

QUEENS LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019
MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held at the Central Library, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11432 on Thursday, May 16, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 8:09 PM by Chair of the Board Haeda Mihaltses.

I. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Haeda Mihaltses	Chair of the Board	Present	
Robert Santos Esq.	Vice Chair of the Board	Present	
Earl G. Simons Ed. D	Secretary	Present	
Lydon Sleeper O'Connell	Treasurer	Present	
Eli Shapiro Ed. D LCSW	Assistant Treasurer	Present	
Judy E. Bergtraum Esq.	Board Member	Present	
Julissa Gutierrez	Board Member	Excused	
Matthew M. Gorton	Board Member	Present	
James M. Haddad Esq.	Board Member	Present	
Pauline Healey	Board Member	Present	
Andrew P. Jackson	Board Member	Present	
Deborah King	Board Member	Present	
Carl S. Koerner Esq.	Board Member	Present	
Michael E. Rodriguez Esq.	Board Member	Present	
George Russo Esq	Board Member	Excused	
Edward Sadowsky Esq.	Board Member	Excused	
Terri Thomson	Board Member	Present	
Udai Tambar	Rep - Mayor's Office	Excused	
Allan Swisher Esq	Rep - Borough President	Excused	

Jimmy Yan	Rep - Comptroller	Excused	
Eve Cho Guillergan Esq	Rep - Speaker	Excused	
Michael Twomey	Rep - Public Advocate	Present	
Dennis M. Walcott	President & CEO	Present	
Nick Buron	Chief Librarian & Sr. VP	Present	
Lewis Finkelman Esq.	Chief Operating Officer & Sr. VP.	Present	
Sung Mo Kim	General Counsel & Sr. VP.	Present	
Gitte Peng	Chief of Staff & Sr. VP.	Present	
Michael Tragale	Chief Financial Officer & Sr. VP.	Present	
Jonathan Chung	Director of Government Affairs	Present	
Justin Carroll Esq	Associate General Counsel	Present	
Vishnu Dawah	Controller, Finance	Present	
William Goldband	VP, Information, Technology & Development	Present	
John Katimaris	VP, Capital Projects	Present	
Jacqueline Martinez	Director, Human Resources	Present	
Alex Rosa	Consultant, Government & Community Affairs	Present	

II. Approval of BOT Minutes

1. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting (ID # 1976)

Recommended Motion for Consideration:

I move that the Minutes of the Board of Trustees and Committee meetings be approved as submitted.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [Unanimous]
MOVER:	Carl S. Koerner Esq.
SECONDER:	Andrew P. Jackson
AYES:	Mihaltses, Santos Esq., Simons Ed. D, O'Connell, Shapiro Ed. D LCSW, Bergtraum Esq., Gorton, Haddad Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner Esq., Rodriguez Esq., Thomson
EXCUSED:	Julissa Gutierrez, George Russo Esq, Edward Sadowsky Esq.

III. Report of the Chairman of the Board

Board Chair, Haeda Mihaltses introduced and welcomed Michael Twomey, who represented Public Advocate, Jumanne Williams, at the board meeting.

Ms. Mihaltses formally introduced and welcomed the newest trustees, Deborah King and Terri Thomson to the board.

Ms. Mihaltses reported that it is budget season at this time, which is very important to the Library. She announced that on May 21, Dennis Walcott, President and CEO, will testify alongside the NYPL and BPL presidents at the FY20 Executive Budget Hearing at City Hall. Ms. Mihaltses asked that Mr. Walcott share his testimony with the board.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Labor Relations Committee - May 16, 2019

1. Approval of Labor Relations Committee Report (ID # 1979)

Recommended Motion for Consideration:

I move that the report item(s) of the committee meeting be accepted and the action item(s) be approved as presented.

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RESULT:	ADOPTED [Unanimous]
MOVER:	James M. Haddad Esq.
SECONDER:	Deborah King
AYES:	Mihaltses, Santos Esq., Simons Ed. D, O'Connell, Shapiro Ed. D LCSW, Bergtraum Esq., Gorton, Haddad Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner Esq., Rodriguez Esq., Thomson
EXCUSED:	Julissa Gutierrez, George Russo Esq, Edward Sadowsky Esq.

B. Buildings & Grounds Committee - May 16, 2019

1. Approval of the Building & Grounds Committee Report (ID # 1977)

Recommended Motion for Consideration:

I move that the report item(s) of the committee meeting be accepted and the action item(s) be approved as presented.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [Unanimous]
MOVER:	Andrew P. Jackson
SECONDER:	Carl S. Koerner Esq.
AYES:	Mihaltses, Santos Esq., Simons Ed. D, O'Connell, Shapiro Ed. D LCSW, Bergtraum Esq., Gorton, Haddad Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner Esq., Rodriguez Esq., Thomson
EXCUSED:	Julissa Gutierrez, George Russo Esq, Edward Sadowsky Esq.

C. Executive Committee - May 16, 2019

1. Approval of the Executive Committee Report (ID # 1998)

Recommended Motion for Consideration:

I move that the report item(s) of the committee meeting be accepted and the action item(s) be approved as presented.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [Unanimous]
MOVER:	James M. Haddad Esq.
SECONDER:	Lydon Sleeper O'Connell
AYES:	Mihaltses, Santos Esq., Simons Ed. D, O'Connell, Shapiro Ed. D LCSW, Bergtraum Esq., Gorton, Haddad Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner Esq., Rodriguez Esq., Thomson
EXCUSED:	Julissa Gutierrez, George Russo Esq, Edward Sadowsky Esq.

D. Finance & Investments Committee - May 16, 2019

1. Approval of Finance and Investments Committee Report (ID # 1978)

Recommended Motion for Consideration:

I move that the report item(s) of the committee meeting be accepted and the action item(s) be approved as presented.

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RESULT:	ADOPTED [Unanimous]
MOVER:	James M. Haddad Esq.
SECONDER:	Earl G. Simons Ed. D
AYES:	Mihaltses, Santos Esq., Simons Ed. D, O'Connell, Shapiro Ed. D LCSW, Bergtraum Esq., Gorton, Haddad Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner Esq., Rodriguez Esq., Thomson
EXCUSED:	Julissa Gutierrez, George Russo Esq, Edward Sadowsky Esq.

E. Audit Committee - May 2, 2019

1. Approval of Audit Committee Report (ID # 1980)

Recommended Motion for Consideration:

I move that the report item(s) of the committee meeting be accepted and the action item(s) be approved as presented.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [Unanimous]
MOVER:	Michael E. Rodriguez Esq.
SECONDER:	Andrew P. Jackson
AYES:	Mihaltses, Santos Esq., Simons Ed. D, O'Connell, Shapiro Ed. D LCSW, Bergtraum Esq., Gorton, Haddad Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner Esq., Rodriguez Esq., Thomson
EXCUSED:	Julissa Gutierrez, George Russo Esq, Edward Sadowsky Esq.

V. President's Report

Dennis M. Walcott, President and CEO, asked that Jonathan Chung, Director of Government Affairs, give the board a brief report on advocacy effort. Mr. Chung reported that on May 29, a story time will be held on the steps of City Hall. NYC Council Speaker, Corie Johnson is tentatively scheduled to participate in this event. At this time, the city council will be in session, and would create visibility for the library systems and advocacy efforts. Mr. Chung also reported that customers are completing postcards at various branches to send to the elected officials to advocate for the library funding. A social media campaign has also been launched to encourage customers to advocate for library funding.

Jonathan Chung also reported that the library systems are working diligently to advocate for state funding. Due to these advocacy efforts, the state legislative branch restored \$500k in expense funding that was originally cut by the governor. However, the \$20 million cuts to capital funding was not restored. The tri-li systems has been advocating restoring the capital funding to the library budget.

Mr. Walcott also announced that he participated in an interview with Bill Ritter and the NYPL and BPL Presidents to discuss the issues and challenges they face within the library systems.

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Mr. Walcott described the positive energy that has resulted from the Library's Renewed Promise to the Public, which launched on April 2. He reported having visited almost every location as part of the rollout. Not only have staff and customers reacted with enthusiasm to the new look and the redesigned website, but they have also embraced the new tagline, "We Speak Your Language." Staff have created signage and displays throughout the branches, personalizing the tagline with their own "We speak" variations. Ms. Peng added that translation devices have been deployed at all locations, with the next round coming soon.

Mr. Walcott asked Nick Buron, Chief Librarian and Sr. VP, to report on the status of the library. Mr. Buron reported that he reminded the board that Queens Library is one of the busiest library systems in the country. Every day, over 35,000 enter our library for a variety of programs and services into a safe and inviting space. We circulate about 30,000 books a day and while all the board members can view the updated metrics showing circulation and gate count, I want to point out the programming numbers. For at least the 5 year in a row, program attendance will increase this fiscal year by double digits. So far this year, we are up 15.48%. These are just the numbers that reflect the incredible programming that take place every day. Yesterday, May 16, our Older Adult Day took place at Kew Garden Hills. There were 30 tables set up for a variety of organizations. Over 1200 customers participated in this event, including three programs for health, art and a music concert. On Tuesday, May 14, the Adult Learner Program had its annual graduation at Flushing. The auditorium was filled with graduates and their families from our pre-HSE, HSE, adult learner program, FEAST program and citizenship program. These are true examples how our libraries are the center of our communities.

Mr. Walcott invited the board to attend the Innovation Fund Breakfast on May 30. He informed the board that the breakfast is to celebrate and honor the teams that won funds privately raised to promote innovation projects within Queens Library. He also invited the board to attend the Library first Lego Robotics competition on June 11 at the Flushing Library. The Lego Robotics program was initially funded by an innovation grant. There are seven libraries competing at this time.

Mr. Walcott also reported that on May 17, he will be participating in a meet and greet with Al Roker at the St. Albans Library. Al Roker will talk with Mr. Walcott about Mr. Roker's retrospective on Queens and his childhood neighborhood. The conversation will be aired on the Today's Show at a later date and time.

1. Key Performance Indicators Report - April 2019 (ID # 1997)

RESULT:	PRESENTED
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2. Key Performance Indicators Report - March 2019 (ID # 1981)

RESULT: PRESENTED

VI. Other Business

1. Committee Assignments (ID # 2005)

Recommended Motion for Consideration:

I move that the Board of Trustees approve the committee assignments as presented:

RESULT:	TABLED [Unanimous]
MOVER:	Haeda Mihaltses
SECONDER:	Judy E. Bergtraum Esq.
AYES:	Mihaltses, Santos Esq., Simons Ed. D, O'Connell, Shapiro Ed. D LCSW, Bergtraum Esq., Gorton, Haddad Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner Esq., Rodriguez Esq., Thomson
EXCUSED:	Julissa Gutierrez, George Russo Esq, Edward Sadowsky Esq.

VII. Adjournment

1. Motion to Adjourn (ID # 1971)

Recommended Motion for Consideration:

I move that the meeting be adjourned.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [Unanimous]
MOVER:	Michael E. Rodriguez Esq.
SECONDER:	Lydon Sleeper O'Connell
AYES:	Mihaltses, Santos Esq., Simons Ed. D, O'Connell, Shapiro Ed. D LCSW, Bergtraum Esq., Gorton, Haddad Esq., Healey, Jackson, King, Koerner Esq., Rodriguez Esq., Thomson
EXCUSED:	Julissa Gutierrez, George Russo Esq, Edward Sadowsky Esq.

The meeting was closed at 8:47 PM.

Secretary