

HAMMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE HYBRID REGULAR MEETING ON
APRIL 17, 2025, AT 12:52 PM
HARRIET M. SCHLESINGER BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: Tom L. Novak – President

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Tom L. Novak, President – In person
- Caryn Janiga, Treasurer – In person
- Albertine Dent – In person
- Karimar Weekes – In person

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

- Carlotta Blake-King
- Louis Gonzales
- Maxine Simmons

OTHER PERSONS PRESENT:

- Cornell White, Executive Director – In person
- Wanda Percudani, Financial Analyst – In person

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Novak called the meeting to order at 12:52 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ACTION ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. White recommended approval of the minutes from the March 20, 2025, Executive Session and Regular Board Meeting.

Trustee Simmons moved:

THAT the Board of Trustees approve the minutes from the March 20, 2025, Executive Session and Regular Board Meeting.

Seconded by: Trustee Dent

Action: Motion unanimously carried.

2. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Voucher Approval:

Mr. White recommended that the Board of Trustees approve claims #117 through #206.

Trustee Janiga moved:

THAT the Board of Trustees approve claims #117 through #206.

Seconded by: Trustee Simmons

Action: Unanimously carried.

Advance on Taxes:

Mr. White recommended seeking an advance on taxes to be collected.

Trustee Weekes moved:

THAT the Board of Trustees authorize an advance on taxes to be collected.

Seconded by: Trustee Dent

6. ESL & Civics Programming

Mr. White described a proposal to launch adult ESL and civics classes in partnership with community providers, led by bilingual volunteer Connor [Last Name].

7. Rescheduling June Board Meeting

Trustee Simmons moved:

THAT the June Regular Board Meeting be rescheduled from Thursday, June 19, 2025, to Wednesday, June 18, 2025.

Seconded by: Trustee Weekes

Action: Unanimously carried.

V. PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Trustee Dent moved:

THAT the floor open for public expression.

Seconded by: Trustee Janiga

Action: Motion unanimously carried.

Community Comments:

- Trustee Simmons announced a Women Veterans & Family Resource Day on May 24, 2025, at the Civic Center and invited Library participation.
- The Hammond Historical Society thanked the Library for co-sponsoring its Oral History Workshop and noted board vacancies.

Trustee Weekes moved:

THAT public expression be closed.

Action: Unanimously carried.

Financial Reports:

Mr. White presented the Appropriation Report, Disbursement Report by Fund, Financial Report, and Bank Balances. The Board accepted the reports as presented; no formal action was required.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Legislative Update – SB 1

Mr. White summarized the fiscal impact of SB 1, noting an expected \$600,000 reduction in the 2026 levy and a projected \$4 million revenue ceiling for the next three years. He outlined reserve balances and emphasized cost-containment planning.

2. Donation of Piano

The Board approved procuring a donated piano from Michelle Golden, with arrangements for transport and tuning.

3. Author & Artist Fair – May 10, 2025

Mr. White reported the fair will expand throughout the building, with vendor fees set by the Foundation at \$35.

4. Cinco de Mayo Celebration – May 5, 2025

Plans include a taco truck and two piñatas sized for different age groups.

5. City Council & School City Presentations

The Board discussed refinements to the presentation for School City of Hammond on May 6, emphasizing literacy partnerships and cross-promotion.

Seconded by: Trustee Janiga

Action: Unanimously carried.

VI. CALENDAR

Executive Session and Board Meeting:

The next Executive Session is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

The Regular Board Meeting will follow in the Harriet M. Schlesinger Board Room.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Janiga moved:

THAT the meeting adjourn.

Seconded by: Trustee Dent

Action: Unanimously carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

President:



Secretary:



