COUNTY OF BRANT
Public Library

Minutes of the Regular Meeting April 22, 2026

The County of Brant Public Library cultivates inclusivity and empowers lifelong learning.

Date: April 22, 2026
Place: Paris Branch

Present: John Bell, Paula Chorpitta, Susan Eddy, Nathan Etherington, Fred Gladding, Amanda Henderson, Jennifer Kyle, Kari Raymer Bishop (via Zoom), Marilyn Sewell
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
K. Bernstein requested one addition to Consent Items.
Moved by: J. Kyle
Seconded by: S. Howes
THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature of
None

Presentation- Truth and Reconciliation
Feather Maracle, CEO of the Six Nations Public Library, shared the history of the Six Nations Public Library the current challenges the library is facing and suggestions for Truth and Reconciliation work for the Board to undertake.

Approval of the Minutes
Moved by: J. Bell
Seconded by: J. Kyle
THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting March 25, 2026, the minutes of the In-Camera meeting March 25, 2026, the minutes of the Special meeting March 4, 2026, and the minutes of the In-Camera Meeting March 4, 2026, be approved as amended.

Carried

Business Arising
Nil.

Consent Items to be Received – Communications
K. Bernstein shared information on an incident at the library on April 16 requiring the services of emergency responders. This was an isolated incident and at no point were members of the public at risk.

Moved by: M. Sewell
Seconded by: N. Etherington
THAT the April Safety Talk and JHSC Minutes: March 2026, be received as correspondence.

Carried

Library Board Development
F. Gladding shared an article from *Dublin Live: Dublin's last third space: How libraries tackle loneliness while embracing tech* and highlighted the alignment of values and programs with CBPL's mission and goals.
K. Bernstein shared the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL): 2026 Advocacy Campaign and discussed how the Library might best advocate on issues of complex social challenges.

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
March circulation increased by 50% from the previous month and 15% compared to the same period last year, demonstrating the Library's continued upward trajectory. eMusic and adult fiction collections showed the largest increase in circulation. While wifi and internet usage dipped, reporting tools are currently being investigated to determine whether this reflects actual usage.

March Break programs filled quickly, the Creative Craft Carts were a major success as a passive programming initiative. Adult program attendance was slightly lower than previous months.

Expenditures to date remain on track, with snow removal costs to be monitored closely in the final quarter of this year.

The Library was awarded a New Horizons Grant to support the upcoming *Words of Wisdom* program, which will encourage seniors to share knowledge and experiences with one another and with younger generations.

Something for Everyone newsletter highlighed an author visit by Kate Gies; two presentations at W. Ross Macdonald School in Brantford and an evening event at the Dog-Eared Café in Paris.

On April 30, the province will honour long-standing Board members Fred Gladding, Marilyn Sewell, Paula Chorpitta, and Nathan Etherington in recognition of their volunteer service.

In discussion, K. Bernstein was asked to return with a report on the costs associated with opening all branches of the library on Monday, October 26, to provide locations and assistance for voting during the municipal elections.

K. Bernstein reported updates on behalf of the Facility Committee.

Moved by: M. Sewell
Seconded by: J. Kyle
THAT the reports be received as presented.

Carried

On behalf of the Planning Committee, N. Etherington presented the final draft changes to policy *G3: By-Law*s for final reading and approval.

Moved by: N. Etherington
Seconded by: J. Kyle
THAT *G3 By-Laws* be approved as presented.

Draft changes to policies *G 7 Advocacy* and *LS 2 Hours of Operation* were presented for approval.

Moved by: P. Chorpitta
Seconded by: J. Bell
THAT *G 7 Advocacy* and *LS 2 Hours of Operation* be approved as presented.

Carried

New Business
Nil.

In Camera Session
Moved by: K. Raymer Bishop
Seconded by: S. Eddy
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 N. Etherington and seconded by J. Kyle the Library Board rose from closed session and reconvened the regular meeting.

Carried

Next Meeting
May 27, 2026 Burford Branch

Adjournment
N. Etherington moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:27pm.

Meeting adjourned.