

The 885th Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Elmont Memorial Public Library, Elmont Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York was held at the Elmont Memorial Public Library on July 24, 2025.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Ellice Bekier, Board President

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Ellice Bekier, President  
Ms. Gina Burnett, Vice President  
Ms. Elizabeth Forbes  
Ms. Monique Hardial  
Ms. Mimi Pierre Johnson  
Ms. Suzanne Schatz  
Ms. Natasha Warburton Welch

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Ms. Jean Simpson, Library Director  
Mr. Frank Marino, Business Manager  
Ms. Catherine Antioco, Library Board Clerk

**PUBLIC:**

Ms. Tiffany Capers  
Ms. Claudine Hall

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Ms. Bekier moved to go into Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. to discuss ongoing union negotiations. Seconded by Ms .Pierre Johnson.

Unanimously carried.

The meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**Agenda Items Only**

No discussion.

**Meeting Room or Theater Requests**

Ms. Hardial moved to approve the application as submitted by the PAL Elmont Unit to hold meetings on the fourth Thursday of every month, subject to coordination with Ms. White. Seconded by Ms. Pierre Johnson.

Unanimously carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Minutes of the June 26, 2025**

The Minutes were approved as submitted.

**Minutes of the Reorganization Meeting of July 2, 2025**

The Minutes were approved as submitted.

**FINANCE**

**Warrants**

Ms. Bekier moved to approve Payroll Warrant #2871 dated June 22, 2025 in the amount of \$53,315.27. Seconded by Ms. Hardial.

Unanimously carried.

Ms. Hardial moved to approve Bill Warrant #2872 dated July 8, 2025 in the amount of \$18,032.71. Seconded by Ms. Pierre Johnson.

Unanimously carried.

Ms. Hardial moved to approve Payroll Warrant 2873 dated July 6, 2025 in the amount of \$50,781.48. Seconded by Ms. Schatz.

Unanimously carried.

Ms. Hardial moved to approve Bill Warrant #2874 dated July 24, 2025 in the amount of \$167,351.92. Seconded by Ms. Schatz.

Unanimously carried.

Ms. Bekier moved to approve Board Appointees Warrant #2875 dated August 1, 2025 in the amount of \$15,177.35. Seconded by Ms. Hardial.

Unanimously carried.

Ms. Hardial moved to approve the Amazon Expense Report for the period May 19, 2025 to July 3, 2025. Seconded by Ms. Schatz.

Unanimously carried.

Ms. Hardial moved to approve the Credit Card Expense Report for the period June 2, 2025 to June 30, 2025. Seconded by Ms. Burnett.

Unanimously carried.

The Trustees reviewed the Monthly Position Paper for the period July 1, 2025 to July 18, 2025.

#### **LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Simpson reported.

The Trustees were in possession of Ms. Simpson's report dated July 18, 2025. Also provided were reports from the Adult Reference Department, Young Adult Department and Children's Services Department.

After discussion,

Ms. Hardial approved the increase of \$3,200 to the annual salary of Sonya Jones as co-chair of community outreach. Seconded by Ms. Burnett.

Unanimously carried.

The El-Con Event is scheduled for Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 to 3:00 p.m. Each element of the program is designed to highlight the Library's resources and foster community interaction. Ms. Simpson requested closing the library for patron use on that Saturday.

Ms. Bekier moved to approve closing the Library for patron services on Saturday, November 8, 2025 for the El-Con Event. Seconded by Ms. Hardial.

Unanimously carried.

The IT consultant is in the process of updating the computers for the Children's Department. Two new computers are being installed, one for the front desk and one for the new department head. The Adult Reference computer with the catalog has been updated. Mr. Perez is in the process of removing the databases we no longer subscribe to and uploading the graphics and links for the new ones that have been added. He will also be replacing the screen in the sensory room and the projector in Room 2.

The proposed budget for July 2026 through June 2027 for digital books and magazines is expected to increase by \$2,405 as the demand for digital books and magazines continues to increase every year as the cost of the digital items increases as well.

Ms. Simpson and the staff are working on the next newsletter.

Discussion followed regarding ideas to increase involving children in projects that can be tied in to book, i.e. reading aloud from books to introduce projects and having a ready display of connected materials for the children to take out after programs.

Increasing teen participation programs may bring in more of our teen patrons.

We received a letter from Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages thanking the Library for helping out with the second annual Elmont Family Day event.

#### **ADVANCED CONSULTING CORPORATION**

Mr. Marino reported.

He brought the Trustees up to date on the current roofing project. There is the possibility that the Federal Government may cancel the Investment Tax Credit direct pay rebate for solar energy in 2026 which would amount to a loss of approximately \$188,444.00 for our Library if it is not producing electricity at that time. To make our system up and running before that eventuality, the architect and I have discussed the option of either going out as our regular bidding process or using a current BOCES or School District Cooperative Roofing bid. As the BOCES bid's contractor has proven to be certified by the manufacturer and has successfully completed many projects such as ours, this would be a time saver in furthering the completion of the roof by the end of October.

The next CSEA Union negotiating session is scheduled for July 28, 2025.

The new installation of LED lighting fixtures for the Library Theatre have been completed.

The emergency light systems throughout the building have been tested. Although all the batteries did work they did not comply with the fire code that requires the batteries to last ninety (90) minutes. Mr. Marino is getting prices to replace all the emergency battery packs.

Regarding the Plaza Theatre Company lease that expires on August 31, 2025,

Ms. Hardial moved to renew the current Plaza Theatre lease for a one-year period, starting September 1, 2025 and ending August 31, 2026 with a three (3%) percent annual increase in rent. Seconded by Ms. Pierre Johnson.

Unanimously carried.

### **LEGAL**

There was no report.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was reviewed prior to the meeting.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no committee reports presented.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Following are the dates for the Board meetings from August, 2025 to June, 2026:  
August 28, 2025, September 25, 2025, October 23, 2025, November 20, 2025, December 18, 2025, January 22, 2026, February 26, 2026, March, 26, 2026, April 23, 2026, May 28, 2026, June 25, 2026.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business for the Board's attention.

### **PUBLIC**

Ms. Claudine Hall, President of the Jamaica Square Civic Association thanked the Trustees for doing a great job. She informed them of the annual event in Jamaica Square that will be held on August 9<sup>th</sup>. At that event, they distribute back packs and supplies to kids. She invited the Library to have a table to publicize the Library and its services.

### **OTHER**

There as no additional business brought before the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Elmont Memorial Public Library. If necessary, the Board will convene into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. followed by public session.

Ms. Pierre Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.  
Seconded by Ms. Burnett.

Unanimously carried.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
Catherine Antioco, Library Board Clerk  
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