



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE CICERO PUBLIC LIBRARY HELD AT THE
CICERO PUBLIC LIBRARY ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026
5:00 P.M.

Prior to calling the meeting to order, President Grazzini noted the following:

The president and Board of Trustees welcome you as observers to this public meeting. You are reminded this meeting is for the deliberations of the Board of Trustees, in contrast to a public hearing where members of the district are encouraged to participate. Unless invited by the President to speak, observers are requested not to interrupt the meeting in order that the concerns of the Library may be attended to efficiently. If the President recognizes you, please state your name & address and direct your remarks to the Board of Trustees.

President Anthony Grazzini called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

Roll Call

Secretary Mary Hernandez called roll. The following Trustees were present: President Anthony Grazzini, Secretary Mary Hernandez, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Omar Manouzi, Rosalba Raygoza and Alfonso Vega. Absent: Vice-President Mario Castaneda. Also present were Library Director Sandra Tomschin and Library Board Attorney Matt Byrne.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Trustee Vega made a motion to deviate from the agenda and move up Item 12, being Public Comments, for a presentation by Morton High School District 201. Trustee Raygoza seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Secretary Hernandez, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza and Vega. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Mr. Goodman, Vice-President of the Morton 201 Foundation, thanked the Cicero Public Library for allowing him and Dr. Michael Kuzniewski to be present at the meeting tonight. He said that in 2022, the foundation established the *Pay it Forward Awards* to recognize individuals, organizations and businesses who have supported the foundation's mission and efforts. The recipients of this award have repeatedly gone above and beyond to



advocate, promote and increase awareness about the foundation. He noted that since 2023, the Cicero Public Library has supported the theater night fundraisers as well as created several library displays to help them promote their events. All this is thanks to the library's generous and continued support along with that of our other monetary donors and corporate sponsors over the last eight years the Morton 201 Foundation has awarded 85 scholarships to graduates seniors totaling \$170,000.00. The next event will be Mary Poppins which will take place at Morton West on Friday November 13th and he hoped that they can count on their continued support for its contribution to this and to the success of their dinner and theater night fundraisers. Morton 201 foundation would like to recognize the Cicero Public Library as a 2026 Pay it Forward recipient. Mr. Goodman, along with Dr. Michael Kuzniewski, from Morton District 201, presented the award to everyone and thanked them for their continued support.

On behalf of the district, Dr. Kuzniewski thanked the library's Board. He truly appreciates coming back and seeing all the cool things that are happening now for the kids. He said that the kids, which are our most assertive children, are welcomed here all the time. They appreciate that and also letting involving District 201 to partake in the library

Secretary Hernandez also noted they appreciate them for involving District 201 to be part of the library.

Minutes

Secretary Hernandez made a motion to accept and place on file the June 8, 2026 Regular Meeting Open Session Minutes as presented. Trustee Vega seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried.

Secretary Hernandez made a motion to accept and place on file the June 8, 2026 Regular Meeting Closed Session Minutes as presented. Trustee Raygoza seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried.

Bills

Trustee Esposito made a motion to approve and pay the July 2026 bills as presented and place on file. Secretary Hernandez seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried.



Secretary Hernandez made a motion to approve and pay the August 2026 bills as presented and place on file. Trustee Manouzi seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried.

Trustee Vega made a motion to approve and pay the September 2026 bills as presented and place on file. Trustee Manouzi seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried.

Salaries

Secretary Hernandez made a motion to approve the June 2026 salaries as presented. Trustee Manouzi seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried.

Trustee Manouzi made a motion to approve the July 2026 salaries as presented. Trustee Vega seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried.

Secretary Hernandez made a motion to approve the August 2026 salaries as presented. Trustee Raygoza seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried.

Administrative Director's Report

Library Director Sandra Tomschin reported the following updates.

Administrative

- Library continued to work with Library Market to finalize the redesign of the Library's new website and going live in October.
- The meetings continued with the architects to finalize the plans to utilize the expanded equalization grant. Planned projects are updated, Youth Services Playroom, periodical/library of things room, installation of a cafe and updated flooring and furniture.
- On the agenda tonight was the recommendation for approval of "differential pay" for three employees that have participated in the grant-funded Project Next Generation. This additional recommended pay is due to additional responsibilities in managing and running the program. The employees are Cristian Hernandez, Emily Zamudio and Issac Loera.



- The 2024 audit has been completed. The library continues to control expenses while delivering expanded services as noted below:

2024 Expenses

Salary and Benefits	\$ 1,075,513.00
Library Materials and Supplies	\$ 167,332.00
Operations and Maintenance	\$ 707,558.00
Capital	\$ 6,464.00

Total Expenses 2024 **\$ 1,956,867.00**

2024 Revenues

Property Taxes	\$ 1,837,763.00
Personal Property Replacement Tax	\$ 129,294.00
Grants	\$ 248,553.00
Investment Earnings	\$ 38,488.00
Misc.	\$ 38,513.00

Total Revenue 2024 **\$ 2,292,611.00**

Fund Balance Change **\$ 335,744.00**

President Grazzini thanked Library Director Tomschin for being fiscally responsible and applauded her for everything she has done. The library of our size, with a smaller budget as we have, that they make really smart decisions and still provide amazing services for our community, so he just wanted to applaud her on all the work she has done. Library Director Tomschin responded that they're trying to just serve their big community with a small budget and have been very successful.

Programs

- Summer was full of great programming, from summer reading to back to school events. We continue to participate in the multiple outreach events to expand our services.
- We continue with the partnership with the Morton Arboretum and planning a tree giveaway as part of our Maker's market.
- We are planning our lineup for our fall and winter calendar of events and will share it with the Trustees once it is ready.
- We continue to find additional programming to fill the need of our public demands.

Library Director Tomschin asked the Board if they had any questions.



Trustee Esposito asked about the Pet Parade for this year. Library Director Tomschin responded that it will be on October 17, 2026 and that they will also have a Santa Paws event.

Trustee Vega made a motion to accept the Library Director's Report as presented and place on file. Secretary Hernandez seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried

Department Reports

Trustee Esposito made a motion to accept the reports for the Circulation Department for the months of June, July and August 2026 as presented and place on file. Trustee Manouzi seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried

Trustee Manouzi made a motion to accept the reports for the Technical Service Department for the months of June, July and August 2026 as presented and place on file. Trustee Vega seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried

Trustee Vega made a motion to accept the reports for the Reference Department for the months of June, July and August 2026 as presented and place on file. Trustee Raygoza seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Vega, Manouzi, Raygoza and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried

Trustee Esposito made a motion to accept the reports for the Youth Services Department for the months of June, July and August 2026 as presented and place on file. Trustee Manouzi seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried

Trustee Esposito made a motion to accept the reports for the Maker Space Department for the months of June, July and August 2026 as presented and place on file. Trustee Vega seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried

Trustee Vega made a motion to accept the reports for the Outreach Department for the months of June, July and August 2026 as presented and place on file. Secretary



Hernandez seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried

Correspondence

There was none presented.

Unfinished Business

There was none presented.

New Business

Approval of temporary grant-funded salary adjustment/differential pay for employees participating in Project Next Generation “Shark Tank” Program:

1. Cristian Hernandez
2. Emily Zamudio
3. Issac Loera

Secretary Hernandez asked about the differential pay or if it was a raise. President Grazzini responded that it was not a raise. Library Attorney also noted it was for the differential pay that is paid from the grant funded program.

Trustee Vega made a motion to approve the temporary grant-funded salary adjustment/differential pay for employees participating in Project Next Generation as noted above. Trustee Manouzi seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried

Approval of staff travel and registration for the ALA and the Guadalajara International Book Fair from November 27 to December 6, 2026, in Guadalajara, paid by ALA-FIL Free Pass Program

1. Rosalba Raygoza
2. Mary Hernandez
3. Beatriz Peralta
4. Francisco Cruz

Trustee Esposito made a motion to approve staff travel and registration for the ALA and the Guadalajara International Book Fair from November 27 to December 6, 2026, in Guadalajara, paid by ALA-FIL Free Pass Programs for the staff and Trustees as noted above. Trustee Vega seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye:



President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried

Approval of the name change and dedication of the Conference Room to be the “Klas Conference Room”.

Trustee Vega made a motion to approve the name change and dedication of the Conference Room to be the “Klas Conference Room. Trustee Raygoza seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried

Adjourn into Executive Session

Secretary Hernandez made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 5:31 p.m. Trustee Vega seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustees Rosemarie Esposito, Manouzi, Raygoza, Vega and Secretary Hernandez. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried

The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and must be open to the public. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1).

Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probably or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11).

Adjourned from Executive Session

Secretary Hernandez made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. Trustee Manouzi seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustee Rosemarie Esposito, Secretary Hernandez, Trustees Manouzi, Raygoza and Vega. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried.



Reconvened to Open Session

Secretary Hernandez made a motion to reconvene to Open Session at 6:03 p.m. Trustee Vega seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustee Rosemarie Esposito, Secretary Hernandez, Trustees Manouzi, Raygoza and Vega. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried.

Informational Item

President Grazzini announced that the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting would be held on Monday, October 12, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the Cicero Public Library.

Adjourn Meeting

Trustee Vega made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m. Trustee Manouzi seconded the motion. Roll call: All Trustees present voting aye: President Grazzini, Trustee Rosemarie Esposito, Secretary Hernandez, Trustees Manouzi, Raygoza and Vega. Nays: None. Absent: Vice-President Castaneda. Motion carried.

Secretary