



# Mississauga Public Library Board

## Regular Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

### **Present**

Reyen Jones  
Suman Kathuria (virtually)  
Councillor John Kovac  
Mai Lu (virtually)  
Priscilla Mak  
Chucks Uwandulu

### **Absent**

Brad Bass  
Paul Lee  
Councillor Matt Mahoney

### **Staff Present**

Rona O'Banion, Director, Library  
Jennifer Stirling, Manager, Library Digital Services & Collections  
Laura Reed, Manager, Central Library & Community Development  
Sue Coles, Manager, Facilities & Operations  
Fawzia Raja, Manager, Library Operations Planning & Analysis

### **Minutes Recorded**

Anne Marie Solleza

## Minutes

### **1.0 Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

### **1.1 Excused Absences**

16:26 Resolved that Councillor M. Mahoney, B. Bass and P. Lee be excused from the meeting.

Moved by Councillor J. Kovac  
Seconded S. Kathuria  
Carried

## **2.1 Approval of Agenda**

17:26 Resolved that the agenda be approved with amendments to re-sequence items in order to accommodate timing considerations.

Moved by R. Jones  
Seconded by C. Uwandulu  
Carried

## **2.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## **2.3 Approval of Minutes**

18:26 Resolved that the Minutes from the April 15,2026 Board meeting be approved with amendments.

Moved by S. Kathuria  
Seconded by M. Lu  
Carried

## **2.4 In Camera Agenda**

Pursuant to Ontario Public Library Act Sections

(4) A meeting or part of a meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered is

(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual

At this point, Raj Sheth, Commissioner of Community Services joined the meeting.

19:26 Resolved that the Board move into closed session to discuss the CEO's Performance Development Plan (PDP).

The Board moved into closed session at 5:45pm and returned to open session at 6:02pm.

## **3.0 Delegation/Guest Speaker**

### **3.1 Item 6.1 2025 Audited Financial Statements**

F. Raja introduced Lindsay Kay, Manager, Accounting & Accounts Payable and Deepka Sharma, Senior Analyst Accounting & Financial Reporting who presented the 2025 Audited Financial Statements for the Board's review and endorsement.

20:26 Resolved that the report entitled "2025 Year-End Audited Financial Statements" from the Board's Secretary/Treasurer be received and endorsed by the Mississauga Public Library Board.

Moved by B. Bass  
Seconded by Councillor J. Kovac  
Carried

### **3.2 Library Innovation & Technology Overview**

J. Stirling introduced Dave Hook, Manager, Library Innovation & Technology, who gave

an overview of the Library Innovation & Technology team and how it supports the library's technology needs.

**Key Highlights:**

The team supports library technology systems, including the catalogue, mobile app, and self-service technologies. The team works in close collaboration with City IT to align strategies and standards.

Recent initiatives include:

- Mobile app implementation and expansion
- Holds lockers and device lending kiosks
- Upgraded self-checkout systems
- Accessible technology across all branches

Current and future projects include:

- Express library pilot locations
- Expansion of device lending kiosks
- Single sign-on for e-resources
- AI-related training and support initiatives

21:26 Resolved that the presentation by D. Hook be received  
 Moved by B. Bass  
 Seconded by S. Kathuria  
 Carried

**4.0 Business Arising from Minutes**

**4.1 Motion to support CULC's open letter regarding Bill 28 and the Public Libraries Act**

At the April Board meeting, the CEO informed the Board about the political situation in Alberta related to Bill 28. Subsequently, the CEO attended a CULC meeting where it was agreed member libraries would seek formal motions from their library boards as part of a unified advocacy campaign. Accordingly, staff is re-tabling the discussion on Bill 28 so the Board can formally pass a motion to show our support.

The Board expressed support for CULC's open letter and passed the following motion:

22:26 Resolved that That Mississauga Public Library Board endorse the position of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council in opposing changes proposed to Alberta's Libraries Act in Bill 28, the Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026, which would transfer authority over public library collections and customer access from locally appointed library boards and professional library staff to provincial government ministers, and

That the Library Board reaffirm its commitment to intellectual freedom, customer privacy, equitable access to information, and the principles and values of public libraries.

Moved by C. Uwandulu  
 Seconded by M. LU

Carried

### **5.0 Consent Agenda: Staff Information Reports**

Discussion highlights are as follows:

- The CEO provided a verbal update, noting recent advocacy efforts that included meetings with local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs). On May 15, she and Councillor M. Mahoney met with MPP Sheref Sabawy to raise awareness among provincial leaders and the public about the increasing challenges facing public libraries and their staff across Ontario. Additional meetings with MPP Natalia Kusendova and MPP Rudy Cuzzetto are currently being scheduled for June.
- L. Reed highlighted Central Library initiatives including restoration of a historic map that is both unique and significant for the historical information it contains, was created between 1910 to 1940. She also noted enhancements to the Noel Ryan Auditorium and the Library Boardroom space with artwork from the City art collection.
- J. Stirling drew attention to the expansion of online access to Consumer Reports. In addition to magazine content, the enhanced service enables customers to search for specific product models, compare products using interactive tools, review product safety and recall alerts, and access multimedia content not available in the print edition.

She also outlined several technology enhancements, including a new feature that will allow customers to add their library card to Apple Wallet, the implementation of Dragon NaturallySpeaking—speech-to-text software that supports customers who are unable to use a traditional keyboard or mouse—and the continued expansion of the Library of Things.

In addition, she noted the availability of maker and technology-focused short-form videos on the library's YouTube channel.

- S. Coles advised the Board that construction at the South Common Community Centre and Library is progressing well. The facility is now fully enclosed and is beginning to take shape. She anticipates being able to provide video and drone footage for the Board's review at the June meeting. Councillor J. Kovac who the opportunity to tour the facility shared that the design reflects both contemporary elements and a sense of timelessness. The use of natural wood, abundant natural light, and an expansive, open, and airy layout contributes to a welcoming environment. Overall, it is anticipated that the facility will be a significant asset to the community and to all those who value the services and experiences the library provides.

Other facility work happening include Erin Meadows Library for carpet replacement and the installation of Makerspace and Courtneypark Library for HVAC replacement and upgrades to bathrooms and interior spaces.

- F. Raja reported on the library’s financials which as of April 30, 2026 showed as overspent by 0.9 per cent on operating expenses in comparison to the allotted year-to-date (YTD) 2026 budget. The library continues to see pressures from the gapping target under “Other Labour Expenses” line and is actively working with the City’s Finance team on this issue, in hopes of finding a solution for a more sustainable path forward.

Library utilization and circulation figures experienced a slight overall decline, influenced in part by closures and data-related issues. The team is actively coordinating with relevant staff to further assess these trends, determine underlying causes, and identify appropriate actions to restore usage levels. These insights will also help inform future operational strategies.

23:26 Resolved that item 5.1 to 5.4 on the consent agenda be received.

Moved by Councillor J. Kovac  
Seconded by R. Jones  
Carried

**6.0 New Business**

**6.1 Approve 2025 Audited Financial Statements**

Please see item 3.1

**6.2 Review of Privacy Policy**

This item was deferred to the June 17,2026 meeting.

**8.0 Adjournment**

24:26 Resolved that the meeting adjourn at 7:32pm.

Moved by C. Uwandulu  
Seconded by M. Lu  
Carried

**Next Meeting**

The next Library Board meeting will be on June 17,2026 at Hazel McCallion Central Library.

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Secretary/Treasurer

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Chair