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 January 8, 2026 in the East Orange Room.

Present: Hon. Jimmy Small
Gloria Holt
Hon. Jacquelyn Davis
Hon. Mumtaz Bari-Brown
Laudaine Simeon
Joylyn Perez
Terry Corallo
Erin Crowder

Absent: Councilwoman Tameika Garrett-Ward

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

The President, Hon. Jimmy Small, called the meeting to order at 7:00 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.

Hon. Jacquelyn Davis administered the Oath of Office to the following Board Members: Hon. Jimmy Small, Hon. Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Gloria Holt and Erin Crowder. The Oath is a legal requirement for public officials.

2. **Minutes: December 11, 2025**

Motioned by Laudaine Simeon to accept the December 11, 2025 Minutes as presented. Seconded by Jacquelyn Davis. Approved by the Board.

3. Financial Reports

Nancy Barrantes-Lei gave the Financial Reports.

Total Expenses Paid thru December 2025	$3,226,408
Percentage Spent thru December 2025	87.82%
Total Resources Received thru December 2025	$3,379,999
Percentage Received thru December 2025	92.61%
(Monies Received less Expenses Paid)	$ 153,590

- Approved Payments: December 2025

Motioned by Hon. Jacquelyn Davis to approve the Approved Payments for December 2025. Seconded by Laudaine Simeon. Approved by the Board.

- Proposed Payments: January 2026

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

4. Public Participation

Lamar Williams spoke about topics such as East Orange, EOPL, and the Orange Library.

5. Director's Report

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

The Director has chosen Library Cross Roads consultants as the firm to assist with the Library's Strategic Plan.

6. Trustee Concerns/Comments

- **Hon. Jimmy Small**

Hon. Jimmy Small talked about Muslim Heritage Month. It is officially designated in January. It celebrates the rich cultural, historical, and social

contributions of Muslims to the State and Nation. The Muslim League of Voters of New Jersey is hosting an event entitled "Our Muslim Heritage" on January 17 at the Library. Tonight, the Director presented a Muslim Heritage Month resolution. Motioned by Terry Corallo to approve the resolution as presented. Seconded by Hon. Mumtaz Bari-Brown. Approved by the Board.

No other Concerns/Comments at this time.

7. Committee Reports

Hon. Jimmy Small gave the Technology Report.

The Library has successfully completed the Windows 11 upgrade project. All public use computers and most staff computers are now running on Windows 11 and receiving the latest security updates.

Ms. Tong worked with On-Tech e-rate consulting service on the e-rate funding application for FY 2026/2027. The Library will apply for telecommunication funding for Internet access and upgrading the Wi-Fi access points.

Circulation of digital materials continued to be high. Patrons checked out approximately 700 digital materials from eLibraryNJ and borrowed approximately 600 items from Hoopla and Kanopy.

Approximately 700 patrons used the computers at the Library. In addition, many enjoyed the free Wi-Fi and Quiet Study Rooms. The Library had 91 bookings for the Rooms.

The printing demand continued to be high. Staff printed approximately 4,400 pages for patrons at the Circulation Desk. Patrons printed approximately 8,600 pages using Wi-Fi printing service and the SAM print system.

IT support staff assisted AARP tax assistance staff with a test run of their technology equipment.

IT support staff assisted Trane staff with the network connection for the new chiller.

The Library renewed Webroot Antivirus cybersecurity software licenses.

8. Old Business

- **Legal Counsel & RFQ Update**

The Board of Trustees is soliciting statements of qualified and performance data from qualified Respondents for Library Board Attorney. All statements of Qualifications are due before 12:00 noon on Monday, January 12, 2026. Once received, the Board will review and make a decision.

- **2026 Budget Update**

The City Administration is floating another 15% cuts to departments this year. The Director is going to request a meeting with Council Finance Chair Leneus to explain how the Library has been operating on an austerity-level budget for many years due to prior cuts. This information is vital not only for budgeting, but also for the Library's strategic plan, which will begin this month.

- **East Orange Room Renaming**

In 1999, Carolyn Ryan Reed was appointed Library Director and won two New York Times awards for library innovation. She had such an impact on the Library and community. In memory of, the Board would like to rename the East Orange Room to Carolyn Ryan Reed East Orange Room. Tonight, there were talks on the dates of this dedication. It was suggested that perhaps during Women's History Month or National Library Week. There will be further discussions on the specifics.

Terry Corallo motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Hon. Mumtaz Bari-Brown. The public portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

9. New Business

There was no New Business to discuss.

10. Executive Sessions

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