

MEETING MINUTES
Carroll County Public Library Board of Trustees
March 25, 2026

Location: Finksburg Branch

Members Present: Stephen A. Wantz
David O'Callaghan
Carol Gorsuch
Garima Chaturvedi
Beth Gray
Eli Persing
Jessica Wilson (Zoom)

Ex-Officio: Commission Kiler

Members Absent:

Present in addition to the Board were the following staff members: Andrea Berstler, Jill Edelen, Bob Kuntz, Joe Thompson, Lisa Picker, Karen Gonsman, and Laura Bavetta.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair Wantz called the meeting to order at approximately 7:01pm.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Seven members of the Board were present, and a quorum was in attendance.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Ms.Chaturvedi, seconded by Ms. Gray and carried, the Agenda was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Mr. O'Callaghan, seconded by Ms. Gray and carried, the Minutes from February 25, 2026, were approved.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CCPL HISTORY EXPO 2026 LOCAL AWARD

Mr. Thompson announced the Junior Division/Middle School Individual Exhibit winner, Cordelia Moore and her project, Don't Let Them Become History: The Endangered Species Act. Ms. Moore gave a brief presentation about her project.

Mr. Thompson announced the Junior Division/Middle School Group Exhibit winner, Joanna Carr, Paige Martin, Claire O'Brien and Avery Conway and their project, The First Rural Free Delivery. The group gave a brief presentation about their project.

STAFF PRESENTATION

Heather Owings, Finksburg Manager, updated the Board on programming, community partnerships and collaborations. The Branch has many programs to support children and adults with disabilities, veterans, and seniors. The location has native gardens and many

Master Gardener programs and hosts outdoor music programs. Ms. Owings shared many messages of support and gratitude for staff from members of the community.

STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORT

Matthew Ogg, Staff Association, updated the Board on the groups plans for choosing a local charity to support and potential staff outings in the future.

FRIENDS REPORT

Friends Board members Dorothy Scanlan and Paul Culan presented the Friends Report. Ms. Scanlan and Mr. Culan named the Board members and the Branches they represent and reviewed past and future events. They expressed their enthusiasm for the new Board and are looking forward to the ways they can help and support the Library.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – INFORMATION

Jill Edelen, Director of Finance, reviewed the most recent Financial Statement, reporting that all is going well. Ms. Edelen reviewed the Budget request and stated spending will increase as Battle of the Books and Summer Reading events are scheduled.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. BOARD CHAIR

Chair Wantz noted the success of the Light of Carroll Awards, the need for Eldersburg to be included in the Capital budget and the excitement for the upcoming Battle of the Books season.

B. OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Other Board members commended the Library and the tremendous staff that continues to work hard for the community and offer top-notch programming and support for local book clubs, community partners and customers. Board members also noted the importance of offering LinkedIn Learning and other programs as free services for community members to improve skills and earn certifications.

C. EX-OFFICIO

Commissioner Kiler briefly discussed the Budget season and praised staff for a successful Light of Carroll Awards ceremony and the Battle of the Books.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Berstler reviewed events and programs since the February Board meeting, and highlighted upcoming events such as Battle of the Books season, Davis Day Celebration and the Book Festival.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

There were no other Administrative Matters.

A. ELT REPORTS

Mr. Thompson briefed the Board on the Battle of the Books schedule and stressed the great collaboration between the Library and CCPS that makes this program a huge success.

Mr. Kuntz announced the Smart 20 Award that the Library received in partnership with the Carroll County Public Network "Broadband for All".

B. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The most recent press was noted.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MARYLAND VALUES ACT

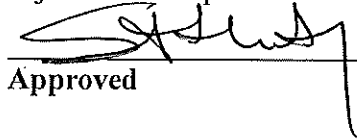
This was presented to the Board last month and they were given time to review and discuss. On motion of Mr. O'Callaghan, seconded by Ms. Gray, and carried, the Board voted to approve the document as written.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. O'Callaghan, seconded by Ms. Gorsuch and carried, the Board voted to adjourn at 9:05 pm.



Approved

