ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

5:15 PM – Johnston Square Branch

Trustees in Attendance	Trustees not in Attendance	Staff in Attendance
Ms. Adams **Mr. Brown** **Ms. Espenshade** **Ms. Gohn** **Dr. Jensen** **Mr. Kaufman** **Mr. Koff** **Ms. Lasher** **Dr. Naff** **Mr. Reid** **Mr. Rosenberg** **Mr. Valentine**	**Mr. Boothe** **Mr. Caplan** **Mr. Courtemanche** **Ms. De Cuevas** **Mr. Donato** **Dr. Farmer** **Mr. Hillman** **Mr. Miller** **Ms. Moser**	**Ms. Box** **Mr. Diaz** **Ms. Fisher** **Mr. Helton** **Mr. Johnson** **Ms. Lemke** **Ms. Reighard** **Ms. Reynolds** **Ms. Scheuerman** **Ms. Shumway** **Mr. Smit** **Ms. Vidmar**

I. **Chair, Christine Espenshade called the meeting to order at 5:29 PM**

II. **Approval of Minutes of the Wednesday, December 17, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting**

A request for a motion was made by Chair, Ms. Christine Espenshade to approve the Minutes of the December 17, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting. The motion was made by Ms. Sandra Gohn and seconded by Mr. Jamar R. Brown

*****ACTION: <u>The Board of Trustees approved the minutes from the Wednesday, December 17, 2025 meeting.</u>*****

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 17, 2025 meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Jamar R. Brown and seconded by Ms. Virginia Adams

*****ACTION: <u>The Board of Trustees ratified the actions of the Board of Directors at the Wednesday, December 17, 2025 meeting.</u>*****

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. Espenshade offered a special thanks to Pratt Staff at the Johnston Square Branch for hosting the Board meeting. Ms. Espenshade looked forward to hearing from speakers Regina Hammond and Mireya Parada-Madrid. Ms. Espenshade requested feedback on the use of the consent agenda to allow for more time to discuss engaging matters related to the Pratt.

Ms. Espenshade called attention to the letters from individuals regarding negative feedback to the renaming of the Mencken Room. She also highlighted a fantastic piece from Dan Rodricks. Ms. Espenshade spotlighted recent author events such as Book Lovers Breakfast and receptions with Norah O'Donnell and George Saunders. She was especially impressed with the Book Lovers Breakfast, seeing the many faces of book clubs all throughout Baltimore. Ms. Espenshade looked forward to hearing from Mr. Chad Helton and his planned announcement of new upcoming events.

Ms. Espenshade thanked Mr. Chris Lewis, the Advancement Team, and the Pratt Contemporaries Board for another fantastic Black and White Party. She reiterated that it would not be such a huge success without the planning and work from Pratt staff all throughout the library. Ms. Espenshade concluded her thanks by recognizing Mr. Lorenzo Bellamy, who she looks forward to hearing from regarding the Pratt's legislative efforts. Ms. Espenshade concluded her remarks by promoting continued attendance for committee and Board meetings

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 began her public comments by calling attention to BCPL Board of Library Trustees establishing a Union Report segment in their board meetings, in response to the situation created by the now-former CEO laying off 14 part time librarians. Ms. Breck believes such a segment would benefit our library as well as the two minute public comments sections is not sufficient. Ms. Breck stated that Pratt United can either take the two minutes or swamp the public comment section with just union statements. Ms. Breck found it would be much preferable to have a dedicated block of these meetings with which they can give a much more thorough rundown of current conditions, and allow public comment to be entirely from the public.

Ms. Breck spoke with Mr. Chad Helton about this, and he seemed to agree it would be a good idea. Ms. Breck also spoke with mr. Helton about restarting the monthly staff forums, thus adding a direct line to the CEO in order to combat the long history of poor communication from leadership. Ms. Breck is aware of the current admin goal to improve this situation, and restarting the staff forums would be a good step in the right direction. Ms. Breck offered the possibility of using the Labor-Management Committee to figure out what that could look like.

Ms. Breck concluded her public comment by stating that working together to create these structures would be a huge boon not just for the Library but also the public. The goal of Pratt United continues to be to serve the Public, and Ms. Breck wished for the Board, leadership, and the Union to work together towards that goal.

Mr. Jackson began his public comment by introducing himself as a member of the Pratt United bargaining team. He requested the Board strongly urge management to accept the 4% Cost of Living Adjustment currently proposed by the Union. Mr. Jackson also requested the Board push management to begin the promised Salary Study as the bargaining team had waited for the new wage scale to be completed. With its completion, the new scale can act as a foundation for the Salary Study.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business; the meeting was adjourned by Chair, Christine Espenshade at 5:50 PM. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 5:15 pm.