Minutes

Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

Meeting Date: May 22, 2026
Meeting Time: 10:00a.m.
Location: Virtual
Secretary: Dina Stevens, Executive Director/Secretary of the Board

In Attendance: ***First Nations Caucus*****:** Feather Maracle
Large Urban Caucus**:** Laura Carter, Wayne Greco, Sarah Douglas-Murray, Sarah Vaisler
Small & Medium Caucus**:** Beverley King, Emma Kinsman, Nadine Williams
Northern Caucus: Chantal Gingras, Marianne LaBerge
Rural Caucus**:** Jennifer La Chapelle
Toronto Caucus**:** Paul Ainslie, Moe Hosseini-Ara, Lisa Radha Vohra
Former Library Leaders: Margie Singleton

Regrets: Catherina Moskau, Jodie Delgado, Kathy Fisher, Ben Liu, Susan McGibbon
Absent: None.

FOPL Team: Dina Stevens, Executive Director, Diana Chiavaroli, Administrative Assistant

Prepared By: Diana Chiavaroli, Administrative Assistant

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1. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Q2 Board Meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by the Chair.

New board members were welcomed and introductions were made.

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Regrets

As noted above.

4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the February 27, 2026 Board Meeting

Moved by Margie Singleton and seconded by Sarah Vaisler, THAT this Board approve, the minutes of the February 27, 2026 board meeting. CARRIED.

10:09 Paul Ainslie joined the meeting

6. Approval of the Minutes of the April 24, 2026 Post-Annual General Meeting

Moved by Margie Singleton and seconded by Beverley King, THAT this Board approve, the minutes of the FOPL Post-AGM Board Meeting of April 24, 2026. CARRIED.

7. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Lisa Radha Vohra and seconded by Jennifer La Chapelle, THAT this Board approve as circulated, the FOPL Board Agenda of May 22, 2026. CARRIED.

8. Chair's Report

The Chair provided a verbal report, outlining the role of the Chair, and requesting that if there are issues requiring communication with the ED, to raise those to the Chair so the Executive team can communicate with the ED, as per proper governance practices.

Remarks were made regarding the situation in Alberta.

Thanks were given to the ED for the work on this meeting's extensive board package.

Moved by Sarah Vaisler and seconded by Sarah Douglas-Murray, THAT this Board receive the Chair's Report as information. CARRIED.

9. Treasurer's Report

The ED provided a brief summary of the report, particularly noting the recommendations of the auditor on reporting of reserve funds, and reasons for deficits.

Moved by Beverley King and seconded by Lisa Radha Vohra, THAT this Board receive the Treasurer's Report as information. CARRIED.

10. Executive Director's Report

The ED highlighted a few areas of the report. The concerns regarding the situation in Alberta were again discussed, with the parallels to the education system noted.

Moved by Sarah Vaisler and seconded by Margie Singleton, THAT this Board receive the Executive Director's Report as information. CARRIED.

11. Committees and Working Groups

a. Government Relations Working Group

Recommendations for Action – Bill 28 Alberta

10:24 Emma Kinsman joined the meeting

10:31 Chantal Gingras joined the meeting

The ED and committee members summarized the report and recommendations. A brief supportive discussion was had regarding the recommendations.

Moved by Lisa Radha Vohra and seconded by Emma Kinsman THAT the Board support the recommendations recommended by the Government Relations Working Group. CARRIED.

12. Previous Business

a. Circular Materials Update

The ED provided an update on the issue and recommendations for possible options moving forward. The Board discussed the options and the priorities of FOPL. The ED suggested not to do anything on the matter for the time being, and the reissue the survey at the end of the year to reevaluate the situation. The Board was in agreement with this recommendation.

Moved by Margie Singleton and seconded by Sarah Vaisler THAT the Board thank the ED for the research and THAT the Board take no further action at this time. CARRIED.

b. Membership Fee Review

The ED noted a correction to the chart. The document will be revised with the correction, and to include the committee members.

The ED thanked the committee for the work put into these reports and provided a summary of the discussions, recommendations, potential changes to membership fees, and how members would be affected.

10:44 Laura Carter joined the meeting

The ED noted that the elimination of the FNPL sponsorship fees and how this may improve the execution of the partnerships program as partners would be location based rather than financially based. This aspect was supported by the Board. It was noted that the cost that would be incurred by FOPL should still be calculated and recorded in the financial statements. A letter for FNPLs should also be drafted and reviewed by the ILPWG to explain the changes to the fee structure and the partnership program.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the report. There was general consensus that the population data should be collected from the Annual Survey of Public Libraries rather than the Census, as it is more frequent, and more representative of First Nations communities, and that the source of population data be communicated to members. The intent of changing membership fee was also discussed with a request for clarity. There were also questions as to the policy on changing membership fees, how members are notified, and how the changes are rolled out. It was recommended that any members who would see a fee increase be provided with an advocacy package they could bring to their boards. It was also noted that the fourth recommendation regarding long term incremental increases be eliminated.

Overall, it was agreed that there is not currently enough information to approve any changes at this time. The ED noted this is not an urgent issue and can be revisited once more information is available. It was recommended that this return to the working group to restructure the changes using the ASPL data, with some alteration to fee changes, and with an effective date of implementation.

Moved by Sarah Vaisler and seconded by Margie Singleton THAT the matter is referred back to the Working Group. CARRIED.

c. Member Engagement Plan

The ED noted the document will be updated to include the committee members.

The ED provided a summary of the report, highlighting changes and improvements to the Member Engagement Plan.

The Board discussed concerns regarding duplicative work with other organisations, particularly regarding the policy database. It was noted that OLS already provides this service, and that policy databases are difficult to maintain and update.

Concerns regarding the financial impact of these changes were raised. The ED noted that all changes with financial costs would be implemented through a cost-recovery model.

The mentorship program was discussed and generally supported with the clarification that this program would be specifically focused on advocacy and only for library CEO’s or equivalent.

Moved by Sarah Vaisler and seconded by Lisa Radha Vohra that the Member Engagement Plan be amended to remove the policy database. CARRIED.

Moved by Jennifer La Chapelle and seconded by Moe Hosseini-Ara THAT the Board approve the Member Engagement Plan, as amended. CARRIED.

Moved by Sarah Vaisler and seconded by Beverley King, THAT the Board approve the proposed Advocacy Mentorship Program for implementation in 2026.

It was requested to review 13b prior to 13a due to timing.

13. New Business

b. Safety and Security Campaign Feedback and Review

The ED summarized the report and recommendations.

There was a lengthy discussion focused on some of the phrasing in the messaging. The ED noted that the revised messaging has been distributed to certain groups and feedback was supportive. The ED also noted that the messaging was developed by Council Public Affairs and that this is their recommendation as well.

Further discussion focused on the role of the Board, and what level of approval is required.

12:15 Moe Hosseini-Ara left the meeting

Moved by Sarah Vaisler and seconded by Beverley King THAT the Board approve a Safety and Security campaign that prioritizes working with all levels of government to develop a province-wide strategy to address the growing crises of mental health challenges, addiction, and homelessness to alleviate its impacts on public libraries. CARRIED.

12:20 The meeting was paused for a break

12:44 The meeting resumed

a. Caucus Meetings Feedback

The ED reviewed how the caucus meetings were done differently this year and summarized the feedback and recommendations. A few suggestions were made for caucus meetings moving forward. It was noted that the First Nations Caucus meeting will occur at the Spring Gathering next week.

1:00 Feather Maracle left the meeting

Moved by Sarah Vaisler and seconded by Sarah Douglas-Murray THAT the Board receive the report as information. CARRIED.

c. Advocacy Priorities Review

The ED reviewed the report and recommendations. Advocacy priorities were discussed by the Board.

Moved by Beverley King and seconded by Lisa Radha Vohra THAT the Board support recommendations #1 and #2 in the report. CARRIED.

The ED made a request for Board Members to respond to a previous email regarding incident reports at libraries.

d. Advocacy Policy

The ED reviewed the previous FOPL Advocacy Policy, what other organizations do, and recommendations for FOPL. Questions were raised as to the need for such a policy. The ED clarified that some caucus feedback requested how advocacy is decided on and led to a need for a formal document. Examples were provided.

There was a request to defer this discussion to after 13e.

e. Governance Review

The ED summarized the need for a governance review and recommendations. The Board agreed the review is a good idea. It was noted that this would be a large project with a significant timeline and that an Advocacy document should be done as a part of the work. The ED identified the additional work will require an increase to the ED's working hours.

Moved by Beverley King and seconded by Sarah Vaisler THAT the Board approve the initiation of a comprehensive governance review process;
AND THAT the Board establish a Governance Review Committee comprised of Board members and admin support to oversee the review and development of a governance framework
AND THAT the Governance Review Committee report back to the Board with a proposed work plan, timeline, and identified governance priorities for consideration. CARRIED.

The consensus on the timeline of reporting back to the Board was an update at the Q3 meeting, and a report at the Q4 meeting.
The committee will be created via email.

13d was deferred to the Governance Review Committee with a discussion at the Q3 meeting specifically on the Advocacy Policy.

2:00 Emma Kinsman left the meeting

14. Announcements

The ED welcomed new Board members who joined after the earlier greeting.

15. Next Meeting

Q3 – Friday September 11, 2026, 10:00am

The Sept Q3 board meeting is hybrid with location TBD – Milton PL was offered. Confirmation will be provided by email.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06.

Wayne Greco, Chair	Dina Stevens, Board Secretary