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 May 14, 2026.

Present: Hon. Jimmy Small
Gloria Holt
Hon. Jacquelyn Davis
Laudaine Simeon
Joylyn Perez
Terry Corallo

Absent: Hon. Mumtaz Bari-Brown (Excused)
Erin Crowder (Excused)

Staff: JP Porcaro
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: April 9, 2026**

Motioned by Laudaine Simeon to accept the April 9, 2026 Minutes as presented. Seconded by Joylyn Perez. Approved by the Board. **Noted:** Terry Corallo was not at the April 9th Meeting. Therefore, she abstained.

3. **Financial Report**

Nancy Barrantes-Lei gave the Financial Report.

Total Expenses Paid thru April 2026	$792,858
Percentage Spent thru April 2026	21.58%
Total Resources Received thru April 2026	$1,023,468
Percentage Received thru April 2026	27.86%
(Monies Received less Expenses Paid)	$230,610

- **Approved Payments: April 2026**

Motioned by Hon. Jacquelyn Davis to accept the Approved Payments for April 2026. Seconded by Terry Corallo. Approved by the Board.

- **Proposed Payments: May 2026**

Motioned by Terry Corallo to accept the Proposed Payments for May 2026. Seconded by Joylyn Perez. Approved by the Board.

4. Public Participation

Lamar Williams spoke about topics such as East Orange and the NJ OPMA.

5. Director's Report

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

6. Trustee Concerns/Comments

- **Hon. Jacquelyn Davis**

Hon. Jacquelyn Davis inquired about the progress of the three-year Strategic Plan. The Director shared that on May 13, he did a walkthrough with the LibraryCrossroads Consulting team. They will be preparing the various community and staff surveys. The Library is still on track for the Plan to be

completed in October 2026 and implemented in January 2027 before the new budget is presented.

- **Hon. Jimmy Small**

Hon. Jimmy Small is pleased with the planters in front of the building.

- **Gloria Holt**

Years ago, the historic Hollywood Theatre displayed several walk of fame plaques in front of the building. The plaques honored local celebrities. The plaques were eventually removed and placed into storage due to a revamping of City sidewalks. Eventually, there were talks to replace the plaques at Cicely L. Tyson School of Fine and Performing Arts. Gloria Holt suggested that if this is not forthcoming perhaps the Library can look into this.

- **Terry Corallo**

Terry Corallo shared information regarding the East Orange School District Strategic Plan. There will be a community input event on May 19 (virtual) and May 20 (in-person) to preview the five-year Plan to share feedback before it goes for Board approval in June.

No other Concerns/Comments at this time.

7. Committee Reports

- **Technology**

Hon. Jimmy Small gave the Technology Report.

The Library renewed the subscriptions for World Book Online, Learning Express Library and Job/Career Accelerator Center.

Additional patrons signed up for technology classes. Five senior students attended the "AI Basics" class and found it very helpful. The beginner-friendly class introduced participants to the fundamentals of artificial intelligence and how

to use ChatGPT for everyday tasks. One participant indicated that it helped to get a better understanding of AI and will use ChatGPT more after attending this class.

The IT support staff recently set up a 3D printer in the technology lab and provided a 3D Printing Basics class. This class is for those with no prior 3D experience. It provided a quick overview of how a 3D printer works.

The Library made good progress on its cabling project. A MAC Address Lookup was done to accurately identify, document, and map all the computers, printers, and scanners to network ports, ensuring organized patching and troubleshooting. This project will help prevent unauthorized device connections and achieve more efficient cabling infrastructure.

The IT support staff tried out a cable management kit to streamline the cables underneath the computer tables to ensure a stable connection for the technology equipment. This project will continue next month.

Circulation of digital materials continued to be high. Patrons checked out 1,450 items from eLibraryNJ, Hoopla and Kanopy.

The printing demand continued to be very high. Approximately 18,000 pages were printed via the Wi-Fi printing service, SAM system, and by the Circulation Desk staff.

No other Committees reporting at this time.

8. **Old Business**

The City has not approved its 2026 budget nor have they scheduled out the presentations for Department Heads.

9. **New Business**

- **June 11, 2026 Board Meeting**

The Board approved to meet in June via Zoom. The Director will make sure the meeting is advertised properly.

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.