

Whitby Public Library Board Minutes

Date: June 17, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Board Room, Central Library

Present:

Liam Nichols (Chair)
Art Maki
Peter Creer
Maria McDonnell
Annette Cianchino (beginning at 7:06pm)
Akhil Kapoor (virtual)
Niki Lundquist (virtual)

Regrets:

Kate Campbell
Geoff Anderson

Also Present:

Rhonda Jessup, Chief Executive Officer
Christy Harper, Director, Technology and Operations
Michelle Frenette, Director, Corporate Services
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 7:05 p.m.

Moved by Peter Creer

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. Steve Stewart, Partner Audit & Assurance Public Sector, Deloitte LLP

a. 2025 Audit (motion)

Steve Stewart presented the findings of Whitby Public Library's 2025 audit. He discussed the rules under which the audit was performed and reported that no adjustments were necessary and that a clean, unmodified audit opinion for WPL's 2025 financial statements had been issued.

Moved by Maria McDonnell
Seconded by Peter Creer

That the 2025 audit of the Whitby Public Library be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Consent Agenda Items

Moved by Annette Cianchino
Seconded by Art Maki

That the Consent Agenda items be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

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

WPL's first ever book sale on June 13th went off beautifully and raised over \$7K, exceeding expectations. The community was very generous with donated materials leading up to the book sale and some materials were able to be added to our collections as well. Congratulations to all staff involved and we are grateful for such strong community support and spirit.

Over 300 people visited WPL's booth at the Brooklin spring fair. Many people had questions about the various library services that we offer.

The Board members were presented with buckslips to be used when advocating for WPL's services and value provided.

Drag Queen Story Time is being held at Central this Saturday at 10:00am, Board members are welcome to attend.

This is Christy Harper's last Board meeting as she is moving on to take a role at Ajax Public Library. We wish her the best and thank her for her invaluable service to WPL over the past 7 years.

6. Councillor's Report (N. Lundquist)

Town council has agreed to opt into the Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build – Development Charges Reduction Program. There are concerns regarding how municipalities will pay for infrastructure with reduced development charges. It is necessary to maintain infrastructure funding for Whitby. Councillor Lundquist stressed that the library specifically shouldn't be negatively impacted by this.

The use of the parking lot adjacent to the library doesn't seem to have eased up, despite the recent free parking changes that the Town has put into place nearby.

There is a future planned crosswalk on Dundas Street near the library, which will facilitate pedestrians on their way to the central library.

There is currently no funding available for the Bus Rapid Transit project along Dundas Street in Whitby.

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Not applicable this meeting.

8. New Business

a) Board Code of Conduct Policy (motion)

Moved by Art Maki

Seconded by Peter Creer

That the Board Code of Conduct Policy be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

b) Meeting with MPP Coe (L. Nichols)

Liam Nichols and Rhonda Jessup met with MPP Lorne Coe last week to discuss the Library Board's recent letter issued in support of Whitby Town Council's resolution calling on the provincial government to update the current municipal-provincial funding model, particularly the impact on the library.

WPL's funding needs were discussed at this meeting, as well as the request for funding to create an Ontario wide digital library. Rhonda and Liam communicated to MPP Coe the financial impact of community services being downloading onto local libraries, due to the complex housing and mental health needs that currently exist in the community.

We expressed our hope for an increase in the Ontario Public Library Operating Grant (PLOG), which has remained the same for over 25 years, causing the value of the province's investment in public libraries to have decreased by more than 60 percent during this time.

c) Labour Relations Update (in camera)

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

Moved by: Art Maki

Seconded by: Maria McDonnell

That the meeting go in camera at 7:39 pm

CARRIED

Moved by: Maria McDonnell

Seconded by: Annette Cianchino

That the meeting come out of camera at 7:47 pm

CARRIED

That the Board approve the renewal of the collective agreement between the Whitby Public Library Board and CUPE 53-04 for the term of April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2028, as discussed in closed session.

Moved by: Maria McDonnell

Seconded by: Art Maki

CARRIED

9. Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

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

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm, on a motion by Peter Creer.

Board Chair

Secretary