

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

July 9, 2025

Cranston Central Library, C-Lab

6:00 pm

Present were:

Michael Goldberg

Regina Spirito

Diane Schaefer

Jack Tregar

Ed Garcia, Library Director

Julie Holden, Assistant Library Director

Allyson Van Wyk, Administrative Assistant

Excused: R. Drayton Fair, Lisa Kirshenbaum, Dr. Taino Palermo

INTRODUCTION:

The regular meeting of the Cranston Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order on Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 6:00pm at the Cranston Central Library.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Diane Schaefer to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 11, 2025. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (4-0).

LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

Administrative Updates:

-Ocean State eZone - Ocean State Libraries has instituted (on July 1st) a new "portal" page for all downloadable eBooks & audiobooks provided on a statewide basis. The new page will still be called the eZone and include all Overdrive (Libby) books, but will also include 2 other vendors: the Palace Project (alternative eBook vendor) and Flipster (magazine vendor). This will bring all available eBooks & magazines under one roof so that patrons can see all their options. The site is still ezone.oslri.net

A patron defaced the book "Grandad's Pride" by Harry Watergate at William Hall. The patron wrote "I rebuke this book" in purple crayon on the inside cover. The library filed a police report under RIGL 11-44-15 and filed reports with ALA and RILA.

-Oaklawn revised delivery schedule - since we are closing Oaklawn on Monday and Tuesday mornings, the OLIS delivery system will institute the following changes:

- Oaklawn's delivery on Monday and Tuesday will be delivered by Optima to Cranston Central. The bins would then be delivered to Oaklawn using Cranston's internal system.
- Delivery on Wednesday and Friday would continue to be received on site at Oaklawn as normal.

Buildings & Grounds

-The Cranston Highway Department completed fixes to the sidewalk in front of the William Hall Library.

- The Central Library lost power for 15 hours due to the storm through July 3rd – July 4th. The William Hall library lost a tree.

- Director Garcia met with the Mayor's Office and Parks and Recreation to discuss the City of Cranston stopping the grounds keeping care for Central Library. Oaklawn, Auburn, and Knightsville will now be our responsibility, (\$2,100 for twice monthly service) and the Central Library will continue to be maintained by the City of Cranston through September.

HVAC service contract bid July 16 open, bids due on 8/5.

Programming

-The Summer reading kick-off at the Sprague Mansion was very successful. We had approximately 500 people attend! We gave out 287 kids' books and 35 adult books.

-We had 679 raffle entries during the first week of our Summer Fun raffle for adults, and have already hosted 40 summer storytimes and summer programs as of July 3.

Staff Updates

-Talia Botelho has been hired as a new Youth Services Librarian based at the Central Library. Talia graduated with her MLIS in May 2025 from Louisiana State University and had been working at the East Providence Public Library.

The Auburn Library Branch Librarian position was internally posted today. The position can be filled as of August 15th.

BUDGET REPORT:

The budget actuals as of June 30, 2025 and the FY 2026 Library Budget Forecast were presented and reviewed.

A final audited budget will be brought to the September meeting.

Additional savings at Oaklawn branch identified. During Story time we will no longer bring in additional part-time coverage. This will save \$2,690 in FY26.

NEW BUSINESS:

Minimum Wage Increase:

The minimum wage will be increased to \$16.00 starting on 1/1/26. Director Garcia presented the financial adjustments that will be made to accommodate this change.

Library-Related Legislation Update:

The General Assembly voted to fully fund state aid to libraries. This brings an increase of \$16,698 to the Cranston Public Library.

CLOSED SESSION:

Closed Session pursuant to RI Gen. Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5 (3)

A motion was made at 6:47 pm to enter into closed session pursuant to RI Gen. Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5 (3) to discuss collective bargaining with NAGE R1-97 by Jack Tregar. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (4-0).

No votes take in closed session.

A motion was made at 6:56 pm to end closed session pursuant to RI Gen. Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5 (3) by Jack Tregar. Diane Schaefer seconded. Motion carried (4-0).

ADJOURNMENT: 6:57pm

A motion was made by Jack Tregar to adjourn the regular meeting of June 11, 2025. Regina Spirito seconded. Motion carried (4-0).