ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, June 11, 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** **Mr. Hillman** **Dr. Jensen** **Mr. Koff** **Ms. Lasher** **Dr. Naff** **Mr. Reid** **Mr. Rosenberg** **Mr. Scherr**	**Mr. Boothe** **Mr. Kaufman** **Mr. Miller** **Ms. Moser**	**Ms. Box** **Ms. Breck** **Mr. Cassini** **Ms. Fisher** **Mr. Johnson** **Mr. Lewis** **Ms. Monahan** **Ms. Reighard** **Ms. Scheuerman** **Mr. Smit** **Ms. Veeramachaneni** **Ms. Vidmar**

I. **Chair, Christine Espenshade called the meeting to order at 5:26 PM**

II. **Approval of Minutes of the Wednesday, March 12, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting**
A request for a motion was made by Chair, Ms. Christine Espenshade to approve the Minutes of the March 12, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting. The motion was made by Ms. Sandra Gohn and seconded by Mr. Robert Hillman.

*****ACTION: The Board of Trustees approved the minutes with amendments from the Wednesday, March 12, 2025 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 March 12, 2025 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, March 12, 2025 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 the importance of the meeting as the Board would be honoring outgoing members and voting on new additions and leadership. Ms. Espenshade thanked Pratt staff for providing Dr. Carla Hayden with the perfect setting for her CBS interview the week prior. Ms. Espenshade commented how Dr. Hayden sincerely appreciated the statement of support issued by Mr. Chad Helton and the Board after her firing by President Donald Trump. Ms. Espenshade reaffirmed that the Pratt stands behind Dr. Hayden and her belief in libraries.

Ms. Espenshade was excited to hear more about Summer Break Baltimore and how popular the t-shirts have been this year. Ms. Espenshade explained that an email from Pratt Workers United was sent to the Board from an unauthorized account. Mr. Chad Helton and the Pratt's labor counsel were in direct contact with the AFSCME representative for PWU to correct the misunderstanding.

Ms. Espenshade highlighted upcoming Town Hall meetings with Mr. Chad Helton. Mr. Helton continues to hold these meetings alongside his one on one meetings with staff. Ms. Espenshade reminded the Boards of the expectation to contribute to the annual fund. Specifically, three members had not given to the annual fund and should do so before June 30th.

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. Election of Officers for the Boards of Trustees and Directors

Mr. David Valentine on behalf of the Governance Committee brought forth the nomination of new Board Officers for FY26, Ms. Christine Espenshade, Chair of the Boards of Trustees and Directors; Mr. Jamar R. Brown, Vice Chair of the Board Trustees; Mr. Mark Caplan, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors; Mr. Robert Nye, Treasurer; and Mr. David Donato, Secretary.

*****ACTION: The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the nomination of Board Officers for FY26.*****

VI. Election of Members for the Board of Trustees

Ms. Mary Ann Scully on behalf of the Governance Committee brought forth the nomination of Members for the Board of Trustees, Mr. Ned Courtemanche, Mr. David Donato, and Mr. David Valentine.

*****ACTION: The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the nomination of Ned Courtemanche, David Donato, and David Valentine as new Members of the Board of Trustees.**

VII. Election of Members for the Board of Directors

Mr. David Valentine on behalf of the Governance Committee brought forth the nomination of Members for the Board of Directors for First Term, Ms. Tamara Baer, Ms. Susan G. Dorsey, and Mr. Matthew Lengel; for Second Term, Ms. Virginia Adams, Ms. Patricia Lasher, and Mr. Neal Naff; for Third Term, Ms. Sarah Brandt, Ms. Christine Espenshade, Mr. Mark Kaufman, Mr. Alex Koff, and Mr. Robert Nye.

<u>*ACTION: The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the nomination of Tamara Baer, Susan G. Dorsey, and Matthew Lengel as new Members of the Board of Directors, the nomination of Board Members for a Second Term, and the nomination of Board Members for a Third term***</u>**

VIII. Election of Member for Trustee Emeritus Status

Ms. Mary Ann Scully and Mr. David Valentine on behalf of the Governance Committee brought forth the nomination of Verna Jones-Rodwell for Trustee Emeritus status.

<u>*ACTION: The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the nomination of Verna Jones-Rodwell as a new Trustee Emeritus***</u>**

IX. Report on City and State Operating Budgets

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

X. Public Comment

Ms. Anita Bass commented on how the Pratt United workers have waited patiently and the delays in the contract have been unnecessary. Ms. Bass concluded that their voices cannot wait any longer and that leadership has the opportunity to finish the work.

Mr. Patrick Moran, President of AFSCME Maryland Council 3, highlighted his position representing thousands of workers. Mr. Moran commented on how negotiations needs more ironing out, especially in regards to wages. Mr. Moran called upon the City of Baltimore to pay out Cost of Living Adjustments, saying that it would be a disservice to the city not to do so. Mr. Moran looked forward to working more with the Pratt and the City.

Ms. Josie Breck commented on how library employees take pride in their work. With the union contract ratification process beginning, Ms. Breck wished to highlight the important work they all do. Ms. Breck requested that a health and safety committee be established to help all library workers. Ms. Breck concluded her comments looking forward to the new chapter together with the Pratt.

Mr. David Yaffe looked forward to the ratification of a union contract where everyone wins.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business; the meeting was adjourned by Chair, Christine Espenshade at 6:08 PM. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 5:15 pm at Central Library.