AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MAY 28, 2026

President John Frola called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Akron-Summit County Public Library to order at 4:35 p.m. in the Community Room of the Firestone Park Branch Library. The following members of the Board answered the roll call: Joseph Ferrise, John Frola, T.K. Griffith, William Rich, and Ray Weber. Angela Neeley and Bernie Rochford were absent. Present from Library staff were Michelle Alleman, Michelle Scarpitti, Mike Bianchi, Kaitlin Booth, Andrew Clarke, Sylvia Chris, Andrea Cowgar, Michael Derr, Pat Manning, KT Mockensturm, Heather Otto, Andrew Rockey, Sara Schwendeman, Dana Setting, and Melissa Walker.

26-69
AGENDA
AMENDMENT

Mr. Rich moved, seconded by Mr. Weber, to adopt the agenda. Mr. Rich suggested elimination of agenda item 13 Executive Session as there is nothing to report. Mr. Weber seconded the amendment, and the motion to amend the agenda was adopted without dissent.

26-70
AGENDA

The motion to adopt the amended agenda was adopted without dissent.

26-71
APRIL REGULAR
MINUTES

Mr. Rich moved, seconded by Mr. Ferrise, to adopt the minutes of the April 30, 2026, regular meeting. The motion was adopted without dissent.

PRESIDENT'S
REMARKS

Mr. Frola thanked staff for their hard work as capital construction begins.

APRIL 2026
FINANCIAL REPORT

Michelle Scarpitti, Fiscal Officer, presented the executive summary and financial report for April 2026. Main revenue in April was first half real estate settlements and the Public Library Fund distribution. Expenditures included various building and bookmobile repairs, insurance policy renewals, and the first half real estate tax settlement fees.

26-72
ADOPTION OF APRIL
FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Rich moved, seconded by Mr. Weber, to adopt the financial report for April 2026. The motion was adopted without dissent.

DONOR GIFT LIST

Ms. Scarpitti presented the donor gift list. The Library received $25,000 in monetary donations since the last meeting as well as one page of other donations.

26-73
ACCEPTANCE OF
DONATIONS & GIFTS

Mr. Rich moved, seconded by Mr. Griffith, the acceptance of the donations and gifts with great appreciation. Questions were addressed related to donor organizations. The motion was adopted without dissent.

APRIL 2026
INVESTMENT REPORT

Ms. Scarpitti presented the investment report for April 2026. The Library received $37,481.11 of interest with approximately 57% credited to the general fund. There were no changes to the investments. A representative from Redtree Investment Group will attend a Board meeting in the fall.

[The investment reports are appended to the minutes.]

Ms. Scarpitti announced she anticipates the 2024-2025 audit to be performed in July. AUDIT

Heather Otto, Human Resources Director, presented the Personnel Report and stated there were no changes to the report since distribution. PERSONNEL REPORT

26-74 PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Rich moved, seconded by Mr. Weber, to adopt the personnel report. The motion was adopted without dissent.

AKRON-SUMMIT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
Personnel Report – May 2026

SELECTIONS:

Employee	**Classification**	**Date**	**Agency**
Benedict, Katheryn	Shelver (Casual)	05/18/2026	Richfield
Konneker, Katherine	Public Service Assistant (Substitute)	05/18/2026	Public Services
Kusner, Gabrielle	Librarian (Early Childhood)	05/18/2026	Goodyear
Molis, Rowan	Shelver (Casual)	05/18/2026	Richfield
Princa, Ruby	Public Service Assistant (Substitute)	05/18/2026	Public Services
Willey, Trevyr	Public Service Assistant (Substitute)	05/18/2026	Public Services

CHANGE OF CLASSIFICATION (STATUS)/TRANSFER:

Employee	**Classification**	**Date**	**Agency**
Ridgeway, Ava	Shelver (PT)		Culture & AV
	Shelver (FT)	05/18/2026	Culture & AV

PROMOTION:

Employee	**Classification**	**Date**	**Agency**
Nelson, Aris	Facility Services Specialist		Facility Services
	Facilities Contract Specialist	04/20/2026	Facility Services
Pavlicko, Jason	Accounting Assistant		Business Office
	Facilities Project Specialist	05/18/2026	Facilities Services
Salmon, Amber	Librarian (Adult Services)		BG&S
	Manager, Main Division	05/18/2026	BG&S
Taylor, Mya	Public Service Assistant II		Mobile Services
	Public Service Assistant III	05/18/2026	Maple Valley

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

	06.16.09	06.09.10	05.18.19	05.20.20	05.15.21	05.17.22	05.17.23	05.21.24	05.21.25	05.21.26
Full-Time Staff:	291	270	277	47	249	257	258	256	260	246
80 Hrs. Exempt	--	--	--	--	44	42	43	42	43	41
75 Hrs. Non-Exempt	--	--	--	--	205	215	215	214	217	205
Part-time/Job-Share:	68	54	46	0	40	49	42	42	37	36
Shelvers (Casual):	86	73	78	0	50	49	55	59	58	49
Total number of Staff:	445	397	401	47*	339	355	355	357	355	331
Full-Time Equivalents:	339	307	302	*All other staff furloughed	275	287	286	284	285	270

NOTES:

- These numbers cannot be compared from month to month since the numbers may not reflect additions and deletions to the payroll system as the changes are made immediately before or after the date the personnel action is effective.
- Previously, the Library employed Student Assistant who had to be full- or part-time students and who worked between 8 to 20 hours per week performing shelving duties and other limited tasks. "Shelvers (Casual)" is a designation approved at the August 2023 Board of Trustees meeting. This role performs the same duties and works the same hours as Student Assistants, but it eliminates the requirement that the person be a student. Counts from before the September 2023 Personnel Report reflect those in the Student Assistant position, and counts from September 2023 and thereafter reflect those in the Shelver (Casual) position.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Michelle Alleman, Executive Director, reported on capital progress. Town Halls have been completed for Ellet and Tallmadge Branches. Attendees were very engaged, and there was an interest at Ellet for naming rights of a study room. Nordonia Hills Town Hall will be August 1.

SUMMER READING

Ms. Alleman announced Summer Reading officially starts on June 8, and pre-registration is happening. Positive feedback has been received about this year's prizes, theme, and shirt design.

BOND SALE

The bond sale process is underway. The market is still good for the Library's bond sale plan.

REPORT OF THE MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS & LIBRARY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mr. Rich read the report of the Marketing Communications & Library Services Committee.

On Thursday, May 14, 2026, the Marketing Communications & Library Services Committee met in the Lolita K. Adair Boardroom at Main Library. Committee Chair William Rich called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Also in attendance was Committee member John Frola. Joe Ferrise and Angela Neeley were absent. Board Trustee Bernie Rochford also attended. Also present were Library staff members Michelle Alleman, Michael Derr, Kaitlin Booth and Sara Schwendeman.

Mr. Frola moved to adopt the agenda as distributed. The motion was adopted without dissent.

SPONSORSHIP, PARTNERSHIP &

The committee reviewed the Sponsorship, Partnership & Naming Rights Policy, and Mr. Rich suggested various formatting revisions such as block *indentations and subheadings as well as additional revisions under the Naming Rights section. Questions related to minimum amounts, recognition and acknowledgment were addressed.*

NAMING RIGHTS POLICY

Mr. Frola moved to recommend to the Board the adoption of the Sponsorship, Partnership & Naming Rights Policy as amended. The motion was adopted without dissent and now comes as a recommendation to the Board.

26-75 ADOPT SPONSORSHIP, PARTNERSHIP & NAMING RIGHTS POLICY

The motion to adopt the Sponsorship, Partnership & Naming Rights Policy was adopted without dissent.

Ms. Alleman announced the State is requiring that the Board adopt a cybersecurity policy. The Library's IT Director has worked on the policy, and it is now being reviewed by the County Prosecutor. In conversations with OPLIN, the policy must be discussed in Executive Session as it addresses security measures. Committee members believe the policy review can be completed by the full Board at the regular June meeting.

With no further business, Mr. Rich adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Ms. Alleman read the report of the Personnel Committee in Mr. Rochford's absence.

On Thursday, May 14, 2026, the Personnel Committee met in the Lolita K. Adair Boardroom at Main Library. Committee Chair Bernie Rochford called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Also in attendance were Committee members Bill Rich and John Frola. Ray Weber was absent. Also present were Library staff members Michelle Alleman, Kaitlin Booth, Heather Otto, Michelle Scarpitti, and Sara Schwendeman.

Mr. Rich moved, seconded by Mr. Frola, to adopt the agenda as distributed. The motion was adopted without dissent.

PRINCIPAL TWO-YEAR RATE LOCK OFFER

Heather Otto, Human Resources Director, presented lower rates that Principal has now offered that are tied to a two-year rate lock. Since these rates are tied to a two-year rate lock, this is coming again to the committee. It is Library Administration's recommendation to retain the status quo by accepting Principal's no-bid renewal rates with two-year rate lock above with the same Library/employee cost-sharing ratio (75% ASCPL/25% employee for full-time employees and 50% ASCPL/50% employee for part-time/job-share employees).

Mr. Rich moved, seconded by Frola, to recommend Board approval of the Principal Dental, Vision, and Life Renewal rates with the two-year rate lock as presented with the same Library/employee cost-sharing ratio of 75% ASCPL/25% employee for full-time employees and 50% ASCPL/50% employee for part-time/job-share employees. The motion was adopted without dissent and now comes as a recommendation to the Board.

The motion to approve the Principal Dental, Vision, and Life Renewal rates with the two-year rate lock as presented with the same Library/employee cost-sharing ratio of 75% ASCPL/25% employee for full-time employees and 50% ASCPL/50% employee for part-time/job-share employees.

26-76
APPROVE PRINCIPAL TWO-YEAR RATE LOCK OFFER

Next, Ms. Otto presented the Diversity Report, noting that the most significant change in numbers was due to phasing out the Security Officer roles from in-house to Allied Security, a third-party firm, which created a loss in diversity numbers for the Library. Furthermore, in the past year, ten open librarian roles were filled internally due to those candidates being the most qualified. Lastly, during capital improvement phases, the Library is filling vacancies with reassigned branch staff, which retains work for existing employees and manages taxpayer resources effectively. Positively, the Library has increased hiring of minority candidates by 2.5% and promotion of minority employees has increased by 7.6%. Ms. Otto reviewed opportunities the Library can take to further progress.

The committee members expressed their appreciation for the quality of the report and the efforts being made. Questions were addressed related to the shift to Allied Security and the Library's security overall. The committee suggested expressing to Allied the need to have officers that reflect the community the Library serves.

With no further business, Mr. Rochford adjourned the meeting at 4:29 p.m.

Mr. Weber requested information regarding the Tallmadge roof work. Mr. Frola and Library staff confirmed roof work started at the Tallmadge Branch without a permit being issued. The Library does not file for the permit; that is the contractors' responsibility. It was confirmed the permit request was submitted but not yet approved prior to work starting. Andrew Rockey, Facilities Director, announced that he was informed that the County approved the permit this afternoon. Approval is still needed from the Tallmadge Fire Marshall. The Trustees expressed concern the Library is paying a Construction Manager At Risk to ensure requirements happen and processes go smoothly. The Trustees requested both Construction Resources, Inc. and Mansuetto Roofing representatives attend the next Board of Trustees meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – PERMIT FOR TALLMADGE ROOF WORK

Sylvia Chris, Firestone Park Branch Manager, highlighted the work of her staff in rebuilding Storytimes, community engagement within local schools and businesses, being hands-on with the technology needs of their customers, and working diligently to decrease their incident reports by 30% compared to last year. Additionally, the Branch has seen an increase in attendees for its summer GED classes and has received positive feedback for being a Tax Aide location and having OJFS counselors onsite.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM REPORT

There was no public participation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Griffith announced that Ms. Chris visits AP Hoban students once a year as part of her community engagement and expressed his appreciation and the great job she does.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

With no further business, Mr. Frola adjourned the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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President

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Secretary