

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
SPECIAL MEETING
GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY
FEBRUARY 19, 2026

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron John Daily Jr. Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti Patricia Phelan
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Shauna Porteus
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
GUESTS:	Ofunne Edoziem

The Board Meeting began at 7:06 pm.

President Maron opened the meeting by stating that the only agenda item was the discussion of committees and their goals for the year and that no other business would be conducted. She distributed copies of the most recent five year strategic plan as a guiding reference.

COMMITTEES

Finance, Budget and Planning - Trustee Puglia (chair)

Trustee Puglia led a discussion of the committee's scope and priorities for the year. The Board identified several specific goals: a deeper review of the library's annual budget request in coordination with library administration, coordinated outreach meetings with City Council members to advocate for library funding, and a review of the library's procurement policies. Director Montero also noted that under a new New York State Education Law requirement, all public libraries must have a board-approved financial control policy addressing legal and fiduciary responsibilities in place by January 1, 2027. The Board agreed that this committee will work with the Policy Committee in drafting these in the coming year.

Policy - Trustee Sabatino (chair)

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Director Montero provided an update on the Policy Committee’s goals on behalf of Trustee Sabatino. In addition to reviewing existing policies on material selection, use of library facilities, the code of conduct, and patron privacy, the committee will need to develop new policies on consistent staff management and fair employment practices, disaster preparedness, and fiscal oversight. All are required under the same New York State Education Law by January 1, 2027. Director Montero noted that the New York State Public Library System Directors Organization (PULISDO) is expected to provide guidance and model language to assist libraries develop these policies.

Employee Relations - Trustee Phelan (chair), Trustee Puglia

The Board discussed two priorities for Employee Relations: trustee participation in the upcoming union contract negotiations, with the specific nature of that involvement to be defined as the process develops, and building a better understanding of library operations through structured trustee visits to branch departments, allowing trustees to learn directly from staff in their working environments. Director Montero expressed support for this approach and offered to help identify areas of interest and facilitate introductions. The Board agreed that the committee would work with library administration to develop a loose schedule of visits across the year.

Outreach (special) - Trustee Jannetti (chair), Trustee Phelan

Trustee Jannetti presented a mission statement for the Outreach Committee: to expand public awareness of and accessibility to library programs that foster literacy, culture, and community. The Board agreed on a focused goal for the year: the development of a reusable presentation promoting library programs and participation opportunities, to be delivered to 3-5 organizations or venues across Yonkers. The committee will work with library administration to coordinate messaging and talking points, identify initial venues, and schedule presentations beginning in the spring. Other trustees are expected to participate as advocates once the presentation and materials are in place.

Buildings and Grounds (special) - Trustee Daily Jr. (chair)

Vice President Daily discussed the committee’s focus on the patron experience across library facilities. He described a goal of developing a data-informed report quantifying how patrons experience the library, using existing library data and publicly available census information, with an initial report anticipated for the board later in the spring.

In addition, members of the committee will participate in ongoing capital projects, such as the improvements at Crestwood and the potential for a fourth branch, as they progress.

Fundraising & Development (special) - Trustee Daily (chair)

The Board acknowledged the special role Fundraising & Development serves as liaison to the Foundation for Yonkers Public Library (FYPL) and President Maron expected to continue to provide updates to the Board as FYPL continues to support the library.

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In conclusion, President Maron encouraged trustees to continue to reflect on the alignment of committee work with the overarching goals of the Long Range Plan as their committee work proceeds. She offered to consolidate and share a summary of Committee Goals with the Board for review and finalization before the next scheduled Board meeting.

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Jannetti and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the Meeting at 8:38 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary