

**ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY**  
**Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025**

**5:15 PM –Central Library**

Trustees in Attendance	Trustees not in Attendance	Staff in Attendance
Ms. Adams Mr. Brown Mr. Caplan Ms. De Cuevas Ms. Espenshade Dr. Farmer Ms. Gohn Dr. Jensen Mr. Kaufman Ms. Lasher Dr. Naff Mr. Reud Mr. Rosenberg Mr. Scherr	Mr. Boothe Mr. Hillman Mr. Koff Mr. Miller Ms. Moser	Ms. Au Ms. Box Ms. Breck Ms. Fisher Mr. Johnson Ms. Kelly Ms. Kouwenhoven Mr. Lewis Ms. Monahan Mr. Myers Mr. Paris-Santana Ms. Reighard Ms. Scheuerman Ms. Shumway Ms. Sundermann-Zingler Ms. Veeramachaneni

**I. Chair, Christine Espenshade called the meeting to order at 5:24 PM**

**II. Approval of Minutes of the Wednesday, December 11, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting**

A request for a motion was made by Chair, Ms. Christine Espenshade to approve the Minutes of the December 11, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting. The motion was made by Ms. Sandra Gohn and seconded by Dr. Mychelle Farmer.

**\*\*\*ACTION: The Board of Trustees approved the minutes with amendments from the Wednesday, December 11, 2024 meeting.\*\*\***

**III. Ratification of the Actions of the Board of Directors**

A request for a motion was made by Chair, Ms. Christine Espenshade to ratify the actions of the Board of Directors at December 11, 2024 meeting. The motion was made by Ms. Virginia Adams and seconded by Mr. Jamar R. Brown.

**\*\*\*ACTION: The Board of Trustees ratified the actions of the Board of Directors at the Wednesday, December 11, 2024 meeting.\*\*\***

#### **IV. Chair's Remarks**

Ms. Espenshade began her remarks by welcoming the board to the meeting and thanking the Board for their attendance and participation at meetings and events. Ms. Espensade highlighted CEO Mr. Chad Helton's first town hall at the Herring Run Branch. Ms. Espenshade described how the town halls are a great way to see our branches and reconnect with the neighborhood. Ms. Espenshade discussed the tour of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum by Board members and hoped to do more at the museum in the future. Ms Espenshade also mentioned the opening of Pratt Anywhere at Open Works which was attended by the Mayor and State Senator Cory McCray. Ms. Espenshade noted additional dates for upcoming author events including Chuck Schumer, Michael Symon, and Shamichael Hallman.

Ms. Espenshade thanked Mr. Helton, Ms. Liz Sunderman-Zinger, Mr. Mark Caplan, and Mr. Neal Naff for their efforts related to Pratt's legislative strategy. She highlighted their work in rethinking the Pratt's approach to Legislative goals, knowing the \$200M infrastructure need. Ms. Espenshade detailed Senator Angela Alsobrooks' tour of the Johnston Square project as well as an upcoming Hard Hat Tour for the entire Board later in the Spring.

Ms. Espenshade concluded her remarks by promoting continued attendance for committee and Board meetings. Ms. Espenshade also congratulated Mr. Helton on being named one of the Who's Who in Black Baltimore by The Afro.

#### **V. Report on City and State Operating Budgets**

The City and State Operating Budgets report was included in the Board Book and stands as is.

#### **VI. Public Comment**

Ms. Josie Breck, on behalf of the Bargaining Team for Pratt Workers United, reintroduced the team to the Board in order to discuss current difficulties with the first contract.

Ms. Breck underscored the team's patience with the last two years of work despite setbacks. Ms. Breck highlighted the errors, miscommunications, and delays in the rollout of Cost of Living Adjustments. Ms. Breck also discussed turnover at every level of the Pratt, including leadership, which has affected the bargaining process and caused strain and burnout.

Ms. Breck listed the last few loose ends for the contract that are included in their package proposal. The package includes paid leave for part time works, a committee to study wages and wage compression, and a ratification bonus for all members. Ms. Breck concluded her public comment with a request to the Board. That the Board understands that the contract must be brought as soon as possible for the betterment of the Pratt and the people of Baltimore.

Mr. David Yaffe looked forward to the Art Committee Update during the Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Ms. Jewell Singletary introduced herself to the Board as a former federal employee and disabled primary care giver. Ms. Singletary highlighted the outstanding programming and team at the Pratt. Specifically, Ms. Singletary mentioned: Laura Hazan at Light Street, Phylcia Ghee, and Heather Kerner. Ms Singletary unfortunately had a negative experience at the Orleans branch, where an employee shouted at her child.

**VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business; the meeting was adjourned by Chair, Christine Espenshade at 5:38 PM. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 5:15 pm at Central Library.