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 in the East Orange Room on April 9, 2026.

Present:	Hon. Jimmy Small Gloria Holt Hon. Mumtaz Bari-Brown Laudaine Simeon Joylyn Perez Erin Crowder Councilwoman Tameika Garrett-Ward (arrived late)
Absent:	Hon. Jacquelyn Davis (Excused) Terry Corallo (Excused)
Staff:	JP Porcaro Pamela V. Holmes Jenny Tong Nancy Barrantes-Lei

The President, Hon. Jimmy Small, called the meeting to order at 7:02 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: March 12, 2026**

Motioned by Laudaine Simeon to accept the March 12, 2026 Minutes as presented. Seconded by Hon. Mumtaz Bari-Brown. Approved by the Board.

3. **Financial Report**

Nancy Barrantes-Lei gave the Financial Report.

Total Expenses Paid thru March 2026	$728,071
Percentage Spent thru March 2026	19.82%
Total Resources Received thru March 2026	$765,446
Percentage Received thru March 2026	20.84%
(Monies Received less Expenses Paid)	$ 37,375

- **Approved Payments: March 2026**

Motioned by Gloria Holt to accept the Approved Payments for March 2026. Seconded by Laudaine Simeon. Approved by the Board.

- **Proposed Payments: April 2026**

Motioned by Laudaine Simeon to accept the Proposed Payments for April 2026. Seconded by Joylyn Perez. Approved by the Board.

4. **Public Participation**

Lamar Williams spoke about topics such as East Orange, public schools and public libraries, and the NJ OPMA.

5. **Director's Report**

The Director gave the report. Full report attached to Minutes.

6. **Trustee Concerns/Comments**

- **Hon. Jimmy Small**

Hon. Jimmy Small participated in a recent webinar – "Changes to the Open Public Meeting Act" – Library Trustee Training Series. Watching this video counts toward the Per Capita State Aid requirement of two hours of library related training for each board member.

No other Concerns/Comments at this time.

7. **Committee Reports**

- **Technology**

Hon. Jimmy Small gave the Technology Report for March 20.

The Library has renewed the Participation Agreement for Verizon Internet Services from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029. The New Jersey State Library has the agreement with Verizon offering specialized Ethernet services to libraries with a deep discount price. Ms. Tong worked with JerseyConnect to complete the renewal. The Library will upgrade an Ethernet Virtual Connection (EVC) for faster Internet access.

In addition to the application for e-rate funding for Internet access, the Library applied for funding to upgrade the library's Wi-Fi access points. The Library reviewed bids from 13 vendors and completed the bid evaluation. The Library chose MTG, Inc. and confirmed the bid with a contingency letter to MTG.

More retired technology equipment was picked up for auction this month.

Recently, the IT support staff set up a 3D printer that the Library purchased 8 years ago and got it to work. Ms. Sanchez is exploring the printer and software and has printed some objects from the printer including a small lock case for a charging station in the PC Center.

The Library provided an "A1 Basics" class. Participants learned about leading tools which included ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini for general tasks and found the class to be helpful and interesting. The Library will provide a 3D printing intro class for adults in April and for children in July.

The printing demand continued to be very high. Nearly 19,000 pages were printed via the Wi-Fi printing service, SAM system, and by the Circulation Desk staff. The Library made a QR code available for patrons to scan when sending print jobs to print@eopl.org.

The IT support staff worked with the electrical contractor to ensure the location of the electrical outlets and network drops for the new Information Desk.

No other Committees reporting at this time.

8. **Old Business**

- **Update on Open Public Meetings Act**

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act was recently updated. EOPL is compliant with the new updates. The Library has a legal notice page visible on its website, the URL is properly submitted to be listed on the State's compliance site. The Library is complying with the twice-monthly advertising requirement for the calendar year 2026. Additionally, the 2026 meeting dates were forwarded to the City Clerk.

- **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. IonicNET is a web development firm focused on public libraries. They are providing services to the Library to ensure compliant with digital contents. EOPL has until the end of the month to be compliant with the new ADA website requirements.

- **Compliance with NJ Freedom to Read Act**

This policy governs the curation of library materials within the Library's collection, and the procedure for requesting reconsideration or removal of Library materials. The Director indicated that the policy only applies to East Orange residents. Tonight, the Board voted on the policy. Motioned by Joylyn Perez to accept this policy. Seconded by Laudaine Simeon. Approved by the Board. (Resolution #6)

9. **New Business**

There was no New Business.

Laudaine Simeon motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Hon. Mumtaz Bari-Brown. The public portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Terry Corallo motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Laudaine Simeon. The public portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

10. Executive Session

There were no personnel issues to address. The Board did not go into Executive Session.