: Sue Davis and Rebecca Thorp
- Page Excellence: Susan Levay
- Other Duties As Assigned: Eric Svoboda
- Volunteers & Partnerships: Kriste Mossman

c. 2025-2027 Strategic Plan Progress Report and Long-Term Planning

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

She mentioned some of the notable takeaways for Quarter 1 2026 were:

- Web traffic is up 50% over Quarter 1 2025; and
- There has been a 50% increase over Quarter 1 2025 in usage of language-learning programs and materials such as Mango Languages, ASLDefined and LOTE4Kids.

Due to the lateness of the hour, it was announced that Ms. McKenzie will discuss her item “Long-Term Plan Planning – 2028-2030 Strategic Plan Development” at the June Board Meeting.

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.

Dr. Murtadha suggested that Ms. McKenzie be scheduled to present her item “Long-Term Plan Planning – 2028-2030 Strategic Plan Development” that was unable to be presented this evening due to time constraints.

14. Notice of Special Meetings

None.

15. Notice of Next Regular Meeting

Monday, June 22, 2026, at the Fort Ben Branch Library, 9330 East 56th 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 8:38 p.m.

INFORMATION

17. Materials

- a. **Notes of May 5, 2026 Diversity, Policy and Human Resources Committee Meeting.**
- b. **Notes of May 5, 2026 Facilities Committee Meeting** – This item was unavailable and will be presented to the Board at a later date.
- c. **Notes of May 5, 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 May 18, 2026 Indianapolis Public Library Board Meeting is available to view at:

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



Elizabeth N. Johnson, Acting Secretary to the Board