

EAST ORANGE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MAIN LIBRARY

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the East Orange Public Library Board of Trustees held at the Main Library, 21 South Arlington Avenue, East Orange, New Jersey on March 12, 2026.

Present: Hon. Jimmy Small
Hon. Jacquelyn Davis
Laudaine Simeon
Joylyn Perez
Terry Corallo
Erin Crowder
Councilwoman Tameika Garrett-Ward

Absent: Hon. Mumtaz Bari-Brown (Excused)
Gloria Holt (Excused)

Staff: JP Porcaro
Pamela V. Holmes
Jenny Tong
Nancy Barrantes-Lei

The President, Hon. Jimmy Small, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Sunshine Law

The President read the Statement re: Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, known as the Sunshine Law at the Opening of the meeting.

2. Minutes: February 19, 2026

Motioned by Laudaine Simeon to accept the February 19, 2026 Minutes as presented. Seconded by Terry Corallo. Approved by the Board.

3. Financial Reports

Nancy Barrantes-Lei gave the Financial Report.

Total Expenses Paid thru February 2026	\$494,488
Percentage Spent thru February 2026	13.46%
Total Resources Received thru February 2026	\$503,065

Percentage Received thru February 2026 13.69%
(Monies Received less Expenses Paid) \$ 8,577

- **Approved Payments: February 2026**

Motioned by Terry Corallo to accept the Approved Payments for February 2026. Seconded by Laudaine Simeon. Approved by the Board.

- **Proposed Payments: March 2026**

Motioned by Hon. Jacquelyn Davis to approve the Proposed Payments for March 2026. Seconded by Laudaine Simeon. Approved by the Board.

4. Public Participation

There was no Public Participation.

5. Director's Report

The Director gave the report. Full report attached to Minutes

6. Trustee Concerns/Comments

- **Hon. Jacquelyn Davis**

An East Orange School teacher asked Hon. Jacquelyn Davis how does the Library communicate with parents and school-age students on library happenings. Not everyone uses the website. The Director responded that one of the focuses in implementing the Strategic Plan will be on how to get the word out regarding programming/events at the Library. Terry Corallo indicated that the Superintendent of Schools would not have a problem if it is tied to the Strategic Plan to use their email channels to reach out to families especially if it touches the student population. She will run this by the Superintendent.

No other Concerns/Comments at this time.

7. Committee Reports

- **Technology**

Hon. Jimmy Small gave the Technology Report.

AARP and the Mayor's Tax Assistance Program started on February 3, 2026. IT support staff set up the secure Wi-Fi access for the AARP staff. In addition, the Library set up three new PCs and a printer for the Mayor's tax assistance staff. Both operations have gone smoothly.

The Library upgraded its Junior Department computers and some in the PC Center with faster CPUs and enhanced graphic capabilities. This refresh ensures faster performance speeds and better handling of gaming applications.

The Library set up a new scanner in the PC Center for public use. It allows patrons to view and edit their scanned document(s) before emailing to themselves.

Circulation of digital materials continued to be high. Patrons checked out 660 digital materials from eLibraryNJ and borrowed 661 items from Hoopla and Kanopy.

Close to 800 patrons used the computers at the Library.

The Library had 106 bookings for the Study Rooms this month. A booking check-in QR code is now available on the Study Room tables to help patrons ensure their booking.

The printing demand continued to be high. Staff printed over 5,000 pages for patrons at the Circulation Desk. Patrons printed close to 10,000 pages using Wi-Fi printing service and the SAM print system.

On the Library's website, Ms. Tong updated the Library's Board Meeting Information page.

No other Communities reporting at this time.

8. Old Business

- **Book Banning Policy**

New Jersey passed the Freedom to Read Act. The Director amended the required policy for the Library. The Library is in compliance with the Act. It requires a lot from the Board. It involves reading the materials within a given time and establishing a sub-committee to review the materials if there is a challenge. The Director will email the Freedom Act to the Board for review and approval at its next meeting.

9. New Business

- **New Jersey Open Public Records Act (OPMA)**

New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (OPRA) is a State Law that was enacted to give the public greater access to government records maintained by public agencies in New Jersey. The law was recently updated and EOPL will need a legal notices link on its website to be compliance with the Law, among other changes.

- **Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)**

Last year, ADA was updated to require government entities to have certain levels of compliance. There must be accessibility to people with disabilities. State and Local Governments provide many of their services and programs through websites applications. Libraries must follow the requirements for web content. When these websites are not accessible, they can create barriers. Libraries have until April 2026 to in compliance with the law.

10. Executive Session to discuss litigations

Motioned by Laudaine Simeon to move to Executive Session. Seconded by Hon. Jacquelyn Davis. Approved by the Board.

The Board discussed personnel matters and associated litigation. No formal action was taken.

Motioned by Laudaine Simeon to move to Public Session. Seconded by Hon. Jacquelyn Davis. Approved by the Board.

Laudaine Simeon motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Terry Corallo. The public portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m