

Whitby Public Library Board Minutes

Date: May 20, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Board Room, Central Library

Present:

Liam Nichols (Chair)
Geoff Anderson
Art Maki
Kate Campbell
Peter Creer
Niki Lundquist
Annette Cianchino
Akhil Kapoor (beginning at 7:08 p.m.)

Regrets:

Maria McDonnell

Also Present:

Rhonda Jessup, Chief Executive Officer
Christy Harper, Director, Technology and Operations
Joel Sutherland, Director, Community and Service Development
Mandy Beaton, Finance and Administration Associate

1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Moved by Geoff Anderson

Seconded by Art Maki

That the Agenda be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was declared.

3. Consent Agenda Items

Moved by Peter Creer

Seconded by Niki Lundquist

That the Consent Agenda items be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

4. Chief Executive Officer's Report (R. Jessup)

Rhonda Jessup thanked Liam Nichols for his presentation to Council on April 20.

Two Whitby schools won medals at the Regional Battle of the Books. Jack Miner P.S. took home gold in the junior division and West Lynde P.S. won bronze in the intermediate division.

WPL's first ever book sale event will be taking place on June 13. We are currently accepting book donations from the public. Drag Queen Story Time will be held this year on June 20, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the children's area by the fireplace.

Starting next week, our current Manager, Branch Services, Karen Wales, will be taking on a 6-month secondment as the Interim CEO of Brock Township Public Library and we wish her great success. This is an excellent professional development and succession planning opportunity.

5. Councillor's Report (N. Lundquist)

Councillor Lundquist apologized for her absence from last month's Board meeting; she was attending the Community Town Hall meeting at the time.

WPL's presentation to Council was well received and bodes well for the library. It generated further conversation among Councillors as to the scope of the library's work and the reality of it acting, by default, as a social service agency due to the current climate. This will create useful conversations at budget time regarding supporting the library's operations and funding needs. Storytelling is the most powerful tool WPL has and it lands well with Council.

Council has approved a pilot project which will provide 4 hours of parking at the Colborne Street and Perry Street lots.

Unpleasant emails have been received from certain religious organizations with complaints regarding our Drag Queen Storytime event. Niki has advised them to address the Library directly on this matter. It was noted that DQST will be held indoors this year and WPL is working with the Town on security.

It appears that the Metrolinx Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit design has changed and will no longer impact Celebration Square. There is no funding available to run the

fountain next to Celebration Square, which has led to some constituent complaints. The community would like something else to be done with this space instead.

The Town of Whitby has invited Library staff and Board members to join Niki and others at the upcoming Durham Pride Parade on Jun. 6th at 10:00 a.m. To participate, email QWEEN@whitby.ca. For more information, visit Durham Youth Pride.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a) Board Advocacy Plan (verbal update)

We are in the midst of conducting a survey of what assets we already have that can be repurposed for the Board Advocacy Plan.

7. New Business

a) CEO Performance Review and Compensation Policy (motion)

Moved by Annette Cianchino

Seconded by Art Maki

That the CEO Performance Review and Compensation Policy be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

b) Support for CULC Open Letter on Alberta Bill 28 (motion)

Moved by Kate Campbell

Seconded by Peter Creer

That the Library issue a letter of support for CULC's open letter on Albert Bill 28.

CARRIED

It was noted that this Bill has now passed its 3rd reading and has now become law. The Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries is working on the next steps in its strategy.

c) CEO Evaluation (in camera)

A motion was brought forward for the meeting to go in camera:

Moved by: Art Maki

Seconded by: Akhil Kapoor

That the meeting go in camera at 7:31 pm

CARRIED

Moved by: Geoff Andeson

Seconded by: Kate Campbell

That the meeting come out of camera at 7:45 pm

CARRIED

8. Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Board Room, Central Library, 405 Dundas Street West, Whitby

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm, on a motion by Geoff Anderson.

Board Chair

Secretary