

**GARY PUBLIC LIBRARY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Jacquese White, President
Ms. Linda Collins, Secretary
Dr. Lucille Washington, Treasurer
Ms. McKenya Dilworth Smith, Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Robert Farag, Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

The Meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Gary Public Library was called to order at 6:02 p.m. on Monday, July 27, 2026, by Board President Ms. Jacquese White. Ms. White asked for a roll call. At the time of roll call results: (4) board members were present.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Ms. White asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add under New Business Resolution NO. 2026-0001. It states: The Board of Trustees of the Gary Public Library Declaring an Emergency Condition and Authorizing the Emergency Replacement of the HVAC System at the Woodson Branch Library. It was moved by Ms. Dilworth Smith. Seconded by Dr. Washington. She asked for discussions. There were none. Ms. White called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Dr. Washington, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Ms. White. Motion passed (4) to (0).

Ms. White asked for a motion to accept the agenda. It was moved by Ms. Collins. Seconded by Ms. Dilworth Smith. She asked for discussions. There were none. Ms. White called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Dr. Washington, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Ms. White. Motion passed (4) to (0).

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

**GARY PUBLIC LIBRARY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026
PAGE 2**

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. 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. Ms. White asked for a motion to approve the Executive Session. Ms. Collins made a motion. Seconded by Dr. Washington. Ms. White called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Dr. Washington, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Ms. White. Motion passed (4) to (0).

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes for June 22, 2026

Ms. White asked for a motion to accept the Board Minutes from June 22, 2026. Ms. Collins made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Dr. Washington. She asked for discussions. Dr. Washington had corrections on page 4 under resignation she pointed out the misspelling of Clerk. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. White announced that the votes for a new Board Vice-President, Accounting Assistant new position, and Armand Investment Group Proposal will be tabled until the August board meeting.

Emergency Resolution Number 2026-0001

Attorney White asked the board to adopt resolution number 2026-0001 that is titled The Board of Trustees of the Gary Public Library Declaring an Emergency Condition and Authorizing the Emergency Replacement of the HVAC System at the Woodson Branch Library. She stated the Woodson Branch has been closed for the health and safety of the staff and patrons on the branch due to the HVAC system. It needs to be completed right away. Ms. White called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Dr. Washington, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Ms. White. Motion passed (4) to (0).

**GARY PUBLIC LIBRARY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026
PAGE 3**

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 June 2026:	\$ 150,676.82
Including:	
Out of Class Pay –June 12, 2026:	\$ 46.76
Overtime –June 12, 2026:	\$ 00.00
Out of Class Pay –June 26, 2026:	\$ 40.87
Overtime –June 26, 2026	\$ 00.00
2) Payroll Expense – Estimate for August 2026:	\$ 160,599.26
3) Unpaid Claims – July 20, 2026:	\$ 38,892.93
4) Pre-Paid Accounts Payable Expenses –June 17, 2026 -July 20, 2026:	\$ 153,356.70
5) Cash on Hand as of June 30, 2026	\$6,564,339.43
	Monthly Interest: \$ 11,934.72
	Annual Interest: \$ 82,676.46

Mr. Whittaker asked the board to approve the report. Ms. White asked the board for a motion to approve the Budget and Finance Agenda.

Ms. White asked for a motion to accept the Budget and Finance Report. It was moved by Ms. Collins. Seconded by Dr. Washington. She asked for discussions. There were none. Ms. White called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Dr. Washington, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Ms. White. Motion passed (4) to (0).

**GARY PUBLIC LIBRARY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026
PAGE 4**

PERSONNEL

New Hire

Shani Bridgeman, Summer Intern, Reference Services Clerk, 18 hrs. per week @13.00 per hr. Effective June 4, 2026.

Brittany Bennett, Human Resources Administrator, Salary:\$78,000.00 yearly. Effective: August 11, 2026.

Retirement

Leora Carr, Children's Librarian, Kennedy Branch, Effective: September 30, 2026.

INFORMATIONAL

Director's Report

Monthly Management Reports

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Luci Sadlowsici asked for information on how to become a board member. She spoke on her appreciation of the library and all their services.

Mrs. Lovetta Tindal spoke of concerns she had with DVDs not being in alphabetical order. She also asked for the board to consider an adult literacy program. She then asked the status of the 5% raise being reflected for the Gary Public Library staff. She asked why the Woodson Branch is closed during the middle of the summer because of air conditioning. Ms. Tindal stated that when Mr. Jackson mentioned air conditioning status at the last meeting, she attended he told them everything was in place. She asked if there were any plans to put a sign up displaying Roma K. Ivey's name at the entrance of the Community Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

**GARY PUBLIC LIBRARY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026
PAGE 5**

PRESIDENT:

Jacquese M. White

Ms. Jacquese White

VICE

PRESIDENT:

SECRETARY:

Linda Collins

Ms. Linda Collins

TREASURER:

Lucille Washington

Dr. Lucille Washington

MEMBER:

Ms. McKenya Dilworth Smith

Ms. McKenya Dilworth Smith

MEMBER:

Mary Ann Canty-Reedus

Ms. Mary Ann Canty-Reedus

MEMBER:

Mr. Robert Farag