



NRPL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 9, 2026
New Rochelle Public Library: Main Library Ossie Davis Theater

NRPL Board President Lucille Renwick called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

Lucille Renwick, President
Corey Galloway, Vice President
Rhiannon Navin, Secretary
Tatiana Infante
Vera Salter

ADMINISTRATION

Jhenelle Robinson
Yesika Torres
WLS Representative Dr. David Mener

Absent: Eugenia Schatoff, Fela Cortés, Nancy Weinberger

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AGENDA

Lucille Renwick made a motion to adopt the meeting agenda as presented prior to the meeting, with a change in the order of committee reports to move the Personnel Committee report last, seconded by Tatiana Infante, approved unanimously.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETINGS

The minutes from the March 12th, 2026, Board meeting were shared ahead of the meeting and reviewed by the Trustees. Rhiannon Navin made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 12th, 2026, Board meeting, seconded by Fela Cortés, approved unanimously.

WLS Report

WLS Representative Dr. David Mener gave his report:

The new WLS mobile app should be ready for April 2026 release. It is anticipated that the app will automatically update for patrons.

Preliminary WLS financial Audit performed 3/2026 without any significant concerns.

The IT department has always provided computer hardware to libraries as part of the managed service, but this practice will need to be reviewed moving forward. Based on the current economic environment, prices are much higher than they were in the past. Prices have increased from \$ 675 per unit in 2020 to \$ 1200 in March 2026, which is a 45% increase.

These rising prices make it hard for the department to deliver the same level of service to the libraries without increasing fees each year. Discussions are underway with the

libraries to provide a service model that will address their needs while keeping costs more predictable and consistent going forward. This change in the service model will not be immediate but rather will move forward in the upcoming years to allow libraries additional time to adjust to the anticipated higher costs that the libraries will need to incorporate into their annual budgets.

Trustee Education Opportunities

The 2026 Trustee Handbook Book Club's schedule includes 5 new sessions. All of these sessions are hosted online and run from 5 PM to 6:30 PM. Register for these sessions at <https://midhudson.org/trusteebookclub/>.

Thursday, April 16: Hiring and Evaluating the Library Director

Wednesday, June 17: Laws and Regulations

Thursday, October 29: Duties and Responsibilities of Key Officer Roles

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board President Lucille Renwick announced that Amy Tietz, longtime President of the Friends of the NRPL, has stepped down as President and from serving on the board. Volunteering with the Friends has been a family tradition for Amy. Following in her mother's footsteps, she is the second-generation member of the Friends of the New Rochelle Public Library. Amy has been involved since 2005. And after serving initially as co-President, since about 2014, she took over as President and has been an uber volunteer ever since. She has spent countless hours and days sorting through new donations, cataloging books, determining the value of what will be sold, coordinating large book sales, and bringing in more volunteers to the Friends and its bookstore. The Friends have been a long supporter of the Library and its programs and other needs. In a 2014 interview with the Patch, Amy mentioned, there is a quilt hanging in the library lobby that was done for New Rochelle. It needed to be restored, and Barbara Davis came to the Friends and asked if they could pay for it. "You know," Amy said, "when you see it there, and it's all done, you see what you are working for... not to mention the fact that you get first crack at some very good books!"

Lucille made a motion to establish this year's nominating committee:

Per Article 5, Section 5.5 of the Bylaws, the President hereby establishes an Officer Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) trustees—Fela Cortes, Tatiana Infante and Vera Salter—for the purpose of identifying and then recommending a slate of nominees for officer positions for the upcoming term, to be confirmed and filled at the Annual Meeting in July. The committee should contact prospective nominees and obtain their consent to serve for the one-year term. The committee shall report its recommendations to the Board during the June 11, 2026 meeting.

Corey Galloway seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In the absence of Director Eugenia Schatoff, Assistant Director Jhenelle Robinson read the Director's report:

"I'm pleased to report that NRPL has been selected as a featured case study for the Library Journal Design Institute. This is an exciting and meaningful recognition of the work we are doing as part of our master facility planning process.

As part of this opportunity, our project will be highlighted for a national audience of library leaders, architects, and design professionals. In addition, we will be paired with experienced architects who will work with us to further explore our goals, challenges, and opportunities. This collaboration will provide valuable professional insight and fresh, creative thinking as we continue shaping a vision for the library's future.

Being selected as a case study affirms that our approach is thoughtful, forward-looking, and aligned with best practices in library design. It also positions NRPL within a broader national conversation about how libraries can best serve their communities through well-designed, flexible, and welcoming spaces.

This is a unique opportunity not only to learn, but also to contribute to the field, and it will help strengthen our planning efforts as we move forward.

We'll share more updates as this progresses, but I wanted to take a moment to share this good news- and to thank all of you for your continued support.”

TREASURER'S REPORT

The office of the Treasurer is currently vacant. No report available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget/Finance Committee – Chair Rhiannon Navin gave an update on the following topics:

Treasurer Update

Financial consultant Michael Castongua from Branica solutions began working for the Library on March 23rd. He is working with Director Eugenia Schatoff to review the internal controls audit and update the Library's fiscal policies. He will give his first financial report to the Board at the May 12th special Board meeting.

2026/2027 Budget

The Board has previously approved the budget for the 2026/2027 fiscal year, which will be on the ballot on May 19th. The NRPL Board of Trustees remain very conscious of the everyday financial burdens that impact the lives of New Rochelle's tax payers and therefore propose a very frugal budget that addresses only the most pressing needs of the library in the upcoming 2026/27 fiscal year. There will be a budget presentation on May 7th, at 7:30pm, and there will be two informational sessions at the Library about the budget and capital improvement bond on April 16th and April 28th at 7pm. The information sessions will have a zoom option and the recordings will be posted on the Library's website.

2026 Infrastructure Bond

The Board has previously agreed to move forward with a \$55 million capital improvement bond for library renovations, which the school board has approved to place on the May 19th ballot. There will be an in-depth presentation on the bond at the information session and members of the Board as well as the Library Director are using every opportunity to go in front of the community, at PTA and neighborhood association meetings for example, to share details about the bond and answer any questions.

The committee is scheduled to meet again on April 29th at 8:30am.

Buildings & Grounds/CROC Committee – Chair Corey Galloway reported that the Buildings & Grounds Committee met on March 6 to review several operational and project updates.

Community Relations Committee – Co-Chair Vera Salter reported that the committee met on April 6th. The committee is reviewing the community outreach part of the master facility planning process. The committee meeting was attended by representatives from Lothrop Architects and Margaret Sullivan Studios, to discuss plans for community engagement. There will be twelve sessions that will include library staff and Board focus groups, focus groups with affinity groups and users of the Library, a very large partner breakfast, likely on June 10th, with up to 200 community leaders, and a large-scale community visioning process. There will also be a widely distributed community survey. The committee will meet again on May 4th.

Policy Committee – Committee Chair Fela Cortés was absent and couldn't provide a report.

Personnel Committee – Chair Tatiana Infante reported that the committee met on March 17th and will meet next on April 20th. Tatiana made a motion to approve the consent agenda for personnel resolutions, No. 2026 (1 through 4,) according to the recommended action for each item. Rhiannon Navin seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Tatiana introduced the following resolution:

WHEREAS Jean Manning has served the Library since June 2013 and

WHEREAS Jean Manning has provided services loyally and in a way that helped leadership fulfill the Library's mission to serve the community of New Rochelle and

WHEREAS Jean Manning has announced and intent to retire on May 8th, 2026,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of the New Rochelle Public Library offers Jean manning this public resolution of gratitude for her services and hearty wishes for a fulfilling and happy next chapter.

The resolution was seconded by Corey Galloway and approved unanimously.

Board President Lucille Renwick spoke about her gratitude to Jean Manning for her services, her devotion to the community, and the Library.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS AND WARRANTS

Rhiannon Navin made a motion to approve the consent agenda for checks and warrants for the fiscal year 2025/2026: warrant 038.

The motion was seconded by Vera Salter and approved unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dwight Morgan, residing at 405 Webster Avenue, New Rochelle, formerly employed as security

guard at the NRPL, made a public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm, with a motion by Lucille Renwick, seconded by Corey Galloway and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhiannon Navin, Secretary

A recording of the meeting can be found on the library's website: www.nrpl.org.