



MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
GVPL Central Branch, 735 Broughton Street
Community Meeting Room & MS Teams
April 28, 2026

A hybrid meeting of the Greater Victoria Public Library Board was held on the above date. The following individuals were in attendance:

Board Members:

Trustee A. Appleton
Trustee K. Boehnert
Trustee D. Cavens (Chair)
Trustee S. Donaldson
Trustee D. Grove
Trustee R. Henderson
Trustee S. Kim
Trustee S. Khair
Trustee S. Lansdowne
Trustee G. Lemon
Trustee R. McClure
Trustee M. Morley
Trustee G. Newton
Trustee T. Phelps Bondaroff
Trustee R. Ranjan
Trustee K. Roessingh
Trustee R. Stromberg
Trustee M. Wey
Trustee N. White (Vice- Chair)

Staff:

M. Sawa, CEO/Board Secretary
M. Collyer, Director Marketing & Communications
D. Fergusson-Hirmer, Director, People & Culture
J. Gingera, Director, System Integration, Resource Management and IT
R. Hadziev, Acting Director, Special Projects
D. Joyce, Executive Director, Library Services
E. Russell, Recording Secretary
A. Shojaei, Assistant Director Safety Security, Facilities, & Risk Management
R. Baugniet, President, CUPE 410

1. CALL TO ORDER

D. Cavens called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

D. Cavens provided the Indigenous Acknowledgement.

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Move CEO Report to New Business as Item 8.2

Moved by Trustee K. Roessingh; Seconded by Trustee D. Grove.

THAT Items 4.1-4.2 be approved; 4.3 received for information

- 1.1. Approval of Agenda
- 1.2. Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2026
- 1.3. Chair Report

Motion Carried

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair thanked Trustees and staff for their participation at the Board Retreat held on April 11. He noted that GVPL, in partnership with Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) and Powell River Public Library co-hosted an information table at the 2026 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities convention (AVICC) held in Victoria on the weekend of April 24. This was an important opportunity to engage in discussions with municipal and provincial government representatives on the essential role of libraries as essential community infrastructure and the need for increased provincial funding. The inaugural Finance Committee meeting was held on April 14th, and the Chair thanked Trustee S. Lansdowne and Trustee K. Roessingh for taking on the roles of committee Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**6.1. Board Retreat Feedback & Next Steps**

The Chair provided a recap of the retreat which included a discussion of alternate service delivery opportunities. Staff have been directed to follow up on the three options identified by trustees as operational priorities for 2027: outreach vehicle, drop box pilot, and expanded outreach activities.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**7.1. Finance Committee- Oral Report**

S. Lansdowne provided an update from the committee's inaugural meeting on April 11, when the committee's Chair and Vice Chair were appointed. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, to review 2025 fiscal year-end reports. All trustees are encouraged to attend.

8. NEW BUSINESS**8.1. CEO Search Committee Update**

Committee chair S. Khair reported that the position profile and posting were made public on April 7th. The committee will meet with Boyden Executive Search for a progress update in May. Short list interviews are scheduled to occur on June 29/30, 2026; and a special meeting of the Board will be held to confirm the committee's decision in early July.

8.2. Vancouver Island Library Staff Conference (VILSC)

This year's VILSC, which GVPL co-sponsors annually with the University of Victoria Library and Camosun College, occurs on Friday May 8th at the University of Victoria. Trustees are invited to attend the BookSmack session in the late afternoon and the closing reception which immediately follows.

8.3. Canadian Urban Libraries Council- Open Letter Re Bill 28 and the Public Library Act

The Canadian Urban Library Council (CULC) has released an open letter Re: Alberta Bill 28 and the Public Library Act. Member library boards have been asked to endorse the position of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council in opposing changes proposed to Alberta's Library Act in Bill 28.

Moved by Trustee T. Phelps Bondaroff ; seconded by Trustee K. Roessingh.

That the Greater Victoria Public Library Board endorse the position of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC) in opposing Alberta Bill 28, the Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act, 2026, and, that the Library Board reaffirm its commitment to intellectual freedom, customer privacy, equitable access to information, and the principle of local governance of public libraries.

MOTION CARRIED

9. IN CAMERA MEETING

Moved by Trustee R. McClure; seconded by Trustee S. Kim

THAT the Board of Trustees moves In-Camera

MOTION CARRIED

10. NEXT MEETING DATE:

May 26, 2026; 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee D Grove; seconded by Trustee K. Roessingh.

THAT the April 28, 2026, Regular Board Meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

Board Chair

Board Secretary