EAST ORANGE PUBLIC LIBRARY BORAD 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 September 10, 2026 in the East Orange Room.

Present: Hon. Jimmy Small
Hon. Jacquelyn Davis
Laudaine Simeon
Erin Crowder

Absent: Hon. Mumtaz Bari-Brown (Excused)
Terry Corallo (Excused)
Joylyn Perez
Gloria Holt
Councilwoman Tameika Garrett-Ward

Staff: JP Porcaro
Pamela V. Holmes
Jenny Tong

The President, Hon. Jimmy Small, called the meeting to order at 7:04 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**

Hon. Jacquelyn Davis motioned to amend the April 9, 2026 minutes regarding the Public Participation portion of the meeting. Lamar Williams was present and spoke about the public schools, public libraries and New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. Seconded by Laudaine Simeon. Approved by the Board.

**Minutes: June 11, 2026**

Motioned by Hon. Jacquelyn Davis to accept the June 11, 2026 Minutes as presented. Seconded by Laudaine Simeon. Approved by the Board.

**3. Financial Report**

The Director gave the Financial Report.

**Approved Payments: June, July & August, 2026**

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|---|---|
| Total Expenses Paid thru **June 2026** | $1,783,621 |
| Percentage Spent thru **June 2026** | 56.51% |
| Total Resources Received thru **June 2026** | $1,578,189 |
| Percentage Received thru **June 2026** | 50.00% |
| (Monies Received less Expenses Paid) - **June** | $ 205,432 |
| Total Expenses Paid thru **July 2026** | $2,121,689 |
| Percentage Spent thru **July 2026** | 67.22% |
| Total Resources Received thru **July 2026** | $1,835,135 |
| Percentage Received thru **July 2026** | 58.14% |
| (Monies Received less Expenses Paid) - **July** | $ 286,554 |
| Total Expenses Paid thru **August 2026** | $2,100,616 |
| Percentage Spent thru **August 2026** | 66.55% |
| Total Resources Received thru **August 2026** | $2,354,785 |
| Percentage Received thru **August 2026** | 74.60% |
| (Monies Received less Expenses Paid) - **August** | $ 254,169 |

Motioned by Hon. Jacquelyn Davis to accept the Approved Payments for June, July & August. Seconded by Laudaine Simeon. Approved by the Board.

4. **Public Participation**

Lamar Williams was present at tonight's meeting. He has repeatedly stated to members of the City Council and Library Board that he is committed to protecting the integrity of the Library. He has indicated that his concerns relate to certain Library practices and procedures and whether they are being conducted in compliance with the requirements of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

On numerous occasions, the Board President and Director have confirmed that the Library is in compliance with the requirements of the Act. Motioned by Laudaine Simeon to approve amending the Public Participation portion of minutes for following meetings to accurately reflect Lamar Williams participation. Seconded by Erin Crowder. The Board approved.

- September 11, 2025
- November 13, 2025
- December 11, 2025
- January 8, 2026
- April 9, 2026
- May 14, 2026

5. **Director's Report**

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

The Director presented the East Orange Public Library's Strategic Planning timeline. The final document will be assembled in late November and presented to the Board at the December Board Meeting.

6. **Trustee Concerns/Comments**

There were no Trustee Concerns/Comments.

7. **Committee Reports**

- **Technology**

Hon. Jimmy Small gave the Technology Report.

The Library's security camera system was upgraded this month. A technician from Pye-Barker Fire & Safety installed Wisenet (by Hanwha Vision) camera system, along with two new Hanwha 8TB DVR and 24 TB NVR recorders. The upgrade provides improved low-light and high contrast imaging, as well as significant larger storage capacity.

We upgraded Internet speeds and updated the firewall in July. Our IT support staff is working with Verizon and the New Jersey State Library IT support to determine whether the aged Cisco router can be bypassed by establishing a direct connection to the firewall for Internet access.

The Sierra system maintenance upgrade was completed successfully on August 23 without any interruption to public services.

Circulation digital materials continued to be high. Patrons checked out nearly 1,700 items from eLibraryNJ, Hoopla and Kanopy.

The printing demand remained very high. Nearly 18,800 pages were printed through our Wi-Fi printing service, SAM system, and by staff at the Circulation Desk.

The technology classes went well. In addition to our standard Google Application classes and PC Basics classes, we provided several new offerings, including Scam Watch and Information Literacy.

We have replaced our 3D printer and look forward to continuing to offer 3D printing classes, as well as printing items for the teen shelves and other service areas.

The new Wi-Fi PayPal terminal at the Circulation Desk is already a hit. Patrons loved the added convenience, using it for about 30 transactions in both July and August.

**No other Committees reporting at this time.**

8. **Old Business**

There was no Old Business to discuss.

9. **New Business**

- **Resolution**

The Director read the proposed Resolution to rename the East Orange Room as the "Carolyn Ryan Reed East Orange Room". Motioned by Laudaine Simeon to accept the Resolution. Seconded by Erin Crowder. Approved by the Board. Subsequently, the Board decided to make minor revisions to the resolution, which will be amended accordingly.

- **Board Meetings**

A motion was made by Laudaine Simeon and seconded by Honorable Jacquelyn Davis to hold the October 2026 and November 2026 Board meetings via Zoom. The December 2026 meeting will be in person. Approved by the Board.

10. **Executive Session**

There were personnel issues to discuss.

A motion by Laudaine Simeon to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Honorable Jacquelyn Davis.

A motion by Laudaine Simeon to close Executive Session. Seconded by Honorable Jacquelyn Davis.

Laudaine Simeon motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Erin Crowder. The public portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m