

The regular monthly meeting of the Schenectady County Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Swanker Boardroom at the Karen B. Johnson Central Library.

PRESENT: Madelyn Thorne, President; Brenda Schworm, Vice-President; Steve McCutcheon, Treasurer; Tina Chericoni Versaci, Secretary; Timothy Burke; Justin Chaires; David Fronk; Julie McDonnell; Carmel Patrick

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Jude McQueen; Bernice Rivera

STAFF: Charity Thorne, Executive Director; Beth DeMidio, Director of Operations; Devon Hedges, Assistant Director; Janice Martin, Board Clerk

GUESTS: Jessica McDonald, Vice President, Friends of the Library; Catiy Alloway, Library Strategies (via zoom)

Madelyn Thorne called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No one spoke during privilege of the floor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve by Justin Chairs, seconded by Tim Burke. One abstention from Julie McDonnell. Motion passed.

FAMILY PLACE LIBRARY

Librarian Kaela Wallman gave a detailed presentation on Family Place Library. The Karen B. Johnson Library was officially named a Family Place Library on October 20, 2025.

PROPOSED 2026 MEETING DATES

The 2026 trustee meeting dates were included in the board packet.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The committee will consist of Tim Burke, Steve McCutcheon and Justin Chaires.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Cathi Alloway from Library Strategies gave an update on the strategic plan, highlighting the recent community survey.

MOHAWK VALLEY LIBRARY SYSTEM OVERDRIVE

There was a lengthy discussion on whether SCPL will opt in on MVLS Overdrive for 2026. No decision was made by the board this evening and President Thorne will follow up with Executive Director Thorne to reply to MVLS. A decision needs to be made by the end of the year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The trustees received a donation from the Putnam Family Foundation. Tina Chericoni Versaci moved to accept the donation, seconded by Justin Chairs. Motion passed.

Carmel Patrick will not be seeking another term after eleven years on the board, in which she served four as President. The board thanked Carmel for all her hard work and dedication over the years.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Trustees reviewed the written report by Executive Director Charity Thorne. She included that as part of our strategic planning process, our website will soon be showing statistical information about Schenectady County. In October, the story map was reviewed and finalized and will be live on the website soon.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The author event, An Evening with Elizabeth Strout, at Proctor's GE Theatre was well received.

New memberships are on the rise, and the membership committee continues to send out renewals letters to current members.

Volunteers are needed for Family Literacy Night, which will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

No report.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

No report.

POLICY COMMITTEE

No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m. on a motion by Tina Cherinon Versaci, seconded by Justin Chaires.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the Swanker Boardroom at the Karen B. Johnson Library.

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