

PROPOSED
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
July 17, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library was held on Thursday, July 17 at the Central Library and remotely pursuant to due notice to trustees. The following members were present:

Carima El-Behairy, Chair
Christopher Sasiadek, Esq., Vice Chair
Prof. Christine P. Bartholomew, Esq., Secretary
Michael Amodeo, Esq.
Nathaniel W. Barnes
Kathleen Berens Bucki, MLS
Lucy A. Candelario
Kimberly Johnson
Sharon M. Kelly, Esq.
Joel Moore, Esq.
Elaine Panty

Chair El-Behairy called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. A call of the roll was taken. A quorum was present.

Agenda Item B – Approval/Changes to the Agenda. None.

Agenda Item C – Minutes of the Meeting of June 18, 2025. Trustee K. Johnson motioned to approve the Minutes. Trustee Candelario seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item D – Report of the Chair. Chair El-Behairy shared that she will be attending the *WNY Digitization Center* event at the Central Library on Tuesday, July 29 at 10:00 a.m. She encouraged Board members to attend. Next, Chair El-Behairy mentioned that the author talk from Pulitzer Prize winning author Jonathan Eig, held at the Central Library on Wednesday, June 25, was fascinating. Jonathan Eig presented on his book *King: A Life* which is about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his contributions to the Civil Rights Movement.

Agenda Item E – Committee Reports.

Agenda Item E.1 – Executive Committee. Trustee Sasiadek summarized the Executive Committee report as presented below. Trustee Sasiadek noted that a request was received to rename the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library's auditorium after local,

prominent figure Dr. Tamara O. Alsace. He stated that during the Executive Committee scheduled for Thursday, August 14, procedures will be drafted for how to handle these requests. These procedural guidelines will be brought to the Board meeting in September.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Board of Trustees – Executive Committee
July 10, 2025

Present: Chair – Carima El-Behairy, Vice Chair - Christopher Sasiadek, and members Lucy Candelario, Sharon Kelly and Elaine Panty. Also present were Interim Director Dorinda Darden, Assistant Deputy Director – Human Resources Judy Fachko, Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Emily Patronik, Library Administrative Manager Tracy Palicki, and Assistant to the Director Caitlin Goodrich

The meeting of the Executive Committee began at 4:10 p.m. After a call of the roll, it was noted that a quorum was present.

Vice Chair Sasiadek proposed moving into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter after the review of the proposed July agenda.

Executive Committee members stated that they did not receive their Executive Committee meeting packets in the mail. They were provided a proposed agenda to review during the meeting.

For Report of the Chair, Chair El-Behairy stated that she will be sharing that there will be the official opening ceremony of the *WNY Digitization Center* on Tuesday, July 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Central Library. Speakers include New York Genealogical & Biographical Society President D. Joshua Taylor, Special Collections Manager Susan Buttaccio, and Genealogy Specialist Rhonda Hoffman. Following that, Chair El-Behairy shared that a request has been submitted to rename the auditorium at the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library. The letter of interest will be included in the July Board packet.

Next, Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Patronik explained proposed Resolution 2025-28 - 2026 Proposed Budget Guidance. She stated that she will be emailing the Budget and Finance Committee about the 2026 budget. The Library was notified by Erie County's Division of Budget and Management that they should prepare for a "status quo" budget. This would mean evaluating various discretionary spending. Discussion ensued regarding the Library's personnel budget, timelines, scheduling a Budget and Finance Committee meeting, and the meaning of a "status quo" budget proposal. Following that, Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Patronik stated that for the Monthly Financial Report ending on May 31, 2025, the Library is in good standing, and that her concerns lie more with the 2026 budget.

Next, Vice Chair Sasiadek reviewed the language in the Renaming Library Buildings, Spaces, and Programs Policy. Further discussion ensued regarding the language in the

policy, renaming of a space within a library, and the process involved. After discussion, it was decided that the Executive Committee will create a procedure at the August Executive Committee meeting. In the time between the August Executive Committee meeting and the September Board meeting, the procedure that was created will be acted upon, and then final discussion will be had with the full Board in September.

For the Report of the Director, Interim Director Darden shared that on Monday, July 7, and for the next 4 to 8 weeks, service at the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library will be limited due to the installation of new carpeting and repairs to the glass dome. Limited access to the library includes access to the Computer Lab, the meeting room, auditorium, and the ability to pick up holds. Following that, Interim Director Darden notified the Executive Committee that there will be a media release announcing the AED availability at the Central Library within the next week.

Next, Interim Director Darden shared that the *Give 716* 24-hour online giving campaign with the Buffalo Bills, Sabres, and the Bandits will be live from Tuesday, July 15 to Wednesday, July 16. She encouraged the Executive Committee to make a donation to the Library during this time. Following that, Interim Director Darden shared that the *Books & Bases* - Library Night at the Ballpark event will be on Friday, August 1, and tickets are available on the Library's website.

Following that, Interim Director Darden shared several staff highlights, and that she will be attending the *Meet with NYLA* event on Tuesday, July 22.

Finally, Interim Director Darden shared that the Monthly Report of the Director is in the process of being streamlined.

Chair El-Behairy asked if a reminder could be sent out regarding the Trustee Education requirement, and to include various resources available to the Board. Assistant to the Director Goodrich stated that she will send out an email to the Board.

Chair El-Behairy asked the Executive Committee to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. A motion was made by Vice Chair Sasiadek. A second was made by Trustee Kelly, and the Executive Committee entered into Executive Session at 4:49 p.m.

The Executive Committee exited Executive Session at 4:57 p.m. on a motion by Trustee Kelly and a second by Trustee Candelario. No action was taken.

At this time, the Executive Committee voted on proposed Resolution 2025-23 - Approval of Catastrophic Sick Leave with Pay for a Managerial/Confidential Employee. On a motion by Trustee Panty, and a second by Trustee Kelly, this was approved unanimously by the Executive Committee.

There being no further business, Trustee Panty motioned to adjourn, and Trustee Candelario seconded. The meeting ended at 4:58 p.m.

Agenda Item E.1.a – Resolution 2025-23 – Approval of Catastrophic Sick Leave with Pay for a Managerial/Confidential Employee. Trustee Sasiadek summarized the resolution that was approved during Executive Committee as presented below.

RESOLUTION 2025-23

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library has employees who are designated as Managerial or Confidential including Assistant Deputy Directors, Deputy Directors and the Library Director who are excluded from participation in a bargaining unit, and

WHEREAS, benefits for Managerial and Confidential employees are approved by the B&ECPL Board of Trustees, and

WHEREAS, a Managerial/Confidential employee who has completed 3 years of continuous service may receive up to 6 months of catastrophic sick leave with pay as determined by the Library Director and confirmed by the B&ECPL Board of Trustees provided that the employee has exhausted all accumulated leave and Medical documentation has been received, and

WHEREAS, a Managerial/Confidential employee has met those requirements as determined by the Library Interim Director, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Executive Committee of the B&ECPL Board of Trustees confirms the approval of catastrophic sick leave with pay to the eligible employee for a period not to exceed 6 months, effective June 11, 2025.

Approved by Unanimous Vote on July 10, 2025 at a Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library.

Agenda Item E.2 – Budget and Finance Committee.

Agenda Item E.2.a – Monthly Financial Report. Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Emily Patronik summarized the monthly financial report ending on May 31, 2025, and discussed several key meeting dates regarding finance. She stated that the Mid-Year Informational Budget Hearing will be held on Thursday, July 24 at 11:15 a.m. in the Chambers of Erie County Legislature. Next, the Erie County 2026 Capital Budget Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 31 at 10:45 a.m. Following that, the Erie County Budget Office Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 6 at 1:00 p.m. ADD-Controller Patronik stated that she will inform the Budget and Finance Committee of updates throughout the budget process. As of right now, she plans to continue with planning for a “status-quo” budget with little discretionary spending increases. Following that, ADD-Controller Patronik notified the Board that City and County

Capital Budgets will be transferring to Facility Operations Manager Andrew Wiede. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Angela Marinucci and ADD-Controller Patronik will be providing guidance during this transition of duties.

Agenda Item F – Report of the Director. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci stated that Interim Director Dorinda Darden presented the bulk of her report at the Executive Committee meeting on Thursday, July 10. She just wanted to share a couple additional updates. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci wanted to congratulate Assistant Deputy Director Joy Testa Cinquino, Development Manager Maureen Germaine, and the Development and Communications team on a successful *Give 716* campaign. Interim Director Darden will report on final numbers at the September Board meeting; however, the Library received a generous amount of donations.

Following that, Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci presented Trustee Panty with a commemorative card created by the Graphics Department celebrating 37 years of service on the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees! Trustee Panty shared that being on the Board has been a pleasure. She is thankful for the Board members she worked with, and the amount that she has gone through during her service to the Library.



Photo – Top (left to right) Trustees Nathaniel W. Barnes, Carima El-Behairy, Lucy Candelario, Kathleen Berens Bucki, Sharon Kelly, Christine Bartholomew, Christopher Sasiadek, Kimberly Johnson, Joel Moore. Bottom (left to right) Erie County Legislator Lawrence Dupre, Trustee Elaine Panty

The following report was submitted by Interim Director Darden and transmitted to Board members prior to the meeting:

**B&ECPL Monthly Report
June 2025**



Author Visit – There was an *Author Visit* in the Auditorium at the Central Library on June 25, featuring Jonathan Eig, New York Times Bestselling author and a Pulitzer Prize winning biography of Martin Luther, King Jr. titled *King: A Life*. Mr. Eig provided a *Book Talk* and *Signing*. Kenneth and Sharon Holley, owners of Zawadi Books, a local bookstore were present to sell copies of the book.



Photo – (from left to right) Carol Kowalik-Happy, Sharon Holley, Jonathan Eig, and Kenneth Holley

Digital Scriptorium - A sample of the Rare Book Room's medieval manuscripts are now available for view on the *Digital Scriptorium*, a consortium of North American institutions with collections of global pre-modern manuscripts. Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's digitized manuscripts are now a part of their national union catalog, joining institutions such as Princeton University, the Boston Public Library, the Huntington Library, and more, who have shared their collections for study and research.

Launch Pad Makerspace & Special Collections Collaboration – The Central Library's Launch Pad Makerspace and Special Collection departments collaborated on a *Field Recording Treasure Hunt* to encourage patrons to check field recorders from the Library of Things and record sounds of the City. The sounds will be archived as part of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's digital collections. Participants receive a patch upon completion.

Library2Go Van - The Library2Go Van visited the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library, on June 28, to provide patrons with a way to visit the location while it is

closed for the installation of an air conditioning unit. The visit was timed with the Arts for Learning WNY *Art in the Park* program at Prospect Park. Branch staff in attendance offered summer reading logs, lanyards, buttons, as well as Passport to Reading stamps.

Music of the Erie Canal – Buffalo-based acoustic folk duo Sally Schaefer and Tyler Bagwell provided a performance of *The Music of the Erie Canal* to celebrate the opening of the *Buffalo & Erie Canal: An Enduring Legacy* exhibit in the Ring of Knowledge at the Central Library on June 5. They presented folk renditions of popular canal songs on the fiddle and guitar.

Nickel City Comic Con – System Adult Outreach Services and System Youth Outreach Services staff attended the *Nickel City Comic Con* held at the Buffalo Convention Center on June 27, 28, and June 29. They staffed the *Kids Fun Zone* space. Over 2,000 people stopped in over the three days of the event. Participants took part in free giveaways, button making, and crafts. They shared information on library programs and services such as Libby, Technology Training, Launchpad Makerspace, and more.

Pride Month – In celebration of *Pride Month*, staff throughout the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System and volunteers participated in the *Buffalo Pride Parade* on June 1. Staff and volunteers marched alongside the Library2Go Van. Staff received a warm welcome from thousands of parade watchers who clapped and shouted their love for libraries and books. Hundreds of library (fake) tattoos were distributed. Teen Services and System Youth Outreach Services staff participated in the Gay and Lesbian Youth Services (GLYS) Western New York's *Pride Alive* event on June 1. A lecture titled, *100 Years of Queer Black History* was held at the Central Library on June 21. Local artist and activist Jazz Milliner discussed the history of queer Black establishments and organizations in Buffalo's LGBTQIA+ history. Twenty-five patrons attended the lecture. The Central Library and several City Branch Libraries created displays in celebration of LGBTQIA+ month.

Reimagining the After (Again): A Day of Conversation, Community, and Care – Special Collections Manager **Susan Buttaccio**, Interim Director **Dorinda Darden**, and Rare Book Curator **Heather Gring** participated in the *Reimagining the After (Again): A Day of Conversation, Community, and Care* event at the Buffalo AKG Art Museum on June 6. Four *Community Conversation* interviews were created at this event with attendees of the program, which discussed the impact of systemic racism in Buffalo and the 5/14 Buffalo Mass Shooting that has deeply affected the City of Buffalo, especially the East Side community.

Summer Reading Programs - Libraries throughout the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System are participating in the *Summer Reading at New York Libraries* program with the theme *Color Our World* including the *Online Summer Reading Contest* for children, teens, and adults held from June 15 through August 31. Participants record minutes reading or listening to audiobooks. Participants must read more than 60 minutes to be eligible to enter a prize drawing. There is a weekly prize of a \$25 Visa

gift card for children, the teen grand prize is a \$100 gift card to Barnes & Noble, and adult prizes are a \$25 Amazon gift card per branch as well as a grand prize of a \$100 gift card to Aldi, Tops, Walmart, or Wegmans (winner's choice).

The new *Summer Reading Badging Program* coordinated by System Youth Outreach Services is scalable and customizable for libraries. It begins in June and runs through August. Patrons can sign up for the program at those libraries who elected to participate. Participants of all ages will receive lanyards and collect button badges for reading, attending events, or other activities.

The summertime *Passport to Reading* program coordinated by System Youth Outreach Services has been re-established. Patrons are encouraged to visit as many libraries as possible this summer to get their library "passports" stamped with stickers. They can also enter their visits digitally from a link on the Library System's website. There are several opportunities to win prizes for participation in the *Passport to Reading* program. Prizes include Anderson's Frozen Custard gift cards, Miss Buffalo II, The Buffalo History Museum, Buffalo Museum of Science General Admission passes, Buffalo Zoo Family Admission passes, Irish Classical Theatre Company 2025-2026 Season Pass, Rolly Pollies passes, Salvatore's Italian Gardens gift card, Six Flags Darien Lake 1-day admission, WNY Book Arts Center Basic Membership, handmade notebooks, and greeting cards.

Several Buffalo Branch Libraries launched *Summer Reading Kick-Off Parties* in June, which included an introduction to the Summer Reading program and performers. The programs featured at different libraries were REPCO Wildlife 'Color Our World', World Drumming by Arts for Learning WNY, and Juggling by Jacob Drops. A patron provided a comment about the REPCO Wildlife program, "Dudley Branch Library this was such an amazing event! So hands on and the speaker was amazing, knowledgeable and captivating. The kids loved it, I myself enjoyed how hands on it was!"



Photo – "Field Recording Treasure Hunt" patch

1. Programs and Outreach

Central Library – Adult and Launch Pad Services

A selection of programs:

- *Speculative Fiction Book Club*

- *Trivia Night @ the Library*
- *Afternoon Art Break*
- *Central Chess Clinic and Club* with Buffalo Chess Association

Central Library – Teen Services

A selection of programs:

- *Monthly Bingo*
- *Teen Advisory Group Meeting*
- *TikTok IRL Book Club*

Central Library – Children’s Services

A selection of programs:

- *Pint Sized Picasso Art Program*
- *Toddler Storytime*
- *Sensory Playtime*

Central Library - Special Collections/Rare Book Room

- *Buffalo Stories: The Buffalo History Channel*
- *Explore Buffalo Speaker Series: The Erie Canal, Silo City, and Flour Milling in Buffalo*
- *Tracing Your Ancestors with Church Records* - Aurora Senior Center, Delavan-Grider Community Center
- *Finding Western New York Holland Land Company Plots* - Amherst Senior Center
- *Zine Making Workshop*- Western New York Book Arts Center
- *Paging Through History: The Grosvenor Room Quiet Reading Club*
- *Genealogy 101* - Pilgrim St. Luke’s United Church of Christ

Central Library – System Adult Outreach Services/ TechKnow Lab

- *SCORE Starting and Managing Your Own Business Workshop* - Daemen University
- *Mental Health Resource Fair* - Kenmore Junior/Senior High School
- *Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI) Spring Entrepreneurial Assistance Center Training Series* - West Side Bazaar
- *Wellness @ Central*
- *Community Wellness Day* - Independent Health Family YMCA in Amherst
- *Technology Training* – Journey’s End Refugee Services, Northwest Buffalo Community Center, Orchard Park Senior Center
- *Book a Technology Trainer* - Eggertsville-Snyder Branch Library, Clearfield Branch Library and Hamburg Public Library

Central Library – System Youth Outreach Services

- *Baby & Toddler Story time* – Crane Branch Library
- *Preschool Story time with Ms. Emily* – Newstead Public Library
- *City of Buffalo Community Book Fair* – Pratt Willert Community Center

Mobile Services - Library on Wheels Bookmobile/Library2Go Van

In addition to regularly scheduled stops throughout the month, the Library on Wheels Bookmobile participated in the following special events:

- *Serenade of Music* concert - Saints Peter & Paul Church in Hamburg
- *Love of Literacy Night* - Lindbergh Elementary School in Kenmore-Tonawanda Union Free School District (UFSD)
- *Elementary School Field Day* - Holland Central School

City Branch Libraries

- Self-directed programming: Take n' Make crafts and scavenger hunts with 1,005 total participants
- Various reading-related programs: Story times, books clubs, and book-pairings, for a total of 237 participants
- Outreach events attended by City Branch staff:
 - Juneteenth celebration at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park for the Masten Family Reunion Block Party
 - Elmwood Village Farmers Market in Bidwell Park
 - Weekly visits to the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) class at Lighthouse Center

Displays and Exhibits:

The Rare Book Room staff created three mini-displays of rare and non-circulating books in honor of *Pride Month*. Rare Book materials relating to the Erie Canal to supplement the *What Does It All Mean? Exploring the Dictionary* exhibit at the Central Library were also displayed.

Tours and Visits:

Special Collections Department staff provided a tour of the Grosvenor Room's Genealogy collections to a group of 10 genealogists from Jamestown, New York on June 14, and a tour of the Grosvenor Rook collections and exhibits for patrons on June 28.

Elmwood Franklin "Writer's Workshop" Summer Camp held a session at the Central Library. Working with the Children's Department, campers created journals from discarded books, went on a library tour, and checked out library materials.

2. Collection Development

Physical Collections:

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
Juvenile Print	1,842	14,093	221	1,588	507,224
Young Adult Print	450	2,361	85	478	69,923
Adult Print	3,543	21,304	771	4,092	1,760,460
Media	1,514	12,626	142	1,871	513,907
Other*	1,768	10,803	27	118	173,209
Subtotal	9,117	61,187	1,246	8,147	3,024,723

*Includes magazines, generic copies, and other.

Electronic Collections*:

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
eBooks	4,407	25,102	1,289	8,445	123,394
eAudiobooks	7,685	45,509	383	2,367	60,213
Digital Magazines	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6,000
Subtotal	12,092	70,611	1,672	10,812	189,607

*The B&ECPL also provides access to all *hoopla* eBooks, eAudiobooks, videos, and music albums. These titles are not included in the collection size total, as they are not owned by the B&ECPL.

All Collections:

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
Total	21,209	131,798	2,918	18,959	3,214,330

Rare Books and Special Collections – This month, the Rare Book Room added vellum bound volumes both large and small. David Plache, son of former System Library Trustee Robert J. Plache, donated a 13-volume set of the Oxford English Dictionary, and *AN ITALIAN MINIATURE BOOK, "Galileo," LETTER TO MADAMA CHRISTINA DI LORENZA FROM 1615, PUBLISHED BY SALMIN BROTHERS, PADUA, 1895-1897* was acquired.

3. Fundraising

Fundraising:

Campaign Name	Campaign Dates	Raised to Date
Annual Appeal Total	January 1 – June 30, 2025	\$269,293.68
In Conversation Fundraising event (held in May)		\$36,200 (gross)

Highlights:

In June, the Library's **Online Store** had:

- 37 orders
- 85 items sold
- \$1,882.72 in sales

Upcoming fundraising events:

- Give 716 – The Library will once again participate in the Bills & Sabres Foundations online fundraising event. The 24-hour give-a-thon will occur from July 15 – July 16. Fun incentives to give (i.e. Josh Allen signed jerseys, Sabres tickets, etc.) will be

available based on donation size and availability. Donations can be made at:

<https://bl.buffalolib.org/Give2025>

- Bison Game – Tickets are being sold for the Friday, August 1 Buffalo Bison's baseball game and free fireworks after the game. Tickets are \$18 each, in section 117 and can be purchased at: <https://bl.buffalolib.org/Ballpark>

Grants:

- The Library was awarded a \$9,000 grant for a "Scaling Community through Archives" program. The grant will create a mobile digitization lab with the necessary equipment for recording and saving community history.
- A request was submitted to PBS to be included in their American Revolution Library Microgrant. The Library would work with WNED to promote the upcoming documentary with programming occurring at the Central Library.

4. Funding/Facilities

Funding:

On June 30, 2025, the Library System was notified by Erie County, Division of Budget & Management to submit a "status quo" budget without discretionary spending. With the uncertainty of Federal funding, and its potential effect on State and County funding, the Erie County Budget Director has asked all County departments and agencies to prepare a "What If" plan for a 10% reduction in County Funding. Unfortunately, the worst case 10% reduction scenario would result in reductions in various parts of the Library System Budget. This includes reduction in open hours, staffing, programming, and library materials.

Facilities:

On June 4, B&ECPL maintenance and facility staff met with Morris Masonry and Trautman Associates to discuss the marble column rehabilitation project. Installation of the stainless-steel collar straps on the top and bottom of the columns is complete except for the column in the Ellicott Street lobby. Marble for the bases has been shipped. The remaining work for this project includes the granite repair above the Clinton Street door and repair of the stair platforms on Clinton and Broadway.

On June 6, Six Stars Roofing began their work at the East Clinton Branch Library. Replacement of the roof will occur first, with the remaining scope of work to begin later in the summer when supply orders have been fulfilled.

On June 11, Bostwick Design Partnership arrived at the Central Library to begin their 3-day site visit in conjunction with their visioning sessions and departmental meetings. Priorities for this visit included gathering information from staff on how they see the future reconfiguration of the Central Library, and what the IT and technical equipment needs are for several departments. Future visits will include discussing how to involve local leaders and the community in this reconfiguration.

On June 16, the State Library opened the 2025-26 State Aid for Library Construction application portal. The online application portal is now open. For this cycle, \$2,011,297 is available to help support projects for libraries within the B&ECPL. The deadline for submitting online applications is close of business on September 3, 2025, to allow adequate time for system staff and board review to meet the state deadline of October 8, 2025.

B&ECPL staff along with Erie County Department of Public Works and Trautman Associates held a meeting on June 17, to review the upcoming Central Library switchgear replacement. Items discussed were the order status of the bracing used for the replacement, any items that may cause issues when work is scheduled to start in the fall, Frey's mobilization and scheduling outlook, and the start of weekly meetings for this project.

Millennium Construction was able to pour the final remaining concrete in the Central Library Loading Dock on June 19. The cure time for the concrete is 28 days, meaning the dock will be back in use in mid-July. This project included repair of the trench drain, replacement of all concrete, new paint, new diamond plate steel on corners and edges, and a new handrail.

5. Communications

Media:

Type of Communication	Topic	Air Date/Publish Date
Live TV news interview with Chelsey Lonberger	Summer Reading suggestions for children and families	WUVB TV Channel 4, Wake Up! Segment June 25
Profoundly Public Monthly Update	Various timely - speakers, programs, Passport to Reading	Sent on June 6 to library cardholders who have opted-in to receive our marketing and fundraising collateral

Launching in June and continuing through the summer movie season, we took a new marketing approach. Our commercial will play for 13 weeks on almost 100 movie theatre screens - preceding films at AMC, Regal, and IMAX theaters across Erie County. During its run so far, Library partners and colleague have seen the commercial, and provided positive feedback.

The Public Periodical mass email was sent in June to library cardholders who have opted to receive communications (over 90,000). The emails saw a 47% open rate.

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's 2024 Annual Report was completed, printed, posted online, and distributed. Created by the Development & Communications Department, it is linked here: <https://tinyurl.com/AR24BECPL>

We are planning a media event on Tuesday, July 29 to unveil the WNY Digitation Center in partnership with the New York Genealogical & Biological Society and the Special Collections Department. All are invited from 10 -11:30 a.m. at the Central Library.

Social Media:

	Staff Activity		Public Activity		Followers	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month (New)	Total
Facebook	86	633	2,896	21,133	26	14,852
Flickr	-	68	3,361	17,969	-	59
Google Ads ¹	N/A	N/A	2,119	15,702	N/A	N/A
Instagram	10	106	4,469	50,688	88	8,082
Pinterest	46	171	43	320	1	2,047
Twitter (X)	31	276	55	1,613	-2	10,442
Bluesky	9	113	58	703	7	1,173
YouTube	8	40	8,878	8,878	15	838
TikTok	2	5	1,191	4,441	4	1,044
Total	192	1,412	14,285	121,447	139	38,537

¹ Google Ads is provided to the Library through a grant. Monthly activity based on public clicks.

6. Partnerships

Public and System Services staff were in contact or attended meetings with representatives of the following groups and organizations:

- 5/14 Buffalo Massacre Community Memory Coalition
- Erie County Department of Senior Services
- Goodwill of Western New York
- National Museum of African American History and Culture
- New York Library Association LAMS (Leadership and Management Section) Committee
- Outreach Coordinators in New York's Public Library Systems
- SUNY Erie

7. Director Activities

List of Meetings and Events

Attended by Interim Director Dorinda Darden

June 2025

MEETING / EVENT

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June 2, 2025	Meeting - Jennifer Childs
June 2, 2025	Meeting - Administrative Team
June 2, 2025	Meeting - Andrew Maines
June 2, 2025	Meeting - 2026 Budget w/ Emily Patronik and Angela Marinucci
June 3, 2025	Meeting - Angela Marinucci
June 3, 2025	Meeting - Chelsey Lonberger
June 3, 2025	Meeting - Emily Patronik
June 3, 2025	Virtual Meeting - Western New York (WNY) Digitization Center Public Opening Planning
June 3, 2025	Meeting - Susan Buttaccio
June 4, 2025	Meeting - Linda Rizzo
June 5, 2025	Meeting - Maria Lowe
June 5, 2025	Meeting - Carol Kowalik-Happy
June 5, 2025	Meeting - Judy Fachko and Angela Marinucci
June 6, 2025	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
June 6, 2025	Event - Reimagine the After (Again) at Buffalo AKG Art Museum
June 9, 2025	Meeting - Director of Operations for Literacy Buffalo Niagara Amy Mazur
June 9, 2025	Virtual Meeting - 5/14 Buffalo Massacre Community Memory Coalition Steering Committee
June 9, 2025	Virtual/In-Person Meeting - Bostwick Design Partnership and Administrative Team
June 9, 2025	Meeting - Angela Marinucci
June 9, 2025	Meeting - Andrew Maines
June 9, 2025	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
June 10, 2025	Meeting - Angela Marinucci
June 10, 2025	Meeting - Chelsey Lonberger
June 10, 2025	Meeting - Emily Patronik
June 10, 2025	Meeting - Susan Buttaccio
June 10, 2025	Meeting - B&ECPL Board of Trustees Budget and Finance Committee
June 11, 2025	Virtual Meeting - Managers/Directors
June 11, 2025	Meeting - Space Utilization Study Visioning Session w/ Bostwick Design Partnership
June 11, 2025	Meeting - Linda Rizzo
June 12, 2025	Meeting - Cait Goodrich
June 12, 2025	Meeting - Carol Kowalik-Happy
June 12, 2025	Meeting - B&ECPL Board of Trustees Executive Committee
June 12, 2025	Meeting - Literacy Buffalo Niagara Board Advisory

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June 13, 2025	Virtual Meeting - 5/14 Buffalo Massacre Community Memory Coalition Oral History Committee
June 13, 2025	Meeting - Bostwick Design Partnership
June 16, 2025	Meeting - Jennifer Childs
June 16, 2025	Meeting - Administrative Team
June 16, 2025	Meeting - Andrew Maines
June 16, 2025	Meeting - Emily Patronik
June 17, 2025	Meeting - Angela Marinucci
June 17, 2025	Meeting - Julie Pranikoff
June 17, 2025	Meeting - Western New York Library Resources Council Board
June 18, 2025	Interview - Assistant Deputy Director , Information Technology Administrator
June 18, 2025	Meeting - Cait Goodrich
June 18, 2025	Virtual Meeting - 5/14 Buffalo Massacre Community Memory Coalition Community Engagement Committee
June 18, 2025	Interview - Assistant Deputy Director, Information Technology Administrator
June 18, 2025	Meeting - Michigan Street Preservation Corporation Board
June 18, 2025	Meeting - B&ECPL Board of Trustees
June 20, 2025	Meeting - Chelsey Lonberger
June 20, 2025	Virtual Meeting - Angela Marinucci and Brian Hoth
June 20, 2025	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
June 20, 2025	Meeting - Linda Rizzo
June 23, 2025	Meeting - Angela Marinucci
June 23, 2025	Meeting - Jennifer Childs
June 23, 2025	Meeting - Administrative Team
June 24, 2025	Meeting - Angela Marinucci
June 24, 2025	Meeting - Chelsey Lonberger
June 24, 2025	Meeting - Susan Buttaccio
June 24, 2025	Meeting - Emily Patronik
June 25, 2025	Meeting - Maria Lowe
June 25, 2025	Meeting - Jennifer Childs
June 25, 2025	Virtual Meeting - Bostwick Design Partnership
June 25, 2025	Virtual Meeting - New York State Library, Division of Library Development Plan of Service
June 25, 2025	Meeting - Linda Rizzo
June 25, 2025	Event - Pulitzer Prize Winning Author Jonathan Eig
June 26, 2025	Meeting - Cait Goodrich

June 26, 2025	Meeting - Carol Kowalik-Happy
June 27, 2025	Conference Call - Co-Directors of Project Flight Dr. Geraldine Bard and Dr. Elizabeth Cappella
June 27, 2025	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
June 28, 2025	Event - Nash House Museum
June 30, 2025	Meeting - Amy Mazur, Tara Schafer, and Angela Marinucci
June 30, 2025	Meeting - Administrative Team
June 30, 2025	Meeting - Andrew Maines

Appendices

A. Monthly Statistics

System Programming Statistics:

Regular/Virtual	Number of Programs		Total Attendance	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD
Regular*				
Adults	1175	7463	3664	23583
Children 5 and under	1044	7940	3387	31000
Children 6-11	3493	18146	5042	29587
Intergenerational/Combined	4569	32636	10904	66724
Teens	333	1907	585	3498
Regular Total	10614	68092	23582	154392
Regular Total	10614	68092	23582	154392
Virtual				
Live Virtual				
Adults	26	117	134	1089
Children 5 and under	0	5	0	129
Children 6-11	0	3	0	149
Intergenerational/Combined	5	29	45	296
Teens	1	25	1	53
Live Virtual Total	32	179	180	1716
Recorded Virtual				
Adults	2	21	25	1803
Children 5 and under	0	0	0	0
Children 6-11	2	13	421	2871
Intergenerational/Combined	13	52	1638	6915
Teens	0	10	0	10
Recorded Virtual Total	17	96	2084	11599
Virtual Total	49	275	2264	13315
Grand Total	10663	68367	25846	167707

*Regular programs include group programs, one-on-one programs, and self-directed programs (including individual take & make crafts).

Other Statistics:

Consolidated statistics on library visits, website visits, circulation, computer sessions, Wi-Fi usage, program attendance, and a summary of open hours can be found at <https://www.buffalolib.org/about-becpl/monthly-statistics>.

Detailed reports on circulation, computer sessions, Wi-Fi usage, and library visits can be found at <https://www.buffalolib.org/monthly-statistics/2025-circulation-public-access-computer-wifi-and-library-visits-detail>.

B. Contracting Library Activity Reports

Concord Public Library - submitted by Jennifer Morris, Director

June was a busy month at the library! Our summer reading program for all ages is now underway, with events planned through August.

We kicked off the month by welcoming the kindergarten class from Springville Elementary for a special visit. A total of 85 students toured the library, enjoyed story time, made their own buttons – and over 40 received brand new library cards! Our mascot, Reada Book, was on hand to greet the kids and make the day extra special. We also welcomed a third-grade class from SES for a similar visit – full of enthusiasm and curiosity!

A highlight of the month was the grand opening of our new outdoor reading space. We celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, June 7, during Springville's annual Art Crawl. Families joined us for a variety of children's activities throughout the day. This new addition was made possible through the New York State Library Construction Aid Program and community donations.

Our summer reading program officially kicked off the first week of July. Kids and teens can earn weekly prizes, while adults can enter to win gift cards to local businesses. Weekly book clubs are underway: readers ages 6 and up are enjoying *Upside Down Magic* by Sarah Mlynowski, and ages 9 and up are reading *Tesla's Attic* by Neal Shusterman. Our popular Crafternoon program is now offered weekly, giving families more chances to get creative.

Teens can join our weekly Origami Club every Thursday, and we're excited to bring back two family favorites – Christmas in July and Summerween – both returning by popular demand.

For adults, we're offering an Ancestry research class in July and an Introduction to Cricut workshop in August, presented by the TechKnow Lab. A program on bees and pollinators is also scheduled, along with Trunk Treasures: a Really Really Free Market in our parking lot this August, where everything is free – give what you can, take what you need!

Our weekly Conversational Spanish class has grown into a wonderful community of learners and will take a break for the summer, resuming in the fall.

We're also proud to partner with the Rural Outreach Center, which now visits the library every other week to provide support with social services and other helpful programs.

Eden Public Library – submitted by Donna-Jo Webster, Director

Classes Visit – Each June, teachers from third grade classes at Eden Elementary School arrange for their students to visit the library. This year, 90 students in five classes made the journey on foot down Main Street to East Church Street. They heard a brief history of Eden Library, learned about our various Summer Reading programs and contests, and enjoyed a quick story before being let loose in the main reading room to check out books and other materials. Many, excitedly, received their first library cards! The visits cap off with a stop at Eden's Dairy Queen for cool treats before returning to school.

Frog Foam and Other Fun – Our Summer Reading Program season of fun library events "hops off" on Monday, July 7 when we host "Freddy Frog's Rockin' Ribbit Foam Party" on the front lawn. Participants enjoy a live DJ and a giant foam cannon which fills the yard with tons of soft, safe, hypoallergenic foam and bubbles, creating the perfect atmosphere to jump and dance and splash. And if that's not enough fun for one afternoon, our Board of Trustees will offer their fan-favorite Family Picnic immediately afterwards, serving up hot dogs, cookies and lemonade. Lawn games, library giveaways and more complete the day. Later in the month, in addition to several new weekly programs, we'll be entertained by Jacob Drops the Juggler and enjoy a "wild" visit from several animal ambassadors at Hawk Creek Wildlife Center.

Agenda Item G – The Association of Contracting Library Trustees (ACT)/Contracting Library Trustee Report. None.

Agenda Item G.1 – Contracting Library Liaison Report(s). None.

Agenda Item H – Public Comment. None.

Agenda Item I – Unfinished Business. None.

Agenda Item J – New Business.

Agenda Item J.1 – Resolution 2025-24 – Intermit August Meeting. Chair El-Behairy summarized proposed Resolution 2025-24 as presented below.

RESOLUTION 2025-24

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 1 of *Bylaws of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library* states: "the Board may, by resolution, intermit meetings for a particular month or months," and

WHEREAS, in the past, the Board has suspended meetings during summer months when Library business permits, and

WHEREAS, the Library Board will meet in September 2025, and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 1 of *Bylaws of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library* states: "The Executive Committee, in intervals between meetings of the Board of Trustees, shall have all the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees not inconsistent with law. All Trustees should be notified of any actions within three (3) business days," and

WHEREAS, absent other urgent business, this action enables the Library Board to intermit its regular August meeting, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the August 2025 meeting of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees is hereby intermitted.

Trustee K. Johnson made the motion to approve. Trustee Kelly seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item J.2 – Resolution 2025-25 – Approval of the Library Report of the Director - 2024. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci summarized proposed Resolution 2025-25 as presented below.

RESOLUTION 2025-25

WHEREAS, all public and association libraries in New York State must meet minimum standards of service according to Section 90.2 of the *Regulations of the Commissioner of Education*, and

WHEREAS, to meet these minimum standards, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library must provide a board-approved written annual report to the community on the library's progress in meeting its mission, goals and objectives, as outlined in the library's long-range plan of service, and

WHEREAS, the B&ECPL *Annual Report of the Director – 2024* has been prepared, printed, distributed, and posted on the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library website to fulfill this standard, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the B&ECPL Board of Trustees approves the B&ECPL *Annual Report of the Director– 2024*.

Trustee Sasiadek asked how the \$4.32 returned in services to the community is calculated. ADD-Controller Patronik explained that the Library's revenues and expenditures are pulled in combination with outside data from other public institutions to come to that dollar amount. Assistant Deputy Director Testa Cinquino provided return on investment information for the Board. Discussion ensued regarding the \$4.32 and how it differed from last year, the value of the materials checked-out, the Library's online databases, and social media trends. The Board agreed that knowing the amount patrons save by utilizing the Library is important.

Trustee K. Johnson made the motion to approve. Trustee Candelario seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item J.3 – Resolution 2025-26 – Library Manager Payscales. Deputy Director - Chief Operating Officer Marinucci summarized the proposed Resolution 2025-26 as presented below.

RESOLUTION 2025-26

WHEREAS, there are three contracting libraries of the B&ECPL System, Angola Public Library, Marilla Free Library, and North Collins Public Library, who have employees in the title of Library Manager who are not represented by a bargaining unit, and

WHEREAS, Library Managers do not receive wage or benefits adjustments without approval of the B&ECPL System Board of Trustees, and

WHEREAS, as the result of collective bargaining, a disparity exists in the 2026 and 2027 pay scales for Library Managers and other represented employees within the B&ECPL System holding the same job group (currently classified a Job Group 7), and

WHEREAS, B&ECPL Administration has reviewed the current wages and benefits of Library Managers and has recommended modifications, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, effective January 1 of 2026 and 2027 respectively, those holding the Library Manager title will be paid at the same hourly rate as a Job Group 7 position as negotiated under the collective bargaining agreement of the Civil Service Employees Association Inc. (CSEA) for 2026 and 2027, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Library Director or their designee is authorized to implement budget transfers within the personnel accounts needed to budget for this change.

Trustee Panty made the motion to approve. Trustee K. Johnson seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item J.4 – Resolution 2025-27 – VOIP Contract Renewal - Verizon. Deputy Director - Chief Operating Officer Marinucci summarized the proposed Resolution 2025-27 as presented below.

RESOLUTION 2025-27

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) contracted with Verizon Business Network Services, Inc (Verizon) to provide Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) service for the Central Library,

WHEREAS, the initial term of this agreement was 60 months, with an option to renew for additional term(s) consistent with and contingent upon any subsequent renewal with NYS OGS,

WHEREAS, Telecommunication Connectivity Services Award # 23100 extended the service until September 15, 2029, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library approves renewal of contract with Verizon Business Network Services, Inc. (Verizon) for a term not to exceed 48 months,

RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Library Director or designee to execute any needed documents to renew this agreement.

Trustee Moore asked a question regarding whether the Library considered a different service with a more affordable rate. Library Administrative Manager Tracy Palicki explained specifics on how the VOIP contract works. Discussion ensued regarding savings from this contract, request for proposals, and New York State Contract System. Trustee Bucki noticed a grammatical error in the proposed resolution in the third paragraph. It was agreed that the proposed resolution will be amended.

Trustee K. Johnson made the motion to approve as amended. Trustee Panty seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item J.5 – Resolution 2025-28 – 2026 Budget Proposed Guidance. ADD - Controller Patronik summarized proposed Resolution 2025-28 as presented below.

RESOLUTION 2025-28

WHEREAS, the Library recently received Year 2026 budget instructions from the Erie County Budget Office, with budget requests due to the Erie County Budget

Office no later than August 11, 2025, which is before the next scheduled Board meeting, and

WHEREAS, in order to provide a timely response to the County, proposed budget preparation and review criteria were transmitted electronically for review by the Board's Budget & Finance Committee, and

WHEREAS, it is in the Library's interest for Library trustees to articulate guidelines for preparing the 2026 Budget request, designate the Library Director as responsible for preparing a draft budget request consistent with these guidelines, and submit the request to Erie County, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library hereby directs the Library Director to complete the 2026 Budget request utilizing the following criteria:

- Incorporate a provision for a \$.50 per hour increase in the New York State minimum wage signed into law by Governor Hochul and effective January 1, 2025, impacting page and senior page wage rates;
- Incorporate the cost of contracted bargaining unit agreements, a reserve for non-represented personnel pursuant to pending Board action, and rate changes for contractually obligated fringe benefits including health insurance and employer contributions to the New York State and Local Retirement System; and
- Prioritize public access to libraries in any budget adjustments needed to balance the 2026 Budget request.

RESOLVED, that the Director transmit the resulting request to the County of Erie's Division of Budget and Management as close to the deadline as schedules and preparation time will allow.

Discussion ensued regarding personnel, union contracts, planning for a "status quo" budget, and real property tax.

Trustee Amodeo made the motion to approve. Trustee K. Johnson seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item K – Adjournment. There being no further business, on a motion by Trustee Barnes with a second by Trustee K. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine P. Bartholomew
Secretary