

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
FOUNTAINDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT  
WILL AND DUPAGE COUNTIES, ILLINOIS  
HELD APRIL 16, 2026  
BOLINGBROOK, ILLINOIS**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fountaindale Public Library District, Will and DuPage Counties, Illinois was held in the Margaret J. "Peggy" Danhof Board Room, 300 West Briarcliff Road, Bolingbrook, Illinois on Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 7 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Celeste Bermejo.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called by recorder, Juanita Lennon, and a quorum was established.

**PRESENT**

Present at roll call were Marcelo Valencia, Kathryn Spindel, Sarah Siska, Meraj Alam, Jim Daunis Jr. and Celeste Bermejo.

**ABSENT**

Trustee Bobby Armstrong

Trustee Armstrong was out of town for work and was unable to attend the meeting in person.

## **FOUNTAINDALE STAFF PRESENT**

The following staff was present: Paul Mills and Juanita Lennon.

Nancy Korczak was present online.

## **PUBLIC PRESENT**

The following public was present: Jody Hargett, Jennie Mills, Ron McGrath and Bill Rieser.

## **APPROVAL OF TRUSTEE PARTICIPATION IN APRIL 16, 2026 BOARD MEETING BY MEANS OTHER THAN BEING PHYSICALLY PRESENT**

President Bermejo reported that per Section 7 of the Open Meetings Act, she and Board Recorder Juanita Lennon received a written request from Trustee Bobby Armstrong to attend the April 16, 2026 Board Meeting by means other than being physically present. Trustee Armstrong wrote that due to his work obligations, he could not attend the Board Meeting this evening in person. Bermejo noted that employment purposes is one of the allowable reasons under the Open Meetings Act to request attendance and participation by means other than being physically present. Bermejo further reported that per Board Bylaws in Article III, Section 8, the trustees who are physically present shall determine by majority vote whether a trustee who is not physically in attendance may participate by other means – in this case, Zoom. If the vote is in favor, the trustee may vote on matters before the Board.

A motion to approve the Trustee Bobby Armstrong's request to participate in the April 16, 2026 Board Meeting by other means other than being physically present was made by Daunis, seconded by Valencia.

AYES: Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Alam, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Armstrong

## **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Bermejo asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

A motion was made by Daunis, seconded by Alam.

AYES: Armstrong, Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Alam, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

## **MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING – MARCH 19, 2026**

The minutes of the board meeting held March 19, 2026 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Spindel, seconded by Valencia. Minutes were approved as read.

AYES: Armstrong, Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Alam, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

## **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

## **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

Bill Rieser, Treasurer from the Friends, presented a report for the Friends Spring Book Sale. The grand total for the three-day sale was \$3,040.30. The Friends have put a callout for donations as their book inventory has dwindled from the sale.

Rieser also mentioned that the Friends have received 83 free book coupons to date from the Children's Winter Reading Challenge.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Approval of Bear Construction Co. Bid for 2026 Interior Lighting Replacement Project**

Ron McGrath from Tria Architecture reviewed the two bids that were received. McGrath recommended Bear Construction Co.'s bid as the lowest responsible bidder. McGrath also noted that the Board may elect to reject all bids and re-bid in the Fall. Discussion ensued regarding the options.

A motion to approve Bear Construction Co. Bid for the 2026 Interior Lighting Replacement Project for \$1,226,159 was made by Valencia, seconded by Alam.

AYES: Armstrong, Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Alam, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

### **Approval of Request to Travel for Trustees to Attend 2026 American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago, IL: June 25–29, 2026**

Mills reported that a request for trustees to attend a national conference requires Board approval.

A motion to approve the request to travel for Trustees to attend the 2026 American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago, IL: June 25–29, 2026 was made by Valencia, seconded by Spindel.

AYES: Armstrong, Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Alam, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

## **LIBRARY PROJECTS**

Executive Director Mills announced that the new digital sign has been connected and is operational. The remaining stonework will be completed next week. The sign height has to be adjusted before the stonework is installed.

The Children's Services shelving project is moving along quickly and may be completed much earlier than anticipated.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report for March, 2026 was presented by Treasurer Spindel and will be filed for audit.

## **BILLS FOR APPROVAL**

### **Bills Paid Report – April 2026**

Bills paid for the month of April in the amount of \$95,617.10 was presented for approval. A motion to approve was made by Sanuis, seconded by Valencia.

AYES: Armstrong, Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Alam, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

## **Bills Payable Report – April 2026**

Bills payable for the month of April in the amount of \$218,323.09 was presented for approval. A motion to approve was made by Spindel, seconded by Daunis.

AYES: Armstrong, Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Alam, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – MARCH 2026**

Mills reported that the Public Library Association Conference was very informative.

Mills shared that he attended several presentations given by Sam Helmick, the American Library Association President. Helmick will be the keynote speaker at the first Pinnacle Conference in August.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **REPORTS**

### **Building**

None.

### **Finance**

None.

### **Strategic Plan**

None.

### **Internal Board Operations**

None.

## **AGENDA BUILDING FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The staff health insurance renewal will be on the agenda next month. Mills and Human Resources Manager, Elena Flores, are working with the District's broker on different options.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee Daunis commented that the scavenger hunt in the Children's Services Department was very well done.

The Bolingbrook Community Closet Spring Pop-up this week was very successful, and the organization was able to clothe about 500 people.

Lastly, Daunis announced that the Bolingbrook Community Closet has been approved as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. Among the Board members are Trustee Daunis, Jen Daunis, Trustee Alam, and Trustee Siska.

The Valencia Boxing Foundation Benefit Gala will be on Tuesday, May 5 at the Bolingbrook Golf Club.

Fountaindale will once again host a State of Illinois Employment Job Fair on Wednesday, July 29.

Trustee Valencia will celebrate his 5th wedding anniversary later this month.

The Board wished Trustee Alam a happy birthday.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Spindel, seconded by Siska, to enter Executive Session at 7:43 p.m. for Personnel 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) "The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity."

AYES: Armstrong, Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Alam, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

A motion was made by Valencia, seconded by Alam, to return to Open Session at 8:22 p.m.

## **OPEN SESSION**

### **APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION ADJUSTMENT**

A motion to approve the Executive Director compensation adjustment of a 3% merit increase, five additional vacation days and a \$8,000 bonus to be paid during the current Fiscal Year 2025/2026 for Executive Director Paul Mills was made by Valencia, seconded by Siska.

AYES: Armstrong, Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Alam, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. was made by Valencia, seconded by Alam.

AYES: Armstrong, Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Alam, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

/s/ Robert Armstrong  
Secretary, Board of Library Trustees  
FOUNTAINDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT  
WILL AND DUPAGE COUNTIES, ILLINOIS

/s/ Celeste M. Bermejo  
President, Board of Library Trustees  
FOUNTAINDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT  
WILL AND DUPAGE COUNTIES, ILLINOIS