

Minutes for the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Amherst Public Library



Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 5:30pm

Meeting held at the:
Eggertsville-Snyder Library
4622 Main Street
Snyder, NY 14226

A). Meeting called to order and attendance - **at 5:31 pm by Oliver Young.**

**Present: Oliver Young, Marilyn Feuerstein, Jessica Black, Patricia Dore,
David Saia (5:38 pm), Carolyn Giambra (5:38 pm).**

Excused absence: Hon. Penny Wolfgang & Samantha Nephew

Also present: Director Kristi Dougherty, Laura Stachura and Dr. Jamie Smith

B). Review and Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on January 13, 2026

Motion to approve by Marilyn Feuerstein, seconded by Jessica Black.

All in favor.

C). Review and Approval of the Agenda for March 4, 2026

Motion to approve by Marilyn Feuerstein, seconded by Oliver Young.

All in favor.

D). Public comment

Dr. Jamie Smith, potential board member, presented her resume and spoke to the board.

E). Report of the President

- I visited all four library branches in January and February, and really enjoyed seeing the facilities and talking with staff members.
- We have a plan under development to honor our library employees for National Library Worker Day, which is April 21st. I'll email out details when they are finalized.
- Folks may have received an email asking them to save the date, March 21, for the Association of Contracting Libraries Annual at Central library from 8:30 am - 1:00 pm. This counts as your professional development for the year. Registration and more detailed information will be coming out soon.

- The US House of Representatives has introduced H.R. 7661, which modifies the Education Act of 1965, and threatens to withhold funding from schools and places conditions on what students may read. This legislation threatens to expand book banning greatly.
 - While this legislation is directed at schools and impacts primarily materials about the LGBTQ experience, given what has happened in other contexts, it is not a far stretch to see that other voices, such as Black, Indigenous, and other Persons of Color are next. If these materials are banned in schools, I would expect that students seeking these materials will come to the public libraries, thereby placing greater stress on our resources.
 - Also, it is not a stretch to see that if this legislation is successful, book banners will attack the public libraries next.
 - As a reminder, under Goal 2 of our Strategic Plan, we endorsed protecting intellectual freedom by agreeing to uphold the right to read and fighting censorship.
 - [EveryLibrary.org](https://www.everylibrary.org), a non-profit that supports libraries and the right to read, has a sign-able [petition](#) urging legislators to oppose HR 7661. I urge everyone to sign and distribute through social media and other methods.

F.) Finances

- 2026 Budget
 - County bills paid
 - Williamsville bills paid
 - Other bills paid

Motion to approve by Marilyn Feuerstein, seconded by Patricia Dore.

All in favor.

G). Committee Reports

- Town of Amherst Library Liaison – **Not present**

H). Report of the Library Director

- Buildings & Grounds

Williamsville:

Signage updated by B&ECPL system graphics department

Clearfield:

TV replaced in Community Room

Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library (Audubon):

Women's bathroom door replaced with spare door by Town; Snow blower, Tractor & vacuum repair; TVs replaced/updated in the Mary & George Bobinski Community Room

Coordinated with B&ECPL System services for updates to library website, printed receipts, processing stamps, circulation software updates, reporting documents, automated drop box, three letter code updates (AUD to CHI)

March 2, 2026 - Artist Nate Phillips began work for the mural in the children's area

Egbertsville-Snyder:

Roof leak in maintenance area, hot water tank repaired by Town (part under warranty)

All 4 Libraries:

Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library closed due to forecasted weather on Sunday, January 25, 2026. All four library locations closed due to inclement weather on January 15, 20 & 26, 2026.

- Library Material Circulation

Circulation of materials checked out in January 2026:

Hon. Shirley Chisholm (Audubon) - 33,890

Clearfield - 23,300 Eggertsville-Snyder - 12,264 Williamsville - 2,745
72,199 materials circulated in January 2026!

Circulation of materials checked out in February 2026:

Hon. Shirley Chisholm (Audubon) - 32,874

Clearfield - 22,778 Eggertsville-Snyder - 11,632 Williamsville - 2,701
69,985 materials circulated in February 2026!

- Programming

February/March events - Weekly storytime sessions, Dance themed storytimes in partnership with Tutu School, Technology Training, English Conversation Group, Adult Yoga, Mahjong Club, LEGO events, Book Clubs, Learn to Crochet, Pokémon Club, Quiet Club, Holiday crafts for kids, Adult Crafts, All Things Hydrangea (presented by the Smallwood Garden Club), Jewelry Making, Queerlit Book Club, Adult Yoga, Biblical Hebrew Grammar Club, Seed Starting 101, Family Game Night

Amherst 4-H held a card making event for Operation Valentine at the Honorable Shirley Chisholm Library. Children made cards in the Maker Space for veterans and active-duty service members. Amherst 4-H delivered the cards to Acacia

Park Cemetery where the 914th Air Refueling Wing from Niagara Falls picked up and distributed to the Niagara Falls Air Base, Sikora Post in North Tonawanda, and local VFW locations.



Amherst Central Schools held their annual opening reception for the K-12 district art show on February 11 at the Eggertsville-Snyder Library. Artwork was on display February 3 - 24, 2026.



February 3, 2026 - **Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library** - 61st District Special Election location - the library will also be a Primary & Election Day location

Full-time Librarian Trainee Katherine Pizzuto has accepted a position as a full-time Librarian at another B&ECPL library. Their last day is March 6, 2026. Part-time Librarian Joan Stoltman will be leaving their position effective March 12, 2026. Due to these vacancies, there will be limited program staffing for the spring months.

- Book & Media Sales

Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library

February 18 - 22, 2026

\$5,936.70

Clearfield Library Pop-up Book Sale

March 4 - 7, 2026

I). Old Business

Marilyn Feuerstein spoke in regards to a New York State Library webinar she attended where the speaker presented information regarding ICE operations and libraries.

J). New Business

- Trustee Vacancy – Potential New Member

Motion to enter into Executive session to discuss a potential new board member, Dr. Jamie Smith and a legal matter, by David Saia, seconded by Oliver Young. All in favor.

Executive session began at 6:17 pm.

Session ended 6:24 pm.

Motion to approve resumption of regular meeting made by Oliver Young, seconded by Marilyn Feuerstein. All in favor.

Meeting resumed at 6:24 pm.

Motion to approve Dr. Jamie Smith by Carolyn Giambra, seconded by Oliver Young. All in favor.

K). Correspondence/Other Items As Needed – **None at this time**

Next meeting to be held:

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at the Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library (Audubon), Community Room 1

L). Adjournment – **6:26 pm.**

**Motion to approve by Oliver Young, seconded by Marilyn Feuerstein.
All in favor.**