

ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, September 18, 2024
5:15 PM –Central Library

Trustees in Attendance	Trustees not in Attendance	Staff in Attendance
Ms. Adams Mr. Brown Mr. Caplan Ms. De Cuevas Ms. Espenshade Dr. Farmer Ms. Gohn Dr. Jensen Mr. Kaufman Mr. Koff Ms. Moser Dr. Naff	Mr. Boothe Mr. Hillman Ms. Jones-Rodwell Ms. Lasher Mr. Miller Mr. Reid Mr. Rosenberg Mr. Scherr	Ms. Bangura Ms. Box Ms. Elfenbein Ms. Fisher Ms. Graham Ms. Hall Mr. Johnson Ms. Kouwenhoven Ms. Levine Mr. Lewis Ms. McCorkell Ms. Monahan Mr. Paris-Santana Ms. Purchase Ms. Reighard Ms. Scheuerman Ms. Sundermann-Zingler Ms. Veeramachaneni

I. Chair, Christine Espenshade called the meeting to order at 5:20 PM

II. Approval of Minutes of the Wednesday, June 5, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting

A request for a motion was made by Chair, Ms. Christine Espenshade to approve the Minutes of the June 5, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting. Ms. Virginia Adams requested an amendment to the Board of Trustees and Board of Director Minutes, to clarify the Election of Officers section. The motion was made by Dr. Mychelle Farmer and seconded by Ms. Sandra Gohn.

*****ACTION: The Board of Trustees approved the minutes with amendments from the Wednesday, June 5, 2024 meeting.*****

III. Ratification of the Actions of the Board of Directors

A request for a motion was made by Chair, Ms. Christine Espenshade to ratify the actions of the Board of Directors at June 5, 2024 meeting. The motion was made by Ms. Sandra Gohn and seconded by Ms. Virginia Adams.

*****ACTION: The Board of Trustees ratified the actions of the Board of Directors at the Wednesday, June 5, 2024 meeting.*****

IV. Chair's Remarks

Ms. Espenshade began her remarks by welcoming the board to the meeting and thanking the Board for their attendance and participation at meetings and events. Ms. Espenshade welcomed Ms. Ime Essien-Lewis to the Board of Directors and could not wait to work with her during her term. Ms. Espenshade thanked the programming team for the opportunity to attend an incredibly event with Amanda Jones, author of *The Librarian*. Mr. Cleve Corner and his team were also highlighted for the upcoming author events, including: Eve, Connie Chung, and Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

Ms. Espenshade emphasized the importance of the Board, in that it does not just fundraise, but also combats censorship and other threats to libraries through their advocacy and legislative work. An example to watch for is a Texas court case being heard on September 24, where seventeen books were removed from Llano County Public Library, including titles addressing racism and LGBTQ+ topics.

Ms. Espenshade thanked the new CFO, Ms. Sridevi Veeramachaneni, for leading an exceptional Board information session on the Trustee Budget.

Ms. Espenshade concluded her remarks by promoting continued attendance for committee and Board meetings. Ms. Espenshade looked forward to November 2nd for both Maryland Citizens for Libraries Day and the Writers Live! event featuring Bobby Flay.

V. Approval of Trustee Budget

The Trustees Budget stands as presented by Ms. Kristin Newhall MacMillan and can be viewed by Board Members on the Govenda platform. Mr. Mark Caplan motioned for approval, Ms. Sandy Gohn seconded the motion

*****ACTION: The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the Trustees Budget for FY25.*****

VI. Report on City and State Operating Budgets

The City and State Operating Budgets report was included in the Board Book and stands as is.

VII. Public Comment

Mr. Mark Hart, as president of the Friends of Reisterstown Rd. Branch, highlighted the upcoming date of Rosh Hashanah and thanked the library for the Summer Break Baltimore Programs. He recently checked out a book about autism through the summer program and was able to learn quite a bit because of it. Mr. Hart ended his comments cheering on the Orioles

Mr. David Yaffe pushed for the library to receive more funding from the Mayor. Mr. Yaffe commented on the Mayor's funding priorities, specifically to focus on funding for children if the Mayor cares for them.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business; the meeting was adjourned by Chair, Christine Espenshade at 5:41 PM. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 5:15 pm at Central Library.