

**GARY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Lucille Washington, President  
Mr. Robert Farag, Vice President  
Ms. McKenya Dilworth Smith, Secretary  
Ms. Linda Collins, Member  
Ms. Jacquese White, Member

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Crystal O'Brien, Member  
Mrs. Marlinda Tyson-Haymon, Member

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Diana Morrow, Director  
Mr. Curtis Whittaker, CPA  
Ms. Pamela May, Technology Supervisor  
Ms. Merri Roddy, Executive Assistant  
Ms. Kelly White, Attorney (Zoom)

The Meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Gary Public Library was called to order at 5:16 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026, by Board President Dr. Lucille Washington. Dr. Washington asked for a roll call. At the time of roll call results: (5) board members were present (2) was absent.

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Dr. Washington asked for a motion to accept the agenda. Mr. Farag made a motion to accept the agenda. Seconded by Ms. Collins. She asked for discussions. Mr. Farag asked to make an amendment to the agenda. He asked to add a letter from Indiana State Comptroller that needs the board's discussion and approval. Dr. Washington called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Ms. Ms. Dilworth Smith, Mr. Farag, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (4) yes, (0), (1) Ms. White abstention.

**CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Secretary certifies for the record that the Executive Session held prior to this meeting was held pursuant to Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-6.1. Agenda, Executive Session of

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the Board of Library Trustees of the Gary Public Library IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(5). To receive information about and interview prospective employees. IC 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b) (9) To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees. We certify that only items discussed during the Executive Session were items enumerated in Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-6.1. The Board certifies that the public was duly notified pursuant to Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-5. (Public Notice of Meetings) and that no final decisions were made during the Executive Session. Dr. Washington asked for a motion to approve the Executive Session. Mr. Farag made a motion. Seconded by Ms. Dilworth Smith. Dr. Washington called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Ms. White, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Mr. Farag, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (5) to (0).

**APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

Approval of Regular Board Minutes February 2, 2026

Dr. Washington asked for a motion to accept the Board Minutes from February 2, 2026. Ms. Collins made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Farag. She asked for discussions. Ms. Dilworth Smith asked that a correction be added to the Public Participation section of the report. Dr. Washington called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Ms. White, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Mr. Farag, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (5) to (0).

**NEW BUSINESS**

2025 Annual Financial Report

Mr. Whittaker presented the Indiana Gateway report for the Gary Public Library annual financial report. He stated it will be submitted at the end of February. He went over the report in detail with the board. He told the board that the report is public and can be reviewed by anyone through Gateway. Dr. Washington asked for questions and comments about the report. Mr. Farag stated that he would like to commend Ms. Morrow and Mr. Whitaker for a positive report, and he stated that the library seems to be on a nice path of stability. Ms. White had a question about the Rainy-Day Fund's balance. She wanted to know if the library incurred any issues as to why the balance was only \$5.39. Mr. Whittaker explained how and why the Rainy-Day account was created. He stated that the account has been in existence for many years and that dollar amount is the interest collected for 2025. Dr. Washington asked for a motion to approve the Gateway Financial Report. Mr. Farag made a motion.

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Seconded by Ms. Collins. Dr. Washington called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Ms. White, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Mr. Farag, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (5) to (0).

Carnegie Corporation of New York (Carnegie Library Gift)

Ms. Morrow reported that the \$10k grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York came in the mail. She told the board that can be used as the library see fit Carnegie just asks that Ms. Morrow send them a note on what it was used for when decided.

Committee Meeting Updates:

Building & Grounds Committee: Ms. White reported everything is great and good to go. She asked Mr. Hobson to give a facilities report. Mr. Hobson stated that the elevator was repaired and is up and running.

Policy & Personnel Committee: Dr. Washington reported that the committee is still working on Section 1 of the Policy & Procedures. She stated that the committee has discovered that there are policies that have been on the books for a long time and will need to be reworked.

Age-based Roth Catch-up Contributions

Mr. Whittaker asked the board to approve the amendment to the state of Indiana public employee deferred compensation plan. He explained that the plan is for employees 50+ to catch up with contributions for their Roth plan. He explained it will be paid by the employee who decides to attempt to save money for their retirement. No library funds will be contributed. Dr. Washington asked for a motion. Ms. Dilworth Smith made a motion. Ms. Collins seconded. Dr. Washington called on a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Mr. Farag, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (4) yes, (0), (1) Ms. White abstention.

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**BUDGET & FINANCE**

Mr. Whittaker requested approval from the Board to accept the recommendation to approve agenda items 1 – 4 of the Budget and Finance Agenda. Line item 5 is informational:

1) Payroll Expense – Actual for January 2026:	\$ 149,300.72
Including:	
Out of Class Pay –Jan. 9 2026:	\$ 62.00
Overtime –Jan. 9, 2026:	\$ 000.00
Out of Class Pay –Jan. 23, 2026:	\$ 34.00
Overtime –Jan. 23, 2026:	\$ 1,270.65
2) Payroll Expense – Estimate for February 2026:	\$ 154,401.43
3) Unpaid Claims – Jan. 22, 2026 – Feb. 20, 2026:	\$ 51,127.93
4) Pre-Paid Accounts Payable Expenses –Jan. 22, 2026 -Feb. 23, 2026:	\$ 118,146.97
6) Cash on Hand as of Jan. 31, 2026	\$5,653,384.05
	Monthly Interest: \$ 15,097.64
	Annual Interest: \$ 15,097.64

Mr. Whittaker asked the board to approve the report. Dr. Washington asked the board for a motion to approve the Budget and Finance Agenda. It was moved by Mr. Farag and seconded by Ms. Collins to accept the Budget and Finance agenda. Dr. Washington called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Ms. White, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Mr. Farag, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (5) to (0).

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**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

Update was given during the committee report.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Robert Buggs stated he submitted a public information request on October 10, 2025, and hasn't received a response. He's planning to file a complaint with the Public Access Council. He also stated he sent Dr. Washington two emails requesting a meeting and hasn't heard back.

Ms. Tindal said that she was happy to see that the elevator is working. She was glad there is a new copier but concerned that it has been out of order a couple of times.

**INFORMATIONAL**

Director's Report

Monthly Management Reports

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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**PRESIDENT:** Lucille D. Washington  
Dr. Lucille Washington

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Phil Jones  
Mr. Robert Farag

**SECRETARY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. McKenya Dilworth Smith

**MEMBER:** Linda Collins  
Ms. Linda Collins

**MEMBER:** Jacquese White  
Ms. Jacquese White

**MEMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Marlinda Tyson-Haymon

**MEMBER:** Crystal O'Brien  
Ms. Crystal O'Brien