

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Lucille Washington, President
Mr. Robert Farag, Vice President
Ms. McKenya Dilworth Smith, Secretary (Zoom)
Ms. Linda Collins, Member
Ms. Jacquese White, Member
Ms. Crystal O'Brien, Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

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 5:24 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2026, by Board President Dr. Lucille Washington. Dr. Washington asked for a roll call. At the time of roll call results: (6) board members were present (1) was absent.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Ms. O'Brien asked to amend the agenda to add the elevator contract with BCR Elevators for approval. Ms. O'Brien made the motion. Seconded by Ms. Collins. Dr. Washington asked for a motion to accept the amended agenda. Ms. Dilworth Smith made a motion to accept the amended agenda. Seconded by Ms. Collins. She asked for discussions. There was none. Dr. Washington called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. White, Mr. Farag, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (6) 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

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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. Collins. Dr. Washington called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Ms. White, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Mr. Farag, Ms. O'Brien, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (6) to (0).

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Approval of Regular Board Minutes February 23, 2026

Dr. Washington asked for a motion to accept the Board Minutes from February 23, 2026. Ms. Collins made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Farag. She asked for discussions. Dr. Washington asked that a correction be made to Ms. Dilworth Smith title on page 3. Dr. Washington called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Ms. White, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Ms. O'Brien, Mr. Farag, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (6) to (0).

NEW BUSINESS

Evaluating the Financial Impact of Senate Bill 1

Mr. Whittaker reported that he is still looking at the impact the bill will cause the library in light of information he received earlier in the day.

C.A. Whittaker & Associates, LLP Addendum to Engagement Letter

Ms. Morrow asked the board to approve the contract addendum Dated from Oct 4, 2025 through April 4, 2026. Dr. Washington asked for a motion to accept the addendum. Mr. Farag made the motion. Seconded by Ms. Collins. Dr. Washington called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Ms. White, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Mr. Farag, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (6) to (0).

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Contract Approval for BCR Elevator Contract

Ms. Morrow asked the board to approve the BCR contract. Dr. Washington asked for a motion to approve the contract. Ms. Collins made the motion. Seconded by Ms. Dilworth Smith. Dr. Washington called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Ms. White, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Mr. Farag, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (6) to (0).

Committee Meeting Updates:

Building & Grounds Committee: Ms. White reported that minor renovations for the Kennedy Branch were discussed. The contract for the elevator was discussed. Ms. Dilworth Smith stated that at the Woodson branch there will be a Rose Garden Walking Tour program in June that she thought would fall under the Building & Ground's committee that Ms. White chairs. Ms. White asked Ms. Dilworth Smith to send her the information about the program.

Technology Committee: MS. O'Brien reported that an advisory committee was established and will be meeting in March. They will be looking into transcription features and foreign language platforms. Expansion of the Tech Mobile dates. 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.

Policy & Personnel Committee: Dr. Washington reported that they are continuing to read through the policies. She asked Ms. Morrow if the first three policies can be moved out of committee and be ready for the next board meeting.

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 February 2026: \$ 150,494.55

Including:

Out of Class Pay –Feb. 6 2026: \$ 40.36

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Overtime –Feb. 6, 2026:	\$	0.00
Out of Class Pay –Feb. 20, 2026:	\$	18.99
Overtime –Feb. 20, 2026:	\$	0.00
2) Payroll Expense – Estimate for April 2026:	\$	160,599.26
3) Unpaid Claims – Feb. 21, 2026 – March. 19, 2026:	\$	21,151.19
4) Pre-Paid Accounts Payable Expenses –Feb. 21, 2026 -March. 19, 2026:	\$	131,357.28
6) Cash on Hand as of Feb. 28, 2026		\$5,371,200.90
	Monthly Interest: \$	14,156.94
	Annual Interest: \$	25,984.84

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. Dilworth Smith, Ms. O’Brien, Mr. Farag, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (5) yes, to (0), (1) Ms. White abstention.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Update was given during the committee report.

PERSONNEL

New Hires

Destinee Flowers, Circulation Services Clerk, PT 18 hrs. per week, Salary: \$13.00 per hr. Effective: March 2, 2026

Rosemarie Ocadiz-Ramirez, Accounting Supervisor, Salary: \$56,248.84, Effective March 11, 2026

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Tindal said she is concerned that the copier wasn't working. She doesn't believe we are using our libraries to the fullest extent. She would like for the library to advertise the Steel City Hall of Fame and Indian Room. She believes that library staff needs customer service training.

INFORMATIONAL

Director's Report

Monthly Management Reports

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

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PRESIDENT: Lucille Dr. Washington
Dr. Lucille Washington

VICE PRESIDENT: Robert Farag
Mr. Robert Farag

SECRETARY: McKenya Dilworth Smith
Ms. McKenya Dilworth Smith

MEMBER: Linda Collins
Ms. Linda Collins

MEMBER: Jacquese White
Ms. Jacquese White

MEMBER: Marlinda Tyson-Haymon
Mrs. Marlinda Tyson-Haymon

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