

ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, September 10, 2025
5:15 PM –Central Library

Trustees in Attendance	Trustees not in Attendance	Staff in Attendance
Ms. Adams Mr. Brown Mr. Caplan Mr. Courtemanche Ms. De Cuevas Ms. Espenshade Dr. Farmer Ms. Gohn Dr. Jensen Mr. Kaufman Mr. Koff Ms. Lasher Dr. Naff Mr. Reid Mr. Rosenberg Mr. Scherr Mr. Valentine	Mr. Boothe Mr. Hillman 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 5:23 PM

II. Approval of Minutes of the Wednesday, June 11, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting

A request for a motion was made by Chair, Ms. Christine Espenshade to approve the Minutes of the June 11, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting. The motion was made by Ms. Sandra Gohn and seconded by Mr. Jamar R. Brown

*****ACTION: The Board of Trustees approved the minutes with amendments from the Wednesday, June 11, 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 June 11, 2025 meeting. The motion was made by Ms. Sandra Gohn and seconded by Ms. Patricia Lasher

*****ACTION: The Board of Trustees ratified the actions of the Board of Directors at the Wednesday, June 11, 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. Espenshade offered her condolences to Ms. Sandra Berman at the news of Mr. Malcolm Berman's passing. Ms. Espenshade introduced the three newest Board members elected in the June 11th, 2025 meeting, Ms. Susan Dorsey, Mr. Matthew Lengel, and Ms. Tamara Baer.

Ms. Espenshade informed the Board that Mr. Ajit Apte had received a promotion and will be moving to Chicago. He will be resigning later in the year before his move and Ms. Espenshade wished him well. Ms. Espenshade highlighted the Park Heights branch groundbreaking event and the Board members who were able to attend. She looked forward to the upcoming Johnston Square branch grand opening in November.

Ms. Espenshade thanked the Finance Committee and Ms. Sri Veeramachaneni for their herculean effort in completing the Trustees Budget. She remarked on the work that every department put in to seeing this Budget made despite some of constraints. Ms. Espenshade concluded her remarks by promoting continued attendance for committee and Board meetings

V. Election of Member for the Board of Directors

Mr. David Valentine on behalf of the Governance Committee brought forth the nomination of Jeffrey H. Scherr as a new member of the Board of Directors.

*****ACTION: The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the nomination of Jeffrey H. Scherr as a new Member of the Board of Directors.*****

VI. Approval of Trustees Budget

The Trustees Budget stands as presented by Ms. Kristin Newhall MacMillan and Mr. Robert Nye and can be viewed by Board Members on the Govenda platform. Ms. Sandra Gohn motioned for approval, Mr. Jamar R. Brown seconded the motion.

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

VII. Report on City and State Operating Budgets

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

VIII. Public Comment

Ms. Nicole commented on how she speaks regularly at board meetings throughout the state of Maryland. Ms. Nicole recommended putting the agenda online at least two days beforehand, inline with similar library boards. Ms. Nicole welcomed the newest members of the Board but commented on, in her view, the lack of diversity in the Pratt Board.

Ms. Josie Breck, a member of the Pratt Worker's United Organizing Committee and Bargaining Team, thanked Mr. Chad Helton for directly discussing the state of the union contract. Ms. Breck asked for that transparency for the future as well as expediency in completing the contract. Ms. Breck also stated their concern regarding the leftover COLA payments and the lack of communication on when payments would be made. Ms. Breck raised issues with the budget cuts, requesting that the budget reflect a prioritization of staff needs rather than a focus on international travel and the Pratt Library as a brand.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business; the meeting was adjourned by Chair, Christine Espenshade at 5:54 PM. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 5:15 pm at Central Library.