GARY PUBLIC LIBRARY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 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
Ms. Crystal O'Brien, Member
Mrs. Marlinda Tyson-Haymon, Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:
Diana Morrow, Director
Mr. Curtis Whittaker, CPA (Zoom)
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, April 27, 2026, by Board President Dr. Lucille Washington. Dr. Washington asked for a roll call. At the time of roll call results: (7) board members were present.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Mr. Farag asked to amend the agenda to add the prepaid vendor's Ms. White asked to table the discussion of the Kennedy and Woodson Branch hours for a later date. Dr. Washington asked to add to New Business the Update on the Policy and Personnel Committee meeting held by Mrs. Tyson Haymon. Mr. Farag made the motion. Seconded by Ms. Collins. Dr. Washington asked for a motion to accept the amended agenda. 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, Mrs. Tyson-Haymon, Mr. Farag, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (7) 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

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 (6) (B) To discuss, before determination, the individual's status as an employee. 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, Mrs. Tyson-Haymon, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (7) to (0).

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Approval of Regular Board Minutes March 23, 2026

Dr. Washington asked for a motion to accept the Board Minutes from March 23, 2026. Mr. Farag made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Ms. Collins. She asked for discussions. There were none. Dr. Washington called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Ms. White, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Ms. O'Brien, Mrs. Tyson Haymon, Mr. Farag, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (7) to (0).

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Meeting Updates:

Policy & Personnel Committee: Mrs. Tyson-Haymon reported that the committee has reviewed policies up to the Internet Access policy section. She stated that they revised and replaced some sections 1.1 up until 1.5. Replaced 1.6 the fair employment practices. The affirmation action policy was revised and rewritten by Attorney Kelly White. Mrs. Tyson-Hayman stated that the Internet Access policy was rewritten by Ms. O'Brien. It replaced the original policy that also include the media policy. The pandemic policy this is in place now has to be updated to reflect current federal and state regulations.

E-Rate

Ms. May explained to the board that the E-rate program provides discounts of 20-90% for eligible schools and libraries on internet access, telecommunications services, and

internal network equipment. Ms. May explained that future needs to replace various equipment including servers, computers, printers, and network equipment, and outlined the process for submitting E-rate applications through USAC (Universal Service Fund). which provides funding for technology equipment but noted that the library had been operating without it since Mr. McMillan's departure. The deadline for the current funding cycle was March 25th, and while information gathering began in February, the process was complex and required extensive documentation. The board discussed bringing this matter to the Technology Committee for further discussion and potential emergency board meeting if needed. The discussion was tabled until then.

ALA 2026 Annual Conference Travel Request (Informational)

Ms. Morrow informed the board that four staff members will be attending the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago on June 27th. Those staff members are Lakeisha Bridgeman, Danyell Cooper, Devon Dorsey, and Kathleen Yon.

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 March 2026:	$	152,973.45
Including:		
Out of Class Pay –March. 6 2026:	$	37.97
Overtime –March. 6, 2026:	$	0.00
Out of Class Pay –March. 20, 2026:	$	0.00
Overtime –March. 20, 2026:	$	399.19

2) Payroll Expense – Estimate for May 2026:	$ 240,898.89
3) Unpaid Claims – April 21, 2026:	$ 38,100.80
4) Pre-Paid Accounts Payable Expenses –March 20, 2026 -April 21, 2026:	$ 255,102.04
5) Cash on Hand as of March 31, 2026	$5,127,130.37

Monthly Interest: $ 14,850.22
Annual Interest: $ 44,104.80

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 Mrs. Tyson-Haymon to accept the Budget and Finance agenda. Dr. Washington called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. White, Mrs. Tyson-Haymon, Mr. Farag, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (7) to (0).

Prepaid Vendor Listing

Dr. Washington asked for approval of the prepaid vendor list. It was moved my Collins and seconded by Ms. O'Brien. She asked for discussion. The members asked if this was the final list and if corrections to the mailing addresses will be made. It was agreed on that the list will be approved with corrections to be made. Dr. Washington called for a vote. Roll call: Ms. Collins, Ms. Dilworth Smith, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. White, Mrs. Tyson-Haymon, Mr. Farag, Dr. Washington. Motion passed (7) to (0).

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Mr. Jackson stated that contract for the elevator has been signed. He stated that Kennedy will need two new compressors. He has quotes and is waiting on a third one. Woodson is also in need of a new compressor. Mr. Jackson was asked to prepare the RFP for the units. He also reported that the basement is still being cleaned and that the roof has a minor leak. He is working to get three quotes to get it repaired.

PERSONNEL

New Hires

Anita Simpson, Library Clerk, Circulation Services, (PT) 18 hrs. per week, Salary $14.50 per hr., Effective: April 20, 2026.

Lisa Kleinhans, Library Clerk, Kennedy Branch, (PT) 18 hrs. per week, Salary $14.50 per hr., Effective: April 20, 2026.

Brian Muro, Technology Services Specialist, Technology Services, Salary $35,831.25, Effective: TBD. Pending Background Results

Transfer

Janice Williams, Library Clerk (PT), Kennedy Branch, Lateral
Transfer to Technical Services Clerk (PT), Effective: April 13, 2026.

Change In Employment Status

Grayce Gonzalez, Library Assistant (FT), Woodson Branch to Library Clerk (PT), Woodson Branch, Effective: April 13, 2026

Resignation

Bianca Alvarez, Librarian, Reference Services, Effective: April 30, 2026.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Toyin Akinbobuyi and Ms. Danyell Cooper, staff members of GPL, presented concerns about the 5% cost of living raises that was approved in November 2025 that has not been implemented, despite the library having approximately $5 million in cash reserves. They requested that the board fulfill the approved raises and that it needs to include backpay, from November 2025.

Ms. Casandra Stigger, the representative of AFSCME is the staff rep for GPL. She stated that she would like to get negations start to update the contracts for the staff. She offered her assistance if the board needs help with implementing the approved 5% raise.

Ms. Tindal spoke about how she believes that it is wrong for the staff to be denied their raises. She suggested that a change needs to be made.

INFORMATIONAL

Director's Report

Monthly Management Reports

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

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