



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting January 26, 2026**  
*The County of Brant Public Library cultivates inclusivity  
and empowers lifelong learning.*

**Date:** January 26, 2026

**Place:** Paris Branch

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**Present:** John Bell, Paula Chorpitta, Susan Eddy, Nathan Etherington, Fred Gladding, Amanda Henderson, Steve Howes, Jennifer Kyle, Kari Raymer Bishop, Marilyn Sewell

**Staff:** Kelly Bernstein, Steph Burchill

**Call to Order:** F. Gladding, in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 7pm.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: M. Sewell

Seconded by: P. Chorpitta

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

**Carried**

**Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature of  
None**

**Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by: J. Kyle

Seconded by: N. Etherington

THAT the minutes of the following meetings

- i. In-camera November 26, 2025,
- ii. December 17, 2025,
- iii. In-camera December 17, 2025
- iv. January 6, 2026 special meeting
- v. In-camera January 6, 2026

be approved as presented.

**Carried**

### **Consent Items to be Received – Communications**

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: J. Kyle

THAT the January Safety Talk, JHSC Minutes: December 2025, Paris Friends of the Library Minutes: November 2025, Ontario Public Library Guidelines Monitoring and Accreditation Council notification of successful accreditation, December 16, 2025, Letter to County Clerk from F. Gladding, December 19, 2025 and County Clerk response to Board Chair, January 7, 2026 be received as correspondence.

**Carried**

### **Library Board Development**

N. Etherington shared highlights of the upcoming 2026 Library Board Bootcamp being held at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference on January 31.

### **Submissions for Board Development**

F. Gladding reminded Board Members that suggestions for Board Development are encouraged and should be submitted to the Chair or CEO for inclusion in the agenda.

### **Reports**

K. Bernstein reported on December output measures and financials. Foot traffic increased in most branches, with teen and adult non-fiction collections showing strong circulation. The draft Annual Report will be ready for Board review next month.

The provincial Public Library Operating Grant was deposited. Adult programming revenue increased due to cost recovery for Makerspace materials. Donations at front desks across all branches also increased, contributing to higher donation revenue. The budget is 98.77% spent, with some 2025 invoices still to be posted. Staffing costs were higher than anticipated due to changes resulting from the County's market review project.

December's *Something for Everyone* newsletter highlighted upcoming programming, including the Great Gala and Olympic Watch Parties.

K. Bernstein has been invited to speak at a future Municipal Exchange webinar hosted by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Congratulations to N. Etherington who was elected to the OLA Board of Directors.

### **In Camera Session**

Moved by: S. Howes

Seconded by: M. Sewell

THAT the Library Board convene in camera to discuss confidential matters: 16.1 (4):(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual.

On a motion by N. Etherington and seconded by J. Kyle the Library Board rose from closed session and reconvened the regular meeting.

**Carried**

P. Chorpitta reported updates on behalf of the Facility Committee.

Moved by: K. Raymer Bishop

Seconded by: S. Eddy

THAT the reports be received as presented.

**Carried**

N. Etherington presented draft changes to Personnel D/2 Prevention of Harassment, Discrimination and Workplace Violence, Personnel D/1 Health & Safety, Personnel E/10 Disconnecting From Work and LS 35 Artificial Intelligence for approval.

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: A. Henderson

THAT Personnel D/2 Prevention of Harassment, Discrimination and Workplace Violence, Personnel D/1 Health & Safety, Personnel E/10 Disconnecting From Work and LS 35 Artificial Intelligence be approved as presented.

**Carried**

Policy LS 15 Meeting Rooms was deferred to the next meeting. Suggested changes were discussed and the policy was referred back to the Planning Committee for revision.

### **In Camera Session**

Moved by: N. Etherington

Seconded by: K. Raymer Bishop

THAT the Library Board convene in camera to discuss confidential matters: 16.1 (4):(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the board and 16.1 (4): (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the board

On a motion by N. Etherington and seconded by J. Kyle the Library Board rose from closed session and reconvened the regular meeting.

**Carried**

**Next Meeting**

February 25, 2026 Paris Branch

**Adjournment**

J. Bell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm.

**Meeting adjourned.**