

FOX RIVER GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Library, 407 Lincoln Avenue, Fox River Grove

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – 6:30 p.m. by President Angle. Christianson, Meshes, Gipson, Cooper, Bunton, and Director Komala present. Miller absent.

INPUT FROM CITIZENS - Kelly Johnson, Youth Services Manager, present.

CORRESPONDENCE AND LIBRARY NEWS – All correspondence discussed.

1. ATLAS Library Trustee Day – Trustees are to let Komala know if they want to register. There is money budgeted for trustee development. Meshes indicated interest.
2. NPR: Illinois Goddard Space Flight Center Staff Says Library's Closure Degrades NASA's Mission

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Items to be included in Consent Agenda
  - a. January 2026 Financial Reports, Disbursements, and Transfer of Funds of \$56,525
  - b. Minutes from the November 18, 2025, Regular Board Meeting
2. Consent Agenda Approval (voice vote) – Meshes moved to approve. Gipson seconded. Roll call vote. All ayes. Miller absent.

SPECIAL REPORTS

1. Trustee Liaisons – Komala talked to the elevator inspector from Colley about the potential new rule change concerning the door lock monitoring (DLM). He indicated the Library's elevator is new enough that it can get the DLM installed on it. He also was not confident the rule change would pass into law. Komala has a contact to get a quote for the upgrade. The quote is strictly for budgeting purposes.
2. Library Director + District Calendar – Komala encouraged trustees to meet the two new employees in Adult Services when they are in. Library Lovers Expedition (LLE) has been off to a slow start. Komala noted that multiple visitors mentioned our Library being the very last stop of their expedition, so we might have more traffic toward the second half of the program. Gipson asked about the photo of the violin case, which is a prop that holds our mystery clue for LLE.
3. Youth Services – Johnson noted the Middle School Book Club participant numbers have grown and that we are working to collaborate with the Fox River Grove Middle School on it in the future.
4. Adult Services – Bunton participated in the Winter Sowing Program and thought it was very well organized and well attended. She commented that the presentation was phenomenal and provided a wealth of knowledge.
5. IT Services
6. Mobile App

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (all possible action items)

1. 2026 Statements of Economic Interests - Trustees were first emailed on February 2, 2026, their Statement of Economic Interests form from the McHenry County Clerk. Reminders will be emailed every other week until completed. Forms must be submitted by May 1. Komala is able to view whose forms are still outstanding.

NEW BUSINESS (all possible action items)

2. Resolution 2026-01 Close All Bank Accounts & Safe Deposit Box with BMO Bank – Komala noted that there is one outstanding check that she will deal with before closing the accounts. She said it will be helpful to have accounts closed before the new fiscal year begins to make the following audit simpler. Gipson moved to close all bank accounts & safe deposit box with BMO Bank as soon as the outstanding check is taken care of. Cooper seconded. Roll call vote. All ayes. Miller absent.
3. National Library Week Staff Appreciation – Bunton dropped off personalized treat bags for the staff on Tuesday, February 17, 2026. There will be a second round of treat bags in March during the second half of LLE. She also had customized tote bags made and filled with library swag to be given to staff during National Library Week in April.

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4. RAILS eBook Advocacy – Komala noted the price differentials between a library and an individual buying ebooks and audiobooks. Prices have gone up substantially for libraries, which makes budgeting for ebooks and audiobooks hard, especially as more patrons are reading digitally. Bunton asked if there will be difficulty budgeting for this in the upcoming fiscal year. Komala responded that rising costs could mean fewer items for patrons, but the Library is already fiscally conservative with collection materials by buying items based on purchase suggestions, best seller lists, popular materials, and reading trends. Budgeted money is shifted to digital content from print materials as needed.
5. Trustee Training: iLEAD Measuring Director Success
6. Annual Review of Library Director

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Bunton motioned at 7:08 p.m. to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 5, Act 120/2 2(c)(3). Meshes seconded. All in favor. All ayes. Miller absent. Topic of discussion was the annual performance evaluation and compensation of Library Director Komala. There was planned action in open session following the executive session.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND ROLL CALL – 8:33 p.m. by President Augle. Christianson, Meshes, Gipson, Cooper, Bunton, and Director Komala present. Miller absent.

ACTION AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Salary & Benefits for Library Director for fiscal year 2026-2027 – Bunton moved to increase Komala's salary by 6.32%, to \$75,465 annual, and provide the same medical and dental benefits as last fiscal year for Komala starting the new fiscal year, effective July 1, 2026. Cooper seconded. Roll call vote. All ayes. Miller absent.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS – Bunton noted there will be no March meeting. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT – Cooper moved to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. Christianson seconded. All in favor. All ayes. Miller absent.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

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Melanie Augle, President

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Stephen Miller, Secretary