

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
FOUNTAINDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
WILL AND DUPAGE COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
HELD FEBRUARY 19, 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, February 19, 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, Jim Daunis Jr. and Celeste Bermejo.

ABSENT

Trustee Meraj Alam

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 and Jennie Mills.

APPROVAL OF TRUSTEE PARTICIPATION IN FEBRUARY 19, 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 February 19, 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 February 19, 2026 Board Meeting by other means other than being physically present was made by Spindel, seconded by Valencia.

AYES: Valencia, Spindel, Siska, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Armstrong, Alam

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

A motion was made by Siska, seconded by Daunis.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Alam

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING – JANUARY 15, 2026

The minutes of the board meeting held January 15, 2026 were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Daunis, seconded by Valencia. Minutes were approved as read.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Alam

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION – JANUARY 15, 2026

The minutes of the Executive Session held January 15, 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, Daunis, Bermejo

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Alam

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Jody Hargett reported that the Friends have received many donations this past month. Sales at the Book Cellar have been phenomenal.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval Review of Ordinance 2026-1 – Ordinance Approving Amendments to Bylaws of Board of Trustees of Fountaindale Public Library District

Trustee Kathryn Spindel and Trustee Meraj Alam reviewed the Bylaws earlier this year. The proposed change adds “active military duty” as an allowable reason for a trustee to attend a Board Meeting by means other than physical presence. The change was recently approved by the State of Illinois.

Per the Bylaws, revisions may not be approved until a succeeding meeting.

No motion made at this time.

Approval of Appointment of 2026 Executive Director Evaluation Liaisons

The Evaluation Liaisons will be charged with organizing the evaluation process of the Executive Director’s evaluation.

With approval by the Board, President Bermejo has named Trustee Meraj Alam and Trustee Jim Daunis Jr. as the 2026 Executive Director Evaluation Liaisons.

A motion to approve the appointment of Trustee Meraj Alam and Trustee Jim Daunis Jr. as the 2026 Executive Director Evaluation Liaisons was made by Daunis, seconded by Valencia.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Alam

Approval of Family Neonatal Intensive Care Leave Section for the Employee Handbook

Mills reviewed the provisions of this draft section for the Employee Handbook.

A motion to approve the Family Neonatal Intensive Care Leave section for the Employee Handbook was made by Spindel, seconded by Valencia.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Alam

LIBRARY PROJECTS

Executive Director Mills provided an update on the monument sign. The engineer that Tria Architecture contracted with confirmed that the original foundation is adequate for the new monument. Construction work should begin in the next few weeks.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

BILLS FOR APPROVAL

Bills Paid Report – February 2026

Bills paid for the month of February in the amount of \$71,283.52 was presented for approval. Motion to approve was made by Daunis, seconded by Siska.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Alam

Bills Payable Report – February 2026

Bills payable for the month of February in the amount of \$667,102.28 was presented for approval. Motion to approve was made by Spindel, seconded by Daunis.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Alam

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – JANUARY 2026

Mills reported that the Will County ballot box has been delivered and is in the lobby now. Early voting will begin on Monday, March 2 in Meeting Room B.

Our new water bottle dispenser has been installed and is now operational.

Mills reminded the Board that the "Reclaiming the Narrative: Restoring Black Voices to the Story of Joliet" exhibit on the 3rd floor will close on February 27.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

REPORTS

Building

None.

Finance

None.

Strategic Plan

None.

Internal Board Operations

None.

AGENDA BUILDING FOR THE NEXT MEETING

At the March board meeting, the Secretary Audit liaisons and the updated Trustee Bylaws ordinance will be on the agenda for approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lions Club will host their annual St. Patrick Day Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 14. Trustee Alam's photo booth will be available and Trustee Valencia's organization, Valencia Boxing will be present to help with event cleanup.

The annual Rotary Mac & Cheese cook-off is also on Saturday, March 14 at New Life Lutheran Church. Trustee Daunis will be participating in the cook-off and Trustee Alam's photo booth will also be available.

The Dancing with the Stars Bolingbrook event is next Saturday, February 28 at the Hilton Garden Inn Bolingbrook. Trustee Daunis will be a contestant.

Valencia Boxing is hosting a movie night on Wednesday, March 11. \$5 donations will be accepted.

The annual Valley View Educational Enrichment Foundation's Dinner & Auction will be held on Friday, March 6 at the Bolingbrook Golf Club.

The Bolingbrook Community Closet pop-up is happening this week, and moving forward the pop-ups will be scheduled every other month.

The Lions Club will host their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4.

The Bolingbrook People's Choice Awards (formerly known as the BOBB Awards) will be held on Thursday, April 9 at 6 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. was made by Daunis seconded by Valencia.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Alam

/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
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