

PROPOSED
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
July 16, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library was held on Thursday, July 16, 2026 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
John D. Craik, Esq., Treasurer
Dinorah E. Baines
Nathaniel W. Barnes
Alan J. Bedenko, Esq.
Kathleen Berens Bucki, MLS
Adam Bojak, Esq.
Kimberly Johnson
Sharon M. Kelly, Esq.
Elaine M. Panty

Chair El-Behairy called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. After a call of the roll, it was noted that a quorum was present. Chair El-Behairy began the meeting by welcoming newly appointed trustee Dinorah E. Baines. Trustee Baines will be filling the unexpired term of former trustee Lucy Candelario. Trustee Baines serves as Board Director of the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York and is the Digital Information Officer for the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities.

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

Agenda Item C – Minutes of the Meeting of June 18, 2026. Trustee Berens Bucki noted a couple of grammatical errors on page nine. These errors were corrected. Trustee Panty made a motion to approve the Minutes as amended. Trustee Johnson seconded, and the Minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

Agenda Item D – Report of the Chair. Chair El-Behairy began her report by sharing that she attended the *Love is Love Wedding Day* ceremony held at the Central Library on June 27. She witnessed Vice Chair Sasiadek's vow renewals and enjoyed her time at the ceremony. Chair El-Behairy also noted that Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Angela Marinucci was an officiant.

Chair El-Behairy mentioned that Library Director Christine Schonhart visited the Central Library and interviewed with Buffalo Spree Magazine in June. As a reminder, Chair El-Behairy shared that Director Schonhart's start date is August 3.

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Chair El-Behairy went on to share that a Budget and Finance Committee meeting will be held after the Executive Committee meeting on August 13. She thanked Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci, Assistant Deputy Director – Controller James Mitaritonna, and Library Administrative Manager Tracy Palicki for their work during the *2026 Mid-Year Informational Erie County Budget Hearings*. Chair El-Behairy also thanked the Erie County Legislature for its continued support.

Following that, Chair El-Behairy shared that *Indie Author Day* will be held at the Central Library on November 14. There is a call out for indie authors to participate.

Trustee Berens Bucki noted that the Board meeting and planned reception for Director Schonhart are the same day as the Buffalo Bills home opener. Discussion ensued regarding the home opener, attendance of elected officials, and other community partners. It was decided that the reception would be moved to September 10 after the Executive Committee meeting to avoid attendance conflicts.

Finally, Chair El-Behairy reminded the Board that the October meeting will be held at the Elaine M. Panty Branch Library. There will be an anniversary reception for Trustee Panty from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. after which the meeting will commence.

Trustee Bojak arrived at 4:10 p.m.

Agenda Item E – Committee Reports.

Agenda Item E.1 – Executive Committee. Vice Chair Sasiadek summarized the Executive Committee report as presented below. Vice Chair Sasiadek reminded the Board to donate during the *Give 716* campaign. Each year the Board is required to complete a minimum of two hours of trustee education. Discussion ensued regarding adding 15 minutes of trustee education to each meeting under Agenda Item – Unfinished Business beginning in September.

Vice Chair Sasiadek thanked Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci for her officiating duties during the *Love is Love Wedding Day* event, Chair El-Behairy for being present with his children, and Launch Pad Manager Jordan Smith for the terrific photos.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Board of Trustees – Executive Committee
July 9, 2026

Present: Chair – Carima El-Behairy, Vice Chair Christopher Sasiadek, members Kimberly Johnson, Sharon Kelly, and Elaine Panty. Also present were Deputy Director – Public Services Dorinda Darden, Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Angela Marinucci, Assistant Deputy Director – Controller James Mitaritonna, Library Administrative Manager Tracy Palicki, and Assistant to the Director Cait Goodrich

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The meeting of the Executive Committee began at 4:02 p.m. After a call of the roll, it was noted that a quorum was present.

Chair El-Behairy began the meeting by reviewing the proposed agenda. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci shared that Assemblymember Jonathan D. Rivera is awarding \$200,000 to the Elaine M. Panty Branch Library and \$100,000 to the Hamburg Public Library. Discussion ensued regarding how the funds will be used for the Elaine M. Panty Branch Library. Discussion also ensued regarding how Hamburg Public Library will potentially use the funds. Chair El-Behairy stated that there was discussion about expanding the music park. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer – Marinucci stated that it also discussed creating a study room and potentially upgrading its AV equipment. Therefore, there will need to be a proposed resolution to accept these funds added onto the agenda for the Board meeting next week. The proposed resolution will be presented under Agenda Item K – New Business as proposed resolution 2026-19.

For the Report of the Chair, Chair El-Behairy stated that she will mention that she participated in the Erie County's Historical Commission's *Quack Quest 250* in which the Library participated. Chair El-Behairy excitedly shared her experience with the Executive Committee and said it was a fun activity. Vice Chair Sasiadek mentioned that the Launch Pad Makerspace offers a program called the *Buffalo Field Recording Treasure Hunt* where you check out one of their field recorders, visit locations around Buffalo to record unique sounds, and upon completion of the hunt, you receive an embroidered patch as an award.

Chair El-Behairy continued reviewing the proposed agenda with the Executive Committee.

Library Administrative Manager Palicki shared that the Library is still within budget. There was also discussion regarding changes to Tier 6 in New York State Retirement and their effect on the Library's budget, as well as discussion regarding monitoring utilities as usual. Chair El-Behairy asked about scheduling a Budget & Finance Committee meeting. Library Administrative Manager Palicki stated that they will ask at the meeting next week about whether a meeting after the Executive Committee meeting in August is doable for everyone's schedules.

Deputy Director – Public Services Darden shared the Health & Human Services Committee of the Erie County Legislature recommended confirmation of the appointment of Dinorah E. Baines to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees on July 1. The Erie County Legislature formally approved her appointment at their session on July 9.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board Chair El-Behairy and Library Administration will present at the *Erie County Mid-Year Budget Hearing* on July 15.

The Library Foundation has approved funding the *Meet & Greet Reception* on September 17, in the Central Library Collections Gallery from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for new Director Christine Schonhart. The funding will be used for refreshments, flowers, and entertainment.

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Safety and security interactions at the Central Library and the Buffalo Branches over the last month have been what is typically expected, including occasional violations of Rules of Conduct handled by Security.

Lastly, Give 716, Western New York's biggest day of online community giving, launches on July 15 at 7:16 p.m. and runs through midnight on July 16. Deputy Director – Public Services Darden shared that individuals can make a tax-deductible donation to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library for the system-wide *Bucks for Books* campaign at <https://tinyurl.com/Give716Library>. Give 716 is powered by the Buffalo Bills Foundation and the Buffalo Sabres Foundation. Discussion ensued regarding Give 716, United Way, and the 2nd Annual Orion's Rocket Pops Garden Walk Popsicle Stand.

Trustee Johnson said she will give the Report of the Foundation.

Discussion ensued regarding holding 15 minutes of Library training for the Board under Agenda Item – Unfinished Business beginning in September.

There being no further business, Trustee Kelly motioned to adjourn, and Trustee Johnson seconded. The meeting ended at 4:47 p.m.

Agenda Item E.2 – Budget and Finance Committee.

Agenda Item E.2.a – Monthly Financial Report. Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Mitaritonna summarized the Monthly Financial Report ending on May 31, 2026. Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Mitaritonna stated he will be sending out an email regarding the Budget and Finance Committee meeting that is scheduled for August 13. Discussion ensued regarding the interfunds for the Holding Center, Erie County Correctional Facility, and Court Storage.

Agenda Item E.3 – Policy Committee. Trustee Panty summarized the Policy Committee report as presented below. Trustee Berens Bucki noticed a minor error on the second pages of the report. This was corrected.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Board of Trustees – Policy Committee
June 18, 2026

Present: Chair Elaine Panty, and members Christine Bartholomew*, Alan Bedenko, Adam Bojak*, and John Craik. Also present were Deputy Director – Public Services Dorinda Darden, Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Angela Marinucci, Assistant Deputy Director – Development and Communications Joy Testa Cinquino and Assistant to the Director Cait Goodrich

*Trustees Bartholomew and Bojak attended the meeting remotely due to extraordinary circumstances and were considered full participants.

The meeting of the Policy Committee began at 4:42 p.m. A quorum was present.

Chair Panty began with reviewing the current Bulletin Board Policy, Distribution Policy, and the proposed combination of the two into the Bulletin Board & Print Material Distribution Policy. Assistant Deputy Director – Development and Communications Testa Cinquino explained the policies as presented. The proposed combined policy will update the style to abide by the Library’s brand guidelines. Discussion ensued regarding the types of print materials the Library accepts and distributes. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Bedenko, Trustee Craik seconded, and the Bulletin Board & Print Material Distribution Policy was approved unanimously to move to the full Board.

Next, the Information Technology Security Policy Manual was reviewed. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci explained the proposed amendments to the Information Technology Security Policy Manual as presented. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci stated that the substantive change to this policy is the complexity requirements for passwords. Discussion ensued regarding remote access and Virtual Private Network (VPN) connections. Trustee Bedenko motioned to approve, Trustee Craik seconded, and this was approved unanimously to move to the full Board.

The Policy Committee went on to review the Public Health Emergency Operations Plan. Deputy Director – Public Services Darden explained the proposed amendments to the Public Health Emergency Operations Plan as presented. Deputy Director – Public Services Darden explained that non-applicable information was removed, accurate titles of staff were added, and clarifications were made between essential and non-essential employees. Deputy Director – Public Services thanked Special Projects Coordinator Erin Vest for her assistance in reviewing this policy. Discussion ensued regarding the determination of essential and non-essential employees and a breakdown of the chart included within the policy. Trustee Craik motioned to approve, Trustee Bedenko seconded, and this was approved unanimously to move to the full Board.

Chair Panty went on to review the Internet Safety & Acceptable Use Policy. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci explained the proposed amendments to the Internet Safety & Acceptable Use Policy as presented. Discussion ensued regarding E-Rate and the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Trustee Bojak noted a couple grammatical changes. These changes were made. Trustee Bedenko motioned to approve as amended, Trustee Craik seconded, and this was approved unanimously as amended to move to the full Board.

Lastly, the Policy Committee reviewed the Free Direct Access Plan. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci explained amendments to the Free Direct Access Plan as presented. She explained that this is part of the Library’s Five Year Library Plan of Service 2027-2031. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci stated that Gowanda Correctional Facility is now closed. Therefore, it will be removed from the Free Direct Access Plan. Trustee Craik motioned to approve, Trustee Bedenko seconded, and this was approved unanimously to move to the full Board.

With no further business, on a motion by Trustee Bedenko, seconded by Trustee Craik the Policy Committee adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Agenda Item F – Report of the Director. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci began her report by reading the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement as presented below:

Copies of the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements have been submitted by each System Trustee, and Key Employee of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library for the year 2026 and have been sent to Alan Bedenko, Chair of the Governance Committee per Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Conflict of Interest Policy, Article III.

Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci also thanked Trustee Baines for serving on the Library Board of Trustees and thanked the Erie County Legislature for approving her appointment.

This past month the Library held Juneteenth celebrations across the system. One of the celebrations consisted of a documentary showing at the Central Library on Juneteenth history in Buffalo directed by Doug Ruffin.

Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci reported that summer reading and the *Passport to Reading* program have continued to be popular. She noted that Trustee Bedenko was featured on the Amherst Public Library's social media. In addition to the observation of successful summer reading programming, Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci thanked Library staff for organizing the *Love is Love Wedding Day* event.

Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci highlighted the *Give 716* campaign and how to donate to the Library.

Trustee Craik arrived at 4:21 p.m.

Lastly, Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci provided the Board with an updated organizational chart now publicly available on the website, which includes reference to Director Schonhart's start date and changes to the organizational chart that were made in January 2026.

The following report was submitted by Deputy Director – Public Services Darden and transmitted to Board members prior to the meeting:

**B&ECPL Monthly Report
June 2026**



Juneteenth Celebrations – In celebration of *Juneteenth*, Special Collections and System Adult Outreach Services staff hosted and participated in events. Events included a public screening of a short documentary on the history of *Juneteenth in Buffalo* provided by Director of the Buffalo History Channel on YouTube Doug Ruffin, held in the Ring of Knowledge at the Central Library on June 10. Special Collections Manager **Susan Buttaccio** and Special Collections Librarian **Adam Rubin** presented about *Community Archiving* and provided information about the *5/14 Buffalo Massacre Community Memory Coalition* at Canisius University's *Sankofa Day*, as part of the citywide *Buffalo Juneteenth Festival* on June 11. There were 114 volunteers, students, and faculty in attendance. System Adult Outreach Services Librarian **Jacob Rachwal** provided tabling at Community Access Services *Juneteenth Celebration* in Buffalo on June 12. He provided information on Library resources, programs, and services to nearly 200 people who visited the library table. Library card applications were also distributed.

Nickel City Comic Con - System Adult Outreach Services and System Youth Outreach Services staff tabled in the Kid Zone room at the *Nickel City Comic Con* held at the Buffalo Convention Center on June 26 through June 28. They provided books, crafts, and made buttons for attendees and their children at the event. They shared information about programs and services offered throughout the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System with over 1,000 people who visited the room over this three-day event.

Online Summer Reading Contest – The *Unearth a Story Online Summer Reading Contest*, for children, teens, and adults runs from June 1 through August 21. There is also a staff contest as well. Participants record the minutes read for a chance to win prizes. Every minute of reading earns participants one point. There is a weekly drawing for a chance to win a \$50 Denny's gift card for children, as well as grand prize drawings for teens for a \$100 Visa gift card and a \$100 gift card to either ALDI, Tops, Walmart or Wegmans for adults who read 60 minutes or more. Participants can also complete missions to earn badges.

Pride Month – In celebration of *Pride Month*, nearly twenty staff, family, and friends from throughout the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System volunteered to march alongside the Library2Go Van in the *Buffalo Pride Parade* on June 7, organized by Children's Room Manager and Librarian **Dan Lewandowski**.

System Youth Outreach Services Manager **Chelsey Lonberger** and Aurora Town Public Library Librarian **Alissa Steele** attended the *East Aurora Pride* event on June 6. They gave away free books, bookmarks, and event calendars for the Aurora Town Public Library.

Over 100 people visited the Library table. East Aurora Councilmembers and Mayor Luke E. Wochensky also attended the event. System Youth Outreach Services Librarian Trainee **Max Brousseau** participated in the *Pride Alive* event presented by GLYS of Western New York on June 7 in Buffalo.

Dudley Branch Library hosted the branch's yearly *Mini Pride Party* on June 6. The family-friendly event featured crafts, rainbow Rice Crispy treats, and the movie *Love, Simon*. The event both created an opportunity for people to attend a lower-key Pride event, the opportunity to make low-cost Pride gear, and connect with others in the South Buffalo area.

On June 27, Central Adult Services, Launch Pad, and Teen Services staff hosted the *Love is Love Wedding Day*. This event allowed couples to get married or renew their vows. The idea for this program came from Central Adult Services Department Senior Library Clerk **Hailey Oldham**. **Hailey**, Deputy Director - Chief Operating Officer **Angela Marinucci**, and Teen Services Librarian **Kelly Woods** served as officiants for the program.

Sparkling juice toasts and cakes were provided (donated by Nothing Bundt Cakes) for the couples and their families, friends, and members of the community, and Botan Flowers donated a beautiful floral arrangement. Launch Pad Manager **Jordan Smith** provided photography for both the library and the couples getting married, while Launch Pad Technology Clerk **Tyler Whitehead** designed and manufactured commemorative wedding ornaments for the participants using equipment from the Launch Pad.



Photos – Couples participating in the Love is Love Wedding Day Celebration

Leroy R. Coles, Jr. and Elaine M. Panty libraries hosted the first month of *Mobile Markets* bringing high quality, affordable produce to library patrons in areas experiencing a dearth of grocery stores. Community members can use SNAP benefits, the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) coupon, and FreshConnect checks to purchase food at these markets. Panty is collaborating with Feedmore WNY and Leroy R. Coles, Jr. with the Massachusetts Avenue Project. Jericho Road used the *Mobile Market* as an opportunity to take students on a fieldtrip to visit the Leroy R. Coles, Jr. Branch Library and buy produce.

Leroy R. Coles, Jr. and Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. libraries are hosting the Buffalo Public Schools lunch programs at their branches this summer, which provide free meals to youth up to the age of 18. The programs run July 7- August 14.

On June 17, the Eighth Judicial District and Buffalo & Erie County Public Library co-hosted a *Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Virtual Court Access Network (VCAN) Access* set up in the computer lab at the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library. The network provides access to the court system's various online resources with a dedicated computer station and scanner with the capability to be used for virtual court appearances.

On June 20, **Dan Lewandowski**, in partnership with Juniper Moon from Buffalo Commons Charter School, hosted an art gallery opening for students who had submitted artwork of Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) animals waiting to be adopted. Light refreshments were served, and parents were invited to come with their little artists to see their artwork up on display.

Kids (ages 3-12), parents, and grandparents, helped the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library kick off summer reading with a *Tea Rex Party* on June 30. Librarian **Heather Bermingham** read *Tea Rex* while Branch Manager **Joshua Mitch**, in an inflatable t-rex costume, and Librarian III **Teresa Vadakin**, in a tea party dress and homemade teacup hat, provided a performance of the book.

Everyone enjoyed a tea party featuring lemonade, fruit punch, water, dinosaur cookies, and dinosaur cupcakes donated by volunteer bakers from For Goodness Cakes Buffalo, an organization that provides baked goods to people working with at-risk children and teens. Candace Alnaji, of For Goodness Cakes, also spent time decorating the tables for the event. A variety of crafts, games, and activities included a sensory bin with sand, fossils, shovels, and dinosaurs; pin the plates on the stegosaurus; a Triceratoss ring toss game; and fizzy eggs with a surprise center.



Photos – Family members having fun during the Tea Rex Party at Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library

1. Programs and Outreach

Central Library – Adult and Launch Pad Services

- Cookbook Club
- Weekly Wednesday Movie Matinee
- 3D Printing Certification Class
- Noon Yoga Recharge hosted by Parkside Yoga
- Universal Anime Saturday: Studio Ghibli's Princess Mononoke
- Speculative Fiction Book Club
- Tea Blend Workshop
- Craft & Create
- Dungeons and Dragons drop-in group
- Graphic Novel Book Club
- Stitch Circle

Central Library – Teen Services

- Teen Advisory Group (TAG)
- VR Saturdays
- After school Bingo
- After school crafts

Central Library – Children's Services

- Peaceful Playtime– school-aged focused sensory hour
- Pint-Sized Picassos–toddler-focused painting program
- Tiny Tots Storytime - (0-3 year-olds)

Central Library - Special Collections/Rare Book Room

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- *Community Archiving Workshop* presented by Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture
- *Explore Buffalo Speaker Series: Italian Immigration in Buffalo & Western New York* presented by Debra Hall-Stonish
- *Genealogy Training: Book a Librarian Genealogy Session, Finding Online Western New York Naturalization Records* – Batavia, NY for Genesee Area Genealogists, *Telling Your Family's Story through Military Records* through Erie County's University Express – Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers (BFNC) Hope Center, Lancaster Senior Center, Newstead Senior Center, Evans Senior Center, Richmond-Summer Senior Center in Buffalo
- *Tarot Tuesday*
- *Assets in the Attic with Mark Dabney: A Three Part Series*
- *Paging Through History: The Grosvenor Room Quiet Reading Club*
- *Artist Lecture: AP Gorny's Book of Artist's Proofs*

Central Library – System Adult Outreach Services/ TechKnow Lab

- *Book a Librarian*
- *Book a Technology Trainer* sessions at various Buffalo & Erie County Public Library locations
- *Notary Service*
- *Technology Training: Digital Decluttering* – Kenmore Branch Library
- *University Express Technology Classes: Computer Review* – Brookdale Senior Living, *Intro to AI* – Dorothy J. Collier Community Center in Buffalo, Amherst Senior Center, Richmond - Summer Senior Center in Buffalo, West Seneca Senior Center, *Is Your Phone Out of Storage* – Orchard Park Senior Center, *Phone Video* – Westminster Community, *YouTube* – Delavan Grider Community Center in Buffalo
- *Walk-up Tech Help*
- *Virtual Presentations: Library Speakers Consortium Knowledge Sharing Session, Small Business Resources at the Library* – Prosperity Fellowship program at Canisius University
- *Virtual Author Talk: Apocalyptic Mayhem, Lava-Spitting Llamas, and One Very Sassy Cat: Surviving the Universe's Most Twisted RPG* with Matt Dinniman – Library Speakers Consortium
- *Tabling: Buffalo Veterans Administration (VA) Annual Caregiver Resource Fair* – VA Medical Center in Buffalo, *Mental Health Resource Fair* – Kenmore Junior/Senior High School, Western New York Developmental Disabilities Services Office and Western New York Children's Psychiatric Center's *Health & Wellness Fair* in West Seneca, NY, *Buffalo East Side Community Job Fair* – Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Buffalo, 3rd annual *Canalside Children's Book Festival* – Buffalo Waterfront
- *University Express Lectures: The World Came to Buffalo: Remembering the Pan-American Exposition 125 years later* presented by Douglas Kohler, Erie County Historian, *History of Transportation in Buffalo* presented by Professional Engineer Kenneth Kuminski – Central Library
- *Wellness @ Central*

Central Library – System Youth Outreach Services

- *Sunday Social at Canalside*
- *GLYS Book Club*
- *Every Person Influences Children (EPIC) event*

- *West Side Bazaar* in Buffalo
- *Autism Resource Fair* – Elma
- *Taste of Diversity Festival* in Buffalo
- *Children's Book Festival*- Canalside

Mobile Services - Library on Wheels Bookmobile/Library2Go Van

In addition to regularly scheduled stops throughout the month, the Library on Wheels Bookmobile and the Library2 Go Van participated in the following special events:

- Library on Wheels Bookmobile: *Summer Reading Kick Off* – Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District (UFSD) Lindbergh Elementary School
- Library on Wheels Bookmobile: Town of Tonawanda Youth, Parks & Recreation *Young Entrepreneurs Fair*
- Library on Wheels Bookmobile: *Bidwell Parkway Concert Series* in Buffalo
- Library on Wheels Bookmobile: Town of Tonawanda Public Library – Kenilworth Branch
- Library on Wheels Bookmobile: Step Out Buffalo's *Buffalo Artisan & Flea Market* -Terminal B at the Outer Harbor in Buffalo

Displays and Exhibits:

Representatives of the Council of Heritage and Arts of India, Inc. (CHAI) mounted their *Trailblazers* exhibit in the Collections Gallery area at the Central Library on June 16. The exhibit honors Asian Americans of Western New York.

The Special Collections Department held an opening for the *We the People: Commemorating 250 Years of the Declaration of Independence* exhibit in the Ring of Knowledge at the Center Library on June 22. Students and representatives from cultural heritage groups that contributed to the *Patchwork of Our Community* exhibit panel attended the event.

Tours and Visits:

- Special Collections staff conducted tours and visits throughout the month. A tour of the Grosvenor Room and the Rare Book Collection was provided to a group of information professors in town for a History of Medicine Conference on June 3. Items from the Milestones of Science collection and the Erie County Alms House were featured items on the tour. Patrons were provided a tour of the *AP Gorny: Different from the Rest* Rare Book Room exhibit on June 6 and June 25. Summer interns of the 5/14 Living Memorial and Healing Center were provided a tour of resources in the Grosvenor Room and Rare Book Room on June 29. Interns were introduced to the local history card catalog, the Challenger and the Buffalo Criterion local Black newspapers, the work of Dr. Henry Louis Taylor, and the Ann Montgomery's Little Harlem collection in the Rare Book Room. Several small group tours of the Rare Book Room collection were also provided throughout the month.
- *West Buffalo Charter School, two 2nd grade classrooms* (Central, Children's Room)
- *Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) #32 Bennett Park Montessori, three pre-k classrooms* (Central, Children's Room)
- *Elmwood Village Charter School (Days Park) Middle Grade Class Visit* (Isaías González-Soto)
- *Nardin Academy First Grade Visit and Tour* (Crane)
- *Rainbow House Community School visit* (Frank E. Merriweather, Jr.)

City Branch Libraries

All Branches:

- *Take n' Make craft bags and scavenger hunts (themes: Landmark Buildings in Buffalo, Pride Month, Juneteenth, Create a Fishbowl, Dinosaurs for SRP, Father's Day, Costumes, Summer Journal, Popsicle Stick Sharks, Paper Bird Houses, DIY Thermotraupe, Pigeons)*

Multiple Branches:

- Chess
- Storytime
- Board game and video gaming groups
- Adult Book Groups by theme: General fiction, Mystery, Nature, Tea & Books and Romance & Rants, Dudley Detectives
- Book a Technology Trainer appointments by Branch or Systems staff
- Movies
- LEGO clubs
- Kid, Teen, and Adult Craft programs
- Free Legal Services
- Stay and Play for preschoolers

Individual Branches:

The Buffalo Libraries host unique programs based on the needs and interest of their community. Below is a selection of programs offered this month.

- *Mini Pride Party with Bandana Painting and Rainbow Rice Krispy Treats (Dudley)*
- *Crafts with Pride Night (East Clinton and Isaías González-Soto)*
- *University Express: Medicare 101 (North Park)*
- *Tea Rex Party Summer Reading Kickoff (Frank E. Merriweather, Jr.)*
- *Pigeon Appreciation Day (North Park)*
- *Charcuterie Board Demonstration with Local Business Board to Be Wild (North Park)*
- *Feedmore Farm to Market Truck (Elaine M. Panty)*
- *Massachusetts Avenue Project Mobile Market (Leroy R. Coles, Jr.)*
- *Explore and More's We the People Quilt Program (Elaine M. Panty)*
- *Dinosaur Trail for Children (Elaine M. Panty)*

Outreach:

- *Lighthouse Center Storytimes, SRP promotion (Frank E. Merriweather, Jr.)*
- *BPS #37 Marva J. Daniel Futures Preparatory School (Frank E. Merriweather, Jr.)*
- *Multicultural Night at BPS #80 Highgate Heights (Leroy R. Coles, Jr.)*
- *Nature Inspiration Day in Houghton Park tabling and Storytime (East Clinton)*
- *West Side Bazaar Lunch Hour tabling (Isaías González-Soto)*
- *Taste of Diversity Festival (Isaías González-Soto)*

2. Collection Development

Physical Collections:

Item Adds

Title Adds

Collection Size

	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
Juvenile Print	2,371	15,027	224	1,669	506,542
Young Adult Print	293	2,382	72	507	67,597
Adult Print	3,322	19,668	576	4,047	1,748,857
Media	1,772	11,219	291	1,437	502,662
Other*	1,993	10,019	270	560	171,165
Subtotal	9,751	58,315	1,433	8,220	2,996,823

*Includes magazines, generic copies, and other.

Electronic Collections*:

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
eBooks	5,734	30,990	1,467	8,713	134,135
eAudiobooks	7,773	51,227	458	2,558	63,889
Digital Magazines	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6,690
Subtotal	13,507	82,217	1,925	11,271	204,714

All Collections:

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
Total	23,258	140,532	3,358	19,491	3,201,537

3. Fundraising

Fundraising:

Campaign Name	Campaign Dates	Raised to Date
Annual Appeal	January 1 – June 30, 2026	\$139,432.06

Highlights:

The Library received a \$43,500 grant for teen programming at the Central and Aurora Town Public libraries.

Give 716, Western New York's biggest day of online community giving launches on July 15 at 7:16 p.m. and runs through midnight on July 16. Individuals can make a tax-deductible donation to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library for the system-wide *Bucks for Books* campaign here: <https://tinyurl.com/Give716Library>. Give 716 is powered by the Buffalo Bills Foundation and the Buffalo Sabres Foundation.

As planned, the Development & Communication's Department transitioned from one online giving vendor to a new one (from Blackbaud/Raiser's Edge to FSH) in June. All donation tracking and management will now run through the new donor management system. This follows more than six months of planning and test runs including transferring of online donor files, building new donor pages, setting up financial and communication tools and reports. Appreciation goes to Development & Communications Clerk **Melissa Burgess**, Information Technology Jr. Technical Support Services Specialist **Morgan Lord**, Library Information Technology Administrator **Justin Rosado**, Library Marketing Manager **Sean Piazza**, Development & Communications Clerk **Hazen Fertel**,

Library Administrative Manager **Tracy Palicki**, and Assistant Deputy Director – Controller **James Mitaritonna**. The project is managed by Assistant Deputy Director – Development & Communications **Joy Testa Cinquino**

4. Facilities

Facilities:

On June 1, Library staff, City of Buffalo Department of Public Works (DPW), and the project manager from Architectural Resources held a progress meeting with Patterson Stevens Roofing at the Crane Branch Library to discuss the upcoming re-roof and public access project. The Library was informed that there was a delay in the galvanizing of the steel plates that secure the roof railing to the roof deck. Expected completion of the galvanizing was July 2. Construction is scheduled to begin July 6 with an anticipated duration of 5-6 weeks to complete the project.

On June 17, the NYS Library Construction Aid application portal was opened for libraries within the Library System to submit aid applications. The 2026-27 allocation of funds for the Library is \$2,011,297. Over the course of the next 2 months, libraries will have the opportunity to submit applications to improve their library facilities and services to the public. Applications are due to the system for review by August 28, with a due date to the State Library of October 14.

On June 22, RP Mechanical began work at the Leroy R. Coles, Jr. Branch Library to rebuild the air handler system, replace boiler piping, and install new Siemens building controls. Construction lasted one week, and the system is currently back online and functional.

5. Staff Development

American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference & Exhibition – The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library sponsored three employees to attend the *ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition* in Chicago, IL from June 26 to June 29. Deputy Director of Public Services **Dorinda Darden**, Mobile Services Librarian Trainee **Olivia Adams**, and Central Adult Services Librarian **Carly Spatar** attended a variety of educational sessions and networking opportunities at this national event, themed *For Our Libraries. For 150 Years More*. Notable sessions included *Ethical AI in Libraries: A Critical Look at the Promise and Potential*; *Becoming a Library Triple-Treat: How Improv Helps You Become a Better Librarian*; *Leading the Way with Speculative Fiction: Leadership Lessons from Imaginary Worlds*; *Toxic Exclusion: Banned Authors Share How to Support Children's Access to Information*; *Read to Recovery - Two Public Libraries Respond to the Addiction Epidemic*; *The Key is Compassion: Creating Safer, More Welcoming Libraries through Patron-Positive Conflict Resolution*; *Archives at Risk, Communities at Stake: Preserving Immigrant and Underrepresented Community Stories in a Polarized Era*; *The Library is for Everyone: The D.C. Public Library's Accessibility Expansion Program*; *Libraries Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline*; and *Work Wisdom: Discover the Art of Authentic Communication and Build More Trusting, Collaborative Work Relationships*.

New York Library Association (NYLA Developing Leaders Graduate – On June 9, Clarence Librarian **Sarah McLean-Plunkett** graduated from *the New York Library Associations' Developing Leaders Program*. The 2026 Cohort attended 13 sessions of leadership training over a five-month period and completed collaborative capstone projects. **Sarah** completed the capstone project *Inquiry Ecosystem*, developing a values-driven, people-centered, interdisciplinary toolkit filled with resources and exercises for strengthening the questioning muscle that can be used by all library professionals for team and individual development and empowerment. The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library congratulates her on this achievement!

Webinars – Employees participated in a variety of webinars and other online learning programs in June, with several staff members attending these sessions: *How to Lead an Effective Meeting* (from Rochester Regional Library Council), *Intro to Proposal Writing* (from Candid), *Minimum Standards for Libraries - Selection and Reconsideration Policies* (from New York State Library), and *Public Libraries Supporting Older Adults* (from Limitless Librarian).

The *External Partners Directory 2025/2026* has been completed by Community Engagement Manager **Hannah Quaintance, Ph.D.** with assistance from **Melissa Burgess** and **Hazen Fertel**. There are 815 community partners throughout the 37 Library locations. The document is a tool for employees and will be shared via the Intranet.

6. Communications

Media Coverage

In June, the Library had press coverage across a number of topics.

America 250

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library has been closely involved in Erie County's celebration of the *250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence*, spearheading a community quilting program, and conducting interviews on Buffalo's place in America's history.

Type of Communication	Topic	Air Date / Publish Date
Earned Media	Susan Buttaccio on collecting quilt squares from community members to help represent who "We the People" stands for.	WIVB: Buffalo & Erie County Public Library collects patches for 'We the People' quilt (6/25) Syndication: • Yahoo News • AOL.com • MSN
Earned Media	Heather Gring discussed Mark Twain's time in Buffalo from 1869 - 1871 and the legacy of <i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	WBEN: America 250 in WNY: Mark Twain (6/26)

Love is Love Wedding Day

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library held *Love is Love Wedding Day*, closing out pride month with wedding ceremonies at Buffalo's Central Library.

Type of Communication	Topic	Air Date / Publish Date
Press Release	Hailey Oldham explained the inspiration of the Wedding Day - offering couples an opportunity to mark their relationships in a meaningful setting without the high cost.	WGRZ: <u>Library hosts free Pride Month weddings for local couples (6/27)</u>



Photo – Clip from Channel 7 WKBW-TV's Taylor Anthony's report on Kenilworth Branch Library's renovations and use of the Bookmobile

Mobile Services Manager **Andrew Maines** and **Olivia Adams** were present at the Kenilworth Branch Library to have the Library on Wheels Bookmobile provide library services while the location is closed for renovations. Channel 7 WKBW-TV reporter Taylor Anthony, working on a story about the renovations and the Bookmobile's efforts to fill service gaps, arrived for interviews and footage on June 23. Ms. Anthony's story aired on June 24.

Social Media:

	Staff Activity		Public Activity		Followers	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month (New)	Total
Facebook	51	263	3,638	24,171	84	16,782
Flickr	-	-	1,158	12,156	-	59
Google Ads ¹	N/A	N/A	2,685	15,221	N/A	N/A
Instagram	5	74	1,434	55,098	216	10,971
Pinterest	9	16	75	244	-1	2,046
Twitter (X)	28	194	27	317	-7	10,329
Bluesky	15	78	25	265	5	1,332
YouTube	3	34	26	1,973	9	914
TikTok	-	3	653	4,646	-1	1,092

Total	111	662	9,721	114,091	305	43,525
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¹ Google Ads is provided to the Library through a grant. Monthly activity based on public clicks.

7. Partnerships

Susan Buttaccio spoke at a press conference presented by Erie County at the Buffalo Naval Park on June 5, about the work of the Erie County Historical Commission's *We the People* committee, which is organizing a slate of programs to commemorate 250 years of the Declaration of Independence. **Susan** also presented to members of the Erie County Historical Commission's Partners and Collaborations meeting held virtually on June 22 about the Special Collections Department's *Oral History* and *Community Archiving* programs.

Public and System Services staff, and Development & Communications staff were also in contact or attended meetings with representatives of the following groups and organizations:

- America 250 committees
- Buffalo African American Museum
- Erie County Community Climate Change Task Force
- Erie County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)
- Erie County Office of Geographic Information Services
- Erie County Youth Board
- Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)
- Every Person Influences Children (EPIC)
- King Urban Life Center
- Live Well Erie
- Mayor Sean Ryan's office
- Outreach Coordinators in New York's Public Library Systems
- University at Buffalo (UB) Science Café
- University at Buffalo Department of Learning and Instruction and Graduate School of Education
- Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) Committees

8. Planning for the Future

Following the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting on September 17, a *Meet & Greet* reception will be held for new Library Director **Christine Schonhart** at the Central Library at 5:00 p.m.

Before the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting on October 15, an anniversary celebration will be held at the Elaine M. Panty Library at 2:30 p.m., the Board meeting will take place at the Panty Library at 4:00 p.m.

9. Director Activities

List of Meetings and Events

Attended by Deputy Director - Public Services Dorinda Darden

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DATE		MEETING / EVENT
June 1, 2026		Meeting - Jennifer Childs
June 1, 2026		Meeting - Andrew Maines
June 2, 2026		Meeting - Administrative Team
June 2, 2026		Meeting - Susan Buttaccio
June 3, 2026		Virtual Meeting - Chelsey Lonberger
June 3, 2026		Meeting - Cait Goodrich
June 3, 2026		Meeting - Linda Rizzo
June 4, 2026		Meeting - Maria Lowe
June 4, 2026		Meeting - Carol Kowalik-Happy
June 5, 2026		Program - Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture Welcome for the Community Archiving Workshop
June 5, 2026		Virtual Meeting - American Library Association (ALA) Ecosystem Subcommittee of the Committee on Library Advocacy (COLA)
June 5, 2026		Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
June 8, 2026		Meeting - Jennifer Childs
June 8, 2026		Virtual Meeting - 5/14 Buffalo Massacre Community Memory Coalition Steering Committee
June 8, 2026		Meeting - Administrative Team
June 8, 2026		Meeting - Andrew Maines
June 9, 2026		Meeting - Angela Marinucci
June 9, 2026		Meeting - Chelsey Lonberger
June 9, 2026		Meeting - Susan Buttaccio
June 9, 2026		Virtual Meeting - Public Library Systems Directors Organization (PULISDO)
June 9, 2026		Virtual Meeting - 5/14 Buffalo Massacre Community Memory Coalition Oral History/Community Engagement Committee
June 10, 2026		Virtual Meeting - Managers/Directors
June 10, 2026		Meeting - Cait Goodrich
June 10, 2026		Meeting - James Mitaritonna
June 10, 2026		Meeting - Linda Rizzo
June 11, 2026		Meeting - Maria Lowe
June 11, 2026		Meeting - Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees Executive Committee
June 12, 2026		Meeting - Carol Kowalik-Happy
June 12, 2026		Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
June 15, 2026		Meeting - Jennifer Childs

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June 15, 2026	Meeting - Administrative Team
June 15, 2026	Meeting - Andrew Maines
June 15, 2026	Meeting - Linda Rizzo
June 16, 2026	Meeting - Chelsey Lonberger
June 16, 2026	Meeting - Angela Marinucci
June 16, 2026	Meeting - Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) Board of Trustees
June 17, 2026	Meeting - Five Year Library System Plan of Service Working Group
June 17, 2026	Meeting - Susan Buttaccio
June 17, 2026	Event - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library Virtual Court Access Network (VCAN)
June 18, 2026	Meeting - 5/14 Buffalo Massacre Community Memory Coalition
June 18, 2026	Virtual Meeting - Public Library System (PLS) Directors
June 18, 2026	Meeting - Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees
June 22, 2026	Meeting - Jennifer Childs
June 23, 2026	Meeting - Susan Buttaccio
June 23, 2026	Meeting - Angela Marinucci
June 24, 2026	Meeting - Carol Kowalik-Happy
June 24, 2026	Meeting - Cait Goodrich
June 24, 2026	Meeting - Andrew Maines
June 24, 2026	Meeting - Linda Rizzo
June 25, 2026	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
June 25, 2026	Meeting - Maria Lowe
June 25, 2026	Meeting - Administrative Team
June 26 - 29, 2026	Conference - American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference & Exhibition in Chicago, IL

Appendices

A. Monthly Statistics

System Programming Statistics:

Regular/Virtual	Number of Programs		Total Attendance	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD
Regular*				
Adults	1775	9610	4977	25780
Children 5 and under	1037	6852	4322	33362
Children 6-11	4614	22501	7508	37338
Intergenerational/Combined	4462	28874	10567	58993
Teens	425	2109	758	4309
Regular Total	12313	69946	28132	159782
Regular Total	12313	69946	28132	159782
Virtual				

Live Virtual				
Adults	9	48	133	488
Children 5 and under	0	0	0	0
Children 6-11	0	0	0	0
Intergenerational/Combined	3	37	33	410
Teens	0	42	0	42
Live Virtual Total	12	127	166	940
Recorded Virtual				
Adults	7	28	119	745
Children 5 and under	0	0	0	0
Children 6-11	3	13	1452	3879
Intergenerational/Combined	7	47	2631	12644
Teens	0	0	0	0
Recorded Virtual Total	17	88	4202	17268
Virtual Total	29	215	4368	18208
Grand Total	12342	70161	32500	177990

*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, and 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/2026-circulation-public-access-computer-wifi-and-library-visits-detail>.

B. Contracting Library Activity Reports

Clarence Public Library – submitted by Monica Mooney, Director

Summer Reading - The Clarence Public Library is off to a busy summer. We began with our summer reading kickoff on June 27 with a Glow-In-the-Dark Dinosaur Miniature Golf Event highlighting this year's Collaborative Summer Library Program Reading Theme: *Unearth a Story*. In addition to this awesomely fun program, we have an array of dinosaur-themed programs scheduled for July and August, including a *Dino-Mite Fossil Hunt*, *Checkers the Inventor Dinosaur Fun Show* and *Fossils, Fossils Everywhere*, which will be presented by Penn Dixie Fossil Park and Nature Reserve. The Clarence Public Library is also offering a Summer Reading program for children and teens to track the time they spend reading and earn prizes along the way. This year, we also added "Activity Badge Bingo" for kids to earn badges for specific activities they complete. Some of these activities include going to the beach, reading in a park, going to a drive-in movie, and visiting a farmer's market. Our formal Summer Reading Program will end on August 15 when we host a Foam Party with Foam Rider 716 on the lawn of the library. This is one of our most popular programs of the year and is a time to acknowledge all the wonderful summer reading and activities that kids and teens completed. Thank you to the Friends of the Clarence Public Library for supporting our Summer Reading Program.

Pokémon Club - New this summer is a Pokémon Club for school age children ages 8-12. Whether you are a beginner to the Pokémon Card Game, interested in a battle, hoping to trade cards with friends, or wanting to participate in Pokémon-themed crafts & activities for a chance to win prizes and earn stamp badges, there is something for every Pokémon trainer at any level! The American Library Association in collaboration with The Pokémon Company provided materials for this program.

America 250 – In honor of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Clarence Public Library is hosting *Uncle Sam: Symbol of Patriotism*. This presentation by Trustee from the Buffalo Presidential Center Bren Price, will feature questions about where and when Uncle Sam originated and how the figure of Uncle Sam has been popularized throughout the history of the United States. The program will take place July 20 at 7:00 pm. As you walk into the Clarence Public Library this July, you can find a display from the Buffalo Presidential Center featuring Uncle Sam in our front showcase. You will also see the library bursting with patriotic décor as we celebrate this historic milestone of America 250 throughout the summer.

University Express – The Clarence Public recently became a host location for University Express classes. University Express is a free program sponsored by Erie County Department for the Aging that offers two semesters each year of about 400 lifelong learning classes per semester on topics such as art, science, wellness, history, technology and more. For the spring semester, the Clarence Public Library scheduled twelve classes, two of which will take place in July. While the spring semester is not quite over yet, so far we have had approximately 150 attendees at these insightful and enjoyable classes. We look forward to hosting more in the fall!

Summer Outreach – In collaboration with the Town of Clarence, our staff participates in various festivals and events during the summer. This year, we participated in Clarence Fireworks in the Park on June 29. Here, we gave out free Scholastic books, compliments of the Friends of the Clarence Public Library, and we also encouraged people to participate in the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's *We the People* Community Quilt project and had 15 people create designs on fabric squares for submission to the project. In addition to this, the Clarence Public Library will be at Clarence Youth and Recreation's Summer Fest 2026 on July 18 in Clarence Town Park and, following this, on July 23 we will be at Greg's U-Pick Farm Market and CSA for "Read and Pick" story time on the farm—a fun hands-on experience for preschoolers to learn about growing and picking their own fruits and vegetables while enjoying some of their favorite farm stories!

Agenda Item G – Report of the Foundation. Trustee Johnson reported that the Library will continue the *Distinguished Speaker Series* and also continue their co-sponsorship of *Babel*. The Foundation will also be sponsoring the reception for Director Schonhart.

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

Agenda Item H.1 – Contracting Library Liaison Report(s). Trustee Berens Bucki reported that she attended the Lancaster Public Library Board meeting. She stated that Lancaster has great attendance at its programs. One of the questions it had was how the budget is

allocated for member libraries. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci said that she will reach out. Next, Trustee Berens Bucki attended the Amherst Public Library’s Board meeting. She stated that Amherst has successful book sales, and it will be starting a new mural at the Clearfield Branch Library. Trustee Berens Bucki did say that it asked if there was a policy on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) entering the library. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci said she will reach out. Deputy Director – Public Services Darden presented on ICE at an ACT meeting this past spring. There were some helpful presentation slides on the subject.

Trustee Craik stated that he visited the Eden Library. They were happy to announce that its *Freddy Frog’s Foam Party* event was a great success. The library had approximately 322 attendees. Trustee Craik said that Eden asked about insurance coverage through the Library. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci answered that all trustees are covered under the Library’s liability insurance policy covering officers, directors, and employment actions.

Agenda Item I – Public Comment. Chair El-Behairy read the Public Comment rules as shared below.

To ensure fairness for those who wish to participate in public comment, the following rules have been adopted:

1. Each speaker’s remarks are limited to three minutes in all cases.
2. Board members shall not respond to any remarks made during the public comment period, though the Board may ask clarifying questions.
3. If the speaker would like a response from the Board, the speaker must leave their name and a method of contact. A written response will be provided as soon as practicable.

Odessa Hunter publicly thanked Deputy Director – Public Services Darden for addressing the security concerns at the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library. Odessa also asked who the contact person is for community advocacy at the Library. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci stated she will get her that information.

Agenda Item J – Unfinished Business. None.

Agenda Item K – New Business.

Agenda Item K.1 – Resolution 2026-11 – 2026 Budget Adjustments: Allocating 2025 Year-End Balance. Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Mitaritonna summarized the proposed resolution as presented below.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-11

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting of December 18, 2025, the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (the “Library”) approved Resolution 2025-44 adopting the Library’s 2026 Operating Budget, and

WHEREAS, a review of the 2025 year-end operating budget usage and increase in unassigned fund balance indicates funding is available to address current needs of the Library system, and

WHEREAS, Lawley Insurance, the Library's broker of record, annually assesses opportunities to offset some of the Library's risk exposure through purchase of insurance products;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has previously authorized the Library Director to execute annual insurance policy renewals, subject to the constraints of the budgeted total for said services, and

WHEREAS, Lawley Insurance has surveyed the insurance market for general liability insurance coverage for the library operations at all 37 Library locations and the insurance premium quote exceeds the budgeted total for said services in the Library's adopted 2026 Budget, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Library approves amending the 2026 Operating Budget, increasing the use of fund balance revenue line and expenditures by \$300,000 as detailed in Exhibit 1, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Library authorizes the Library Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer or designee to transfer funds between the SAP accounts identified in Exhibit 1 as needed to accomplish the work listed in Exhibit 1, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Library authorizes the Library Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer or designee to execute the necessary documents to renew general, management, and cybersecurity liability insurance of library operations at all 37 Library locations for the 2026 – 2027 policy year at a cost not to exceed \$285,000, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Library authorizes the Library Director or designee to execute insurance policy renewals in subsequent years subject to the constraints of the budgeted total for said services.

Discussion ensued regarding the projected goals of Director Schonhart and how that will be reflected in future budget adjustments.

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

Agenda Item K.2 – Resolution 2026-12 – 2027 Budget Proposed Guidance. Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Mitaritonna summarized the proposed resolution as presented below.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-12

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (the "Library") recently received Year 2027 budget instructions from the Erie County Budget Office, with budget requests due to the Erie County Budget Office no later than August 14, 2026, 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 2027 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 2027 Budget request utilizing the following criteria:

- Incorporate the New York State minimum wage signed into law by Governor Hochul and effective January 1, 2025, impacting Page rates. The official amount is scheduled to be announced October 2026. The Senior Page rate will continue to be \$1.00 above Minimum Wage;
- Incorporate the cost of contracted bargaining unit agreements, a reserve for the estimated increase in the rates for the Clerical & Maintenance Union of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library whose contract expires December 31, 2026, 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 Library 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.

There were a couple grammatical errors that were noted and corrected. Trustee Bedenko made the motion to approve as amended. Trustee Panty seconded, and this was approved unanimously as amended.

Agenda Item K.3 – Resolution 2026-13 – Accept With Youth for Youth (WYFY) Teen Grant. Assistant Deputy Director Testa Cinquino summarized the proposed resolution as presented below.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-13

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library received notification of the *Teen Advisory Groups at the Library Grant* award from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, and

WHEREAS, this funding is intended to strengthen and support teen leadership programs and initiatives at both the Central Library and the Aurora Town Public Library, and

WHEREAS, a grant budget needs to be established to undertake the program, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library gratefully accepts the award and authorizes amending the 2026 Grants Budget by appropriating grant revenue and expenditures in the amount of \$43,500 to establish the *Teen Advisory Groups at the Library Grant*, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library approves utilizing these funds to strengthen and support a pathway for teens to create, plan, and budget leadership programs and services and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library authorizes establishing a *Teen Advisory Groups at the Library Grant* budget in the following amounts:

Grant Project Revenue:	\$43,500
Grant Project Expenditures:	\$43,500
Breakdown:	
Central Library TAG	\$25,000
Aurora Town Public Library Teen initiatives	\$10,000
Administrative costs	\$ 3,500
Marketing	\$ 5,000

and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Library Director or designee is authorized to execute the necessary forms and documents to implement this grant.

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

Agenda Item K.4 – Resolution 2026-14 – Adopt Bulletin Board & Print Material Distribution Policy. Assistant Deputy Director Testa Cinquino summarized the proposed resolution as presented below.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-14

WHEREAS, as part of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's (the "Library") adopted Organizational Competencies, the Library has a structure for process and review of standing policies to ensure that they remain timely and effective, and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee used this process to review and make recommendations to amend and combine the attached Bulletin Board Policy and Distribution Policy into one new Policy, called the Bulletin Board and Print Material Distribution Policy, which has been vetted by Library legal counsel, and

WHEREAS, recommended changes include language to clarify the use of Library bulletin boards and the Library's distribution of community materials for City of Buffalo (Central Library and Buffalo Branch Libraries), now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library adopts the proposed revisions to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's Bulletin Board & Print Material Distribution Policy to supersede and replace the prevailing two policies last amended in April 2021 and May 2021, respectively.

Trustee Johnson made the motion to approve. Trustee Berens Bucki seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item K.5 – Resolution 2026-15 – Amend Information Technology Security Policy Manual. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci summarized the proposed resolution as presented below.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-15

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (the "Library") has a structure for process and review of standing policies to ensure that they remain timely and effective, and

WHEREAS, the Library's Board of Trustees Policy Committee used this process to review and make recommendations to amend the attached proposed amended draft of the Information Technology Security Policy Manual which has been vetted by the Library's legal counsel, and

WHEREAS, recommended changes include language for clarification purposes, for consistency in wording, and concerning updates to access control procedures, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees adopts the proposed amendments to the Library's Information Technology Security Policy Manual to supersede and replace the prevailing Policy Manual last amended on October 15, 2020 in Resolution 2020-30, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of the approved amended Information Technology Security Policy Manual be transmitted to all Library locations, Contract Library Directors, and Contract Library Trustees, and posted publicly on the Library's website.

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

Agenda Item K.6 – Resolution 2026-16 – Amend Public Health Emergency Operations Plan. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci summarized the proposed resolution as presented below.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-16

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2020, the Governor of the State of New York, Andrew Cuomo signed the Public Health Emergency Operations Plan Law (“Law”); and

WHEREAS, the Law requires public employers, including the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (the “Library”) to adopt a Public Health Emergency Operations Plan (“Plan”), and

WHEREAS, the Library Board of Trustees oversees operations at the Central Library, Buffalo Libraries, and System Services, and

WHEREAS, the Library Board of Trustees adopted the original Public Health Emergency Operations Plan on March 18, 2021 in Resolution 2021-5, and

WHEREAS, Library System Administration has recommended changes to the Plan to reflect minor clarifying edits and updates to essential and non-essential positions by job title and type of declared emergency, and

WHEREAS, the Board’s Policy Committee recommends the attached proposed amended Public Health Emergency Operations Plan for approval by the full Board, and

WHEREAS, these changes have been vetted by Library legal counsel, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees adopts the amended Public Health Emergency Operations Plan for the Central Library, Buffalo Libraries, and System Services to supersede and replace the prevailing Plan, adopted on March 18, 2021 in Resolution 2021-5, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Library Board of Trustees authorizes this amended Plan be transmitted to all Buffalo Library locations, Contract Library Directors, and Contract Library Trustees, and authorizes public posting of the Plan on the Library’s website.

Trustee Johnson made the motion to approve. Trustee Berens Bucki seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item K.7 – Resolution 2026-17 – Amend Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci summarized the proposed resolution as presented below.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-17

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (the “Library”) has a structure for process and review of standing policies to ensure that they remain timely and effective, and

WHEREAS, the Library’s Board of Trustees Policy Committee used this process to review and make recommendations which are reflected in the attached draft amended Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy which has been vetted by the Library’s legal counsel, and

WHEREAS, recommended changes include language updates for clarification purposes and for consistency in wording and style, and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee recommends the attached proposed amended Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy for approval by the full Board, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees adopts the proposed amendments to the Library’s Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy to supersede and replace the prevailing policy last reviewed July 15, 2021 in Resolution 2021-24, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the amended Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy replace the existing policy in each Contract Library’s annual agreement, Exhibit C, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that a copy of the approved Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy be transmitted to all Library locations, Contract Library Directors, and Contract Library Trustees, and posted publicly on the Library’s website.

Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci noted that the Library’s legal counsel recommended adding the language as presented below.

In **II. CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND THE INTERNET**, found midway through page 2 of the Policy, the Library’s legal counsel recommends the following edits to #1:

1. Parents, guardians, and designated adults have the sole right and responsibility to decide what is appropriate for their child. The Library does not act *in loco parentis* (i.e., in the place or role of the parent). Parents/guardians are and are solely responsible for the supervision of their child's internet activity. Children who use the internet unsupervised may be exposed to inappropriate or disturbing information and images. Parents, guardians, and designated adults are advised to discuss internet safety with their children and to supervise their internet usage to ensure their safety and privacy. The

Library does not assume responsibility for protecting minors or any patrons from Internet material they might find obscene, offensive or objectionable.

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

Agenda Item K.8 – Resolution 2026-18 – Amend Free Direct Access Plan. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci summarized the proposed resolution as presented below.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-18

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (the “Library”) System is required to follow New York Codes, Rules and Regulations – Title 8 Education, and

WHEREAS, Commissioner’s Regulation 90.3 requires the Library to have a Free Direct Access Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Library has a Free Direct Access Plan, which was last amended July 15, 2021 in Resolution 2021-25, and

WHEREAS, the Library’s Board of Trustees Policy Committee met to review recommended changes, which include language updates for clarification purposes and for consistency in wording and style, and

WHEREAS, the amended Free Direct Access Plan has been vetted and approved by the Library’s legal counsel, and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee recommends the attached proposed amended Free Direct Access Plan for approval by the full Board, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees approves the amended Free Direct Access Plan to supersede and replace the prevailing policy last reviewed July 15, 2021 in Resolution 2021-25, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of the approved Free Direct Access Plan be transmitted to all Library locations, Contract Library Directors, and Contract Library Trustees, and posted publicly on the Library’s website.

Discussion ensued regarding chartered service areas.

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

Agenda Item K.9 – Resolution 2026-19 – Accept Award and Amend 2026 Budget: NYS Legislature Grant Funds. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci summarized the proposed resolution as presented below.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-19

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (the "Library") was notified of \$300,000 in grant funding sponsored by New York State Assembly Member Jonathan Rivera and the New York State Assembly for the benefit of the Elaine M. Panty Branch Library and the Hamburg Public Library, and

WHEREAS, the grant for the benefit of the Elaine M. Panty Branch Library will fund the construction of an accessible outdoor reading park and other associated security, safety, and aesthetic upgrades, and

WHEREAS, the grant for the benefit of the Hamburg Public Library is expected to fund the creation of two (2) meeting rooms, audio / visual equipment upgrades, additional musical garden equipment, and other miscellaneous programming needs, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Library gratefully appreciates Assembly Member Jonathan Rivera's continued support for these needed improvements.

Now therefore be it:

RESOLVED, that the Library Board of Trustees approves establishing a Grant Budget as shown below:

Elaine M. Panty Branch Library Reading Park and Improvements

Revenue:

New York State Assembly Grant Funding

\$200,000

Total Revenue

\$200,000

Expense:

A&E, Construction, and Equipment/Furnishings

\$200,000

Total Expense

\$200,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Library Board of Trustees approves establishing a Grant Budget as shown below:

Hamburg Public Library Improvements

Revenue:

New York State Assembly Grant Funding

\$100,000

Total Revenue

\$100,000

Expense:

A&E, Construction, and Equipment/Furnishings

\$100,000

Total Expense

\$100,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Library Board of Trustees authorizes the use of grant proceeds to pay project expenses, including reimbursing the City of Buffalo for project-related expenses made by the City of Buffalo as owner of the Elaine M. Panty Branch Library building, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Library Board of Trustees authorizes the use of grant proceeds to pay project expenses, including reimbursing the Town of Hamburg and / or the Hamburg Public Library for project-related expenses made by the Town of Hamburg, as owner of the Hamburg and Lakeshore Public Library buildings, and the Hamburg Public Library, as the operator of the Hamburg Public Libraries, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Library Board of Trustees authorizes use of up to \$300,000 in Library Fund assigned fund balance, if needed, to advance funds to allow the projects to proceed until the reimbursable grant funds are available, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Library Board of Trustees designates the Library Director or designee as authorized officer able execute necessary documents needed to effectuate the grants awarded.

Trustee Panty made the motion to approve as amended. Vice Chair Sasiadek seconded, and this was approved unanimously as amended.

Agenda Item K.10 – Resolution 2026-20 – Intermit August Meeting. Chair El-Bhairy summarized the proposed resolution as presented below.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-20

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 Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (“Library”) Board of Trustees has suspended meetings during summer months when Library business permits, and

WHEREAS, the Library Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet on September 17, 2026, 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 of Trustees to intermit its regular August meeting, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the August 2026 meeting of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees is hereby intermitted.

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

Agenda Item L – Adjournment. There being no further business, on a motion by Trustee Johnson with a second by Trustee Panty, the meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine P. Bartholomew
Secretary