



Minutes of the Regular Meeting February 25, 2026
*The County of Brant Public Library cultivates inclusivity
and empowers lifelong learning.*

Date: February 25, 2026

Place: Paris Branch

Present: John Bell, Paula Chorpitta (via Zoom), Susan Eddy, Nathan Etherington, Fred Gladding, Amanda Henderson, Jennifer Kyle, Kari Raymer Bishop (via Zoom), Marilyn Sewell (via Zoom)

Regrets: Steve Howes

Staff: Kelly Bernstein, Steph Burchill

Call to Order: F. Gladding, in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Approval of the Agenda

N. Etherington requested one addition to New Business.

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: J. Kyle

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature of

None

Approval of the Minutes

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: P. Chorpitta

THAT the minutes of the Special Meeting February 11, 2026, the minutes of the regular meeting January 26, 2026, and the minutes of the In Camera Meeting January 26, 2026, be approved as presented.

Carried

Business Arising

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: J. Kyle

THAT the Chair of the County of Brant Public Library is directed to write correspondence to the County of Brant requesting that all official correspondence be sent to the County of Brant Public Library Secretary/ Treasurer which has been delegated to the CEO of the County of Brant Public Library.

Carried

Consent Items to be Received – Communications

Moved by: J. Bell

Seconded by: A. Henderson

THAT the February Safety Talk and JHSC Minutes: January 2026, be received as correspondence.

Carried

Library Board Development

M. Sewell, F. Gladding and A. Henderson attended Library Board Bootcamp 2026, held at the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference on January 31. Board Member N. Etherington was in attendance as the host and planner. Topics of discussion included intellectual freedom, advocacy and Truth and Reconciliation actions.

Submissions for Board Development

F. Gladding reminded Board Members that suggestions for Board Development are encouraged and should be submitted to the Chair or CEO for inclusion in the agenda.

Reports

K. Bernstein reported on January statistics which show a strong start to the year, with physical circulation increasing as well as a rise in online circulation. In-person program attendance also rose. Online engagement measures now include LinkedIn and Threads and have been adjusted to provide a more accurate picture of social media engagement.

Two financial reports were presented: January 2026 operating expenditures are normal. 2025 year-end operating budget was slightly overspent (0.6%) due to emergency facility repairs and the County's market adjustments to salaries and wages. J. Bell commented that 0.6% overage should be considered reasonable. In response to a question, the CEO answered that budget deficits are generally paid from Library reserve funds.

The Library is currently recruiting for a Coordinator, Marketing and Communications and initial response to the job posting has been excellent.

February's *Something for Everyone* newsletter highlights the upcoming "One Book, One Brant" event, featuring Linwood Barclay. 150 tickets have been sold to date. The Spring Program Guide is now available; and March Break registration is open and filling fast.

P. Chorpitta reported updates on behalf of the Facility Committee.

Moved by: J. Kyle

Seconded by: N. Etherington

THAT the reports be received as presented.

Carried

N. Etherington presented draft changes to policies G9: Use of Corporate Resources During Municipal Elections, G10: Fundraising, LS15: Meeting Rooms, and LS21: Accessibility in the Library for approval.

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: J. Bell

THAT policies G9: (renamed) The Library and Political Elections, G10: Fundraising, LS15: Meeting Rooms, and LS21: Accessibility in the Library be approved as presented.

Carried

New Business

K. Bernstein presented the Draft 2025 Annual report for approval. Once approved, the Report will be professionally printed, posted online, and presented to Council.

Moved by: M. Sewell

Seconded by: A. Henderson

THAT the 2025 Annual Report be approved as amended.

N. Etherington highlighted Freedom to Read Week, outlining potential actions that could be taken to support the initiative and sharing challenges that other libraries have faced. In response to an inquiry from a Board Member, the CEO advised that no Requests for Consideration were received in 2025.

In Camera Session

Moved by: J. Kyle

Seconded by: M. Sewell

THAT the Library Board convene in camera to discuss confidential matters: 16.1 (4):(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the board.

On a motion by J. Kyle and seconded by S. Eddy the Library Board rose from closed session and reconvened the regular meeting.

Carried

Next Meeting

March 25, 2026 Paris Branch

Adjournment

K. Raymer Bishop moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm.

Meeting adjourned.