Amherst Public Libraries

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

Tuesday, October 27 2026 at 5:30pm

Meeting held at the:
Williamsville Library, 5571 Main Street, Williamsville, New York 14221
Community Room

A). Meeting called to order and attendance – **5:30 pm by David Saia.**

Present: David Saia, Oliver Young, Carolyn Giambra, Marilyn Feuerstein, Patricia Dore, Jessica Black, Dr. Jamie Smith, Hon. Penny Wolfgang - 5:39 pm.

Unexcused absence: Samantha Nephew

Also present: Director Kristi Dougherty, Laura Stachura

B). Review and Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on July 15, 2026

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

All in favor.

C). Review and Approval of the Agenda for October 27, 2026

Motion to approve by Oliver Young, seconded by Dr. Jamie Smith.

All in favor.

D). Public comment – None at this time

E). Report of the President – President Saia with new director, Christine Schonhart on September 10, 2026 at the Central Library Meet & Greet. Trustees Carolyn Giambra and Marilyn Feuerstein also attended. President Saia also co-chaired the ALA ALSC National Institute October 1 – 3, 2026 in Buffalo, New York of which 550 youth services related library staff from across the country were in attendance. President Saia also reminded trustees to complete their required annual education hours (2) and Sexual Harassment Training. Board members David Saia, Dr. Jamie Smith and Marilyn Feuerstein will work together for a performance evaluation for Director Dougherty to be reviewed by the full board at the next meeting.

Trustee Marilyn Feuerstein attended an A.C.T. meeting on Saturday, October 24, 2026 and suggested a Renaming Library Buildings, Spaces, and Programs Policy for the Amherst Public Libraries (APL) referencing the Buffalo Libraries policy and guidelines. Director Dougherty will review and prep an APL template for a future meeting.

F.) Finances

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

Motion to approve by Marilyn Feuerstein, seconded by David Saia.

All in favor.

G). Committee Reports

- Town of Amherst Library Liaison – not in attendance

H). Report of the Library Director

- Buildings & Grounds



Williamsville:
A new glider rocker was purchased, from a memorial donation, in honor of longtime patron Frances Marzullo. Multiple staff door issues, repaired by Town.

Clearfield:
The rear doors (public accessible entrance) were slated to be fixed by Town vendor, but work had to be redone and the doors will ultimately be replaced – waiting on parts – the doors have had issues and been worked on since July.

Library closed on September 3 due to power outage in the area.

Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library:
Rooftop unit (RTU) issues fixed by town and HVAC technician; roof leak in book sorting area patched, but still an issue with leaks due to air conditioning and need for replacement RTU; large rocks placed around playground by Town due to a vehicle going over the curb by the edge of the playground which crashed into a bench and signage. Automated drop box issues, repaired remotely.

Eggertsville-Snyder:
Alarm door sensor issue fixed. Play room updated with new toys and décor.

- Library Material Circulation

Circulation of materials checked out in July 2026:
Hon. Shirley Chisholm – 37,486 Clearfield – 26,155
Eggertsville-Snyder – 13,376 Williamsville – 3,853
80,870 materials circulated in July 2026!

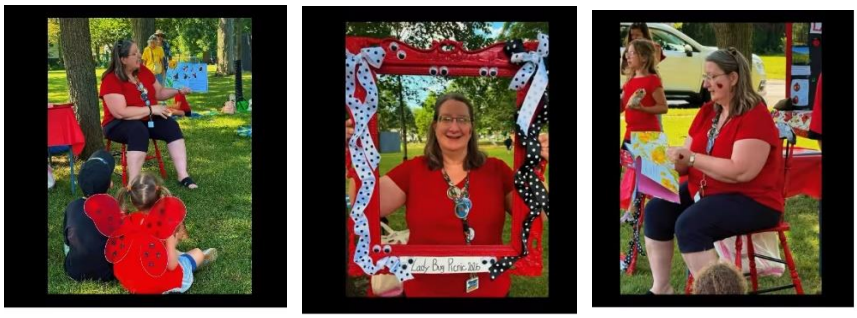
Circulation of materials checked out in August 2026:
Hon. Shirley Chisholm – 42,573 Clearfield – 32,724
Eggertsville-Snyder – 13,266 Williamsville – 3,789
95,015 materials circulated in August 2026!

Circulation of materials checked out in September 2026:
Hon. Shirley Chisholm – 35,345 Clearfield – 25,959
Eggertsville-Snyder – 15,688 Williamsville – 4,030
81,022 materials circulated in September 2026!

- Programming

Late July/August/September/Early October events – Weekly storytime sessions, Technology Training, Computer Coaching, English Conversation Group, Mahjong Club, LEGO events, Book Clubs, Pokémon Club, Adult Crafts, Jewelry Making, Queerlit Book Club & Craft Night, Bollywood Dance Class, Backyard Astronomy 101, Logan Loveless Trio Jazz Concert, Facing Our Fears of Death - Befriending Death Gathering, Legal Seminar for Financial Planning, Pre-K Prom, Poetry Series in the Community, Buffalo Zoo Mobile, SPCA Paws for Love: Read to a Therapy Dog, 'Books, Art, Zines, Fun!' with local artists, Chess Meet-Up for Kids, N.U.R.T. Niagara University Repertory Theatre, Storybook Cook, Sensory Playtime, Smallwood Garden Club Flower Show, Fall Into Gardening presented by Town & County Garden Club, Adult Yoga, Local author visits, Introduction to Bobbin Lace, Seasonal kids crafting, Fall Book Bingo

Saturday, July 25 - Librarian Wanda Collins read stories at the Williamsville Beautification Committee's Ladybug Picnic. The event took place at the Memory Garden at Garrison Park and featured various ladybug themed children's activities.



Images: Librarian Wanda reads Ladybug themed stories to children and poses in a window frame for Lady Bug Picnic 2026

Weekly Summer storytimes and other special events began the week of July 6.

Summer Bike Raffle: June 1 – July 31.
Summer Gift Card Raffle: June 1 – August 31.
Additional Donors for summer reading gift cards: Franco's Pizza

The Annual Summer Picnic took place on August 13, 2026 at the Honorable Shirley Chisholm Library. The event was comprised of a hot dog lunch, crafts, activities, music by a DJ, a juggler, Alice in Wonderland characters, bounce house and tabling from the community, which included: Tutu School, Buffalo Audubon Society, Happy Talk Song and Sign, a street artist & Maria's Cakes and Cookies. Trustee Marilyn Feuerstein tabled with the Buffalo Audubon Society, which featured Zelda the Eastern Screech-Owl. Amherst Y.E.S. continues to be a

wonderful partner with teen volunteers that help to make the event possible.



Images: Various patrons pose with their bikes



Images: Various patrons pose with their bikes or gift card

- Patrons visited the Amherst Libraries as part of the B&ECPL Passport to Reading event and we had some Gold Card achievers end their journey with us!



Images: Various patrons pose with their special edition gold library cards



An Instagram reel “POV you’re ready to check your books out” created by Librarian Jennifer Lelinski and Library Clerk Joce Kofke went mini-viral with over 106,000 views! https://www.instagram.com/reel/Db9NrdhnZ3w/

August 12, 2026 - Members of the Buffalo Astronomical Association provided eclipse glasses and viewing information for the partial solar eclipse at the Honorable Shirley Chisholm Library.



September 18, 2026 –Honorable Shirley Chisholm Library – A press event celebrated the opening of Providence Farm Collective’s Everybody Eats – Celebrating Our Agricultural Heritage art exhibition, which will be on display at CHI from September 16 through October 19. Together, the event and exhibition highlighted the interconnections of cross-sector partnerships that support food access, community wellbeing, and a local food system rooted in dignity and opportunity. Along with the press event, there was tabling by regional food systems organizations, providing attendees with opportunities to connect with local nonprofits working to advance food access, local agriculture, and community health throughout our region. Legislator McMahon was in attendance.



September 21, 2026 - The Rotary Club of Williamsville donated a new American Flag to the Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library during their NARFE #439 meeting for the Mary & George Bobinski Community Room, so that both sides of the closed panel have an American flag for representation.



September 25, 2026 – Amherst Library visits with B&ECL System Director Christine Schonhart

Weekly Fall Storytimes began the week of October 5th.

Looking ahead:

October 28, 2026 – Halloween Party! – Clearfield Library

October 31, 2026 – Spooky Booky Bash – Honorable Shirley Chisholm Library

November 3, 2026 - Honorable Shirley Chisholm Library will be an Election Day polling place location.

- Book & Media Sales

Clearfield Library Book Sale
August 26 – 29, 2026
Early bird sale - Tuesday, August 25 (3-5:30pm, $10 entrance fee)
$4178.65: of that amount $160 - Early Bird Entry Fees; $978.25 - Early Bird sales

Eggertsville-Snyder Library Book Sale
September 2 – 8, 2026
$1537: of that amount $100 – Early Bird Entry Fees; $432 – Early Bird Sales

Honorable Shirley Chisholm Library Book & Media Sale
November 10 – 15, 2026

- Professional Development

  October 2, 2026 – Professional Development Day – ALSC National Institute

  Librarians Beth Staebell, Mary Koenig, Wanda Collins, Michele Timby, and Kristi Dougherty attended the American Library Association, Association for Library Service to Children National Institute in Buffalo, New York. Jennifer Lelinski was able to view recorded sessions.

  Programs of interest included: Art for Everyone, Including Masters of Library and Information Science; Connecting Generations: A Library – Children's Museum Partnership to Foster Genealogy Learning for Children & Families; Information Literacy through Children's Literature; Nonfiction Matters: How to Find Excellence, Engagement, and Depth in Pathbreaking Nonfiction; Strengthening Early Literacy with Tubs, Toys and Training; Supporting Neurodiverse Youth ages 0-12; Innovative Play Programs for Babies & Toddlers to Boost Language, Early Learning, and Parent Engagement; The Role of Therapy Dogs in Public Libraries and Their Supportive Role in Literacy Initiatives

  Director Dougherty presented the session “Children’s Librarian to Public Library Director” and moderated the “Children’s Services Management Discussion”.

I). Old Business

Three Policies to Review:
Conflict of Interest, Procurement, Claims Audit

Policies reviewed and amended as discussed.

Motion to approve by Dr. Jamie Smith, seconded by Hon. Penny Wolfgang.

All in favor.

J). New Business

- Personnel Appointment
  Pay Period 20 – Karen Burke, Part-time Page, Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library - *Filling a vacant position*

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

All in favor.

- 2027 Holiday Closings

New Year's Day Friday, January 1, 2027
Martin Luther King Jr. Day Monday, January 18, 2027
President's Day Monday, February 15, 2027
Good Friday Friday, March 26, 2027
Memorial Day Monday, May 31, 2027
Juneteenth Friday, June 18, 2027 and Saturday, June 19, 2027
Independence Day Monday, July 5, 2027
Old Home Days (WILLIAMSVILLE LIBRARY ONLY)
Tuesday, July 13 – Friday, July 16, 2027 (official dates To Be Announced)
Labor Day Monday, September 6, 2027
Veteran's Day Thursday, November 11, 2027
Thanksgiving Thursday, November 25, 2027
Christmas Eve Friday, December 24, 2027
Christmas Day Saturday, December 25, 2027
New Year's Friday, December 31, 2027 & Saturday, January 1, 2028

SUNDAY HOURS (12-5pm) Honorable Shirley Chisholm Library ONLY
January 3 to June 13, 2027 (no March 28, May 9 & May 30)
September 12 to December 12, 2026 (no December 19 & 26)
Note - Sunday hours are dependent on the county budget and may be subject to change

Motion to approve by Hon. Penny Wolfgang, seconded by Dr. Jamie Smith.

All in favor.

- 2027 Board Meeting Dates

  Wednesday, January 13, 2027 - Eggertsville-Snyder Library Community Room
  Tuesday, March 2, 2027 - Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library, Community Room 1
  Tuesday, April 13, 2027 - Williamsville Library Community Room
  Wednesday, May 26, 2027 - Clearfield Library Community Room
  Wednesday, July 14, 2027 - Eggertsville-Snyder Library Community Room
  Tuesday, September 14, 2027 - Williamsville Library Community Room
  Wednesday, October 27, 2027 - Clearfield Library Community Room
  Tuesday, December 7, 2027 - Hon. Shirley Chisholm Library, Community Room 1

Motion to approve by Dr. Jamie Smith, seconded by Hon. Penny Wolfgang.

All in favor.

- Executive Session Regarding a Legal Matter

Motion to enter into Executive session to discuss a legal matter made by David Saia, seconded by Jessica Black.

All in favor.

Executive session began at 6:09 pm. Session ended at 6:29 pm.

Motion to approve resumption of regular meeting made by Marilyn Feuerstein, seconded by Dr. Jamie Smith. Meeting resumed at 6:29 pm.

K). Correspondence/Other Items as Needed – **Discussion ensued regarding email for members of the Board of Trustees.**

Next meeting to be held:

Thursday, December 3, 2026 at the Honorable Shirley Chisholm Library, Mary & George Bobinski Community Room 1

L). Adjournment – **6:32 pm by David Saia**

Motion to approve by Oliver Young, seconded by Patricia Dore.

All in favor.