



# St. Catharines Public Library Board

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2026, 6:00 pm  
Mills Room, Central Library & Microsoft Teams

<b>Present:</b>	P. Clausi J. Coles (Chair) K. Diorio	S. Dimick (Vice-Chair) Councillor J. Lindal G. Riihimaki
<b>Regrets:</b>	L. Littleton Councillor G. Miller	N. Olmstead
<b>Staff:</b>	M. Haanstra (left at 6:19pm, returned at 6:42pm) L. Jenter (Recording Secretary) H. Jones (left at 6:19pm, returned at 6:42pm) A. Maciukas	S. Mannella (left at 6:19pm, returned at 6:42pm) C. Phillips (left at 6:19pm, returned at 6:42pm) J. Spera K. Su (Secretary)

Chair calls Regular Meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Janice Coles reads the following SCPL Land Acknowledgment:

The land on which the Board meets today is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples. Acknowledging this is a reminder that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

### 1. Adoption of Agenda

1.1 Additions/Deletions to Agenda  
None

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

<b>MOTION: 2026-14</b>	THAT the Agenda be adopted.
<b>MOVED BY:</b>	S. Dimick
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	G. Riihimaki
<b>MOTION CARRIED.</b>	

## 2. Chair's Remarks & Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed the Board to the first in-person meeting of 2026. There were no Declarations of Interest.

## 3. Adoption of Minutes (attachment)

### 3.1 Regular Meeting – January 15, 2026

**MOTION: 2026-15** THAT the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2026 be adopted.

**MOVED BY:** G. Riihimaki

**SECONDED BY:** S. Dimick

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## 4. Monthly Updates (verbal)

4.1 St. Catharines City Council – Councillor J. Lindal  
No updates

4.2 OLS Update – J. Coles  
The Chair encouraged Board Members to sign up to the OLS training webinar Governance Tools for Performance Oversight, shared by the CEO.

4.3 CEO Update – K. Su  
The CEO updated the Board about the following:

- **Emotions Matter Research** – SCPL staff participated in the research project through McMaster University to better understand the emotional state of library workers. The final report will be out soon and training developed by the fall.
- **Central Third Floor** – Colliers completed three open houses and received several lease proposals. SCPL staff will review the proposals and provide an update to the Board.
- **Central Renovation** – The architect is working with the engineers to prepare a fee proposal for itemized class D estimate. No update regarding the Federal grant. The CEO has applied for an accessibility grant through the RBC Foundation.
- **Meeting with the City** – The CEO has arranged a meeting with Mayor Siscoe and CAO David Oakes to discuss recent incidents, renovation fundraising, and the Community Needs Assessment project.
- **State of the Region/State of the City** – Board members are welcome to attend either event.

4.4 Department Update – OLA Presentation – Keely Robinson and Lydia Smith  
The Board received a presentation from staff summarizing sessions attended at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference. Staff shared key

takeaways from sessions about library worker resilience, use of AI in library services, the development of advisory groups, and the benefits of programs that support creativity and neurodiversity.

## 5. Consent Agenda

5.1 CEO Report – K. Su

5.2 Department Reports – January 2026

5.2 (a) Customer Service – J. Spera & M. Haanstra

5.2 (b) Innovation, Collections, and Technology – D. Bott

5.2 (c) Programming & Promotions – H. Jones

5.2 (d) Human Resources – A. Maciukas

5.2 (e) ILS Migration – D. Bott

5.2 (f) Quarterly Department Reports of Q4 2025

5.3 Financial Reports – L. DiDonato

5.3 (a) 2025 Financial Results for the Year Ended December 31, 2025

5.3 (b) Endowment & Trust Statement at December 31, 2025

5.3 (c) Short-Term Investments Statement at December 31, 2025

**MOTION: 2026-16** THAT the Consent Agenda be received as circulated.  
**MOVED BY:** P. Clausi  
**SECONDED BY:** K. Diiorio  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

## 6. In-Camera Session

6.1 In-Camera Agenda

6.1 (a) Additions/Deletions to In-Camera Agenda

6.1 (b) Adoption of In-Camera Agenda

**MOTION: 2026-17** THAT the In-Camera Agenda be adopted.  
**MOVED BY:** S. Dimick  
**SECONDED BY:** G. Riihimaki  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

M. Haanstra, H. Jones, S. Mannella and C. Phillips left the meeting at 6:19pm.

6.2 Motion to Move In-Camera

**MOTION: 2026-18** THAT the Regular Meeting move to In-Camera Session to discuss labour relations, planning, and personal matters.  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor J. Lindal  
**SECONDED BY:** P. Clausi  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting moved to In-Camera Session at 6:20pm.

#### 6.6 Return to Open Session

**MOTION: 2026-20** THAT the In-Camera Session return to Open Session.  
**MOVED BY:** Councillor J. Lindal  
**SECONDED BY:** S. Dimick  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

The Meeting returned to Open Session at 6:42pm.

M. Haanstra, H. Jones, S. Mannella and C. Phillips returned to the meeting at 6:42pm

### 7 **Motion(s) Arising From In-Camera Session**

**MOTION: 2026-21** THAT the Board approve the Staff recommendation related to the closed session report.  
**MOVED BY:** G. Riihimaki  
**SECONDED BY:** K. Diorio  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

### 8. **Discussion Reports**

#### 8.1 Policy (GOV-01) Succession Planning – J. Coles & G. Riihimaki

The Board received updates to Policy (GOV-01) Succession Planning amended to include an action oriented self-assessment at the mid-point and end of term. The Chair recommended that the Board target September to start the process of end of term self-assessment and completing the Board legacy document.

**MOTION: 2026-22** THAT the Board approve amended Policy (GOV-01) Succession Planning and its accompanying Appendix.  
**MOVED BY:** G. Riihimaki  
**SECONDED BY:** P. Clausi  
**MOTION CARRIED.**

#### 8.2 Policy (G-06) Facilities Closing – K. Su

The Board received Policy (G-06) Facilities Closing with minor amendments.

**MOTION: 2026-23** THAT the Board approve Policy (G-06) Facilities Closing as amended.  
**MOVED BY:** S. Dimick  
**SECONDED BY:** K. Diorio

**MOTION CARRIED.**

8.3 SCPL Incident Report – K. Su & L. DiDonato

The Board received the report outlining the increasing frequency and severity of incidents occurring within library facilities. While the Board affirmed SCPL's commitment to being a welcoming public space, it is not equipped to serve as a daytime shelter, public washroom, or safe consumption site. The Board emphasized the need to report ongoing issues to the Board and the City. The Board discussed potential strategic adjustments to library operations, updates to the Code of Conduct, and possible enhanced security and staffing resources. The CEO has scheduled a meeting with the City to discuss ongoing concerns. The Board thanked staff for their continued professionalism and compassion in managing complex situations while delivering library service

**MOTION: 2026-24** THAT the St. Catharines Public Library (SCPL) Board approve staff recommendations listed in the SCPL Incident Report.

**MOVED BY:** G. Riihimaki

**SECONDED BY:** K. Diorio

**MOTION CARRIED.**

8.4 2026 Community Needs Assessment Funding Request – K. Su

The Board received the Community Needs Assessment funding request.

**MOTION: 2026-25** THAT the St. Catharines Public Library (SCPL) Board approve the use of up to \$50,000 from the SCPL Stabilization Reserve for the one-time Community Needs Assessment project costs.

**MOVED BY:** Councillor J. Lindal

**SECONDED BY:** S. Dimick

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**9. Motion to Adjourn**

**MOTION: 2026-26** THAT the Regular Meeting be adjourned.

**MOVED BY:** G. Riihimaki

**SECONDED BY:** N/A

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

**10. Next Meeting / Upcoming Events**

Board Meeting – Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 6:00 pm, Mills Room, Central Library & Microsoft Teams

Chair Juanice Coles

Secretary [Signature]