

Fort Frances Public Library

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2026

The meeting of the Fort Frances Public Library Board took place in the Shaw Community Hub at the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre on Thursday, April 16, 2026 @ 4:35pm.

Board Members in attendance: Sheri De Gagné, Tanis Fretter, Hue Eldridge, Deputy Mayor Mike Behan, Councillor Bill Morrison Jr., Ken Kellar, Mayor Andrew Hallikas

Staff in attendance: Nadine Cousineau – CEO

Regrets: Robin Dennis

Call to order @ 4:35pm by Sheri De Gagné

Respect & Acknowledgement:

Read by Tanis F: We respectfully acknowledge that the Fort Frances Public Library is located on the traditional territory of Treaty 3. We honour the land and are committed to our relationship with all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples who have stewarded these lands and waters for generations.

1. Declaration of Conflict of Interest - none

2. Approval of the Agenda & Call for non-Agenda Issues

MOTION#2026-23 Motion to accept the agenda of April 16, 2026.

Moved by Tanis F.

Seconded by Ken K.

CARRIED

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

a. March 24, 2026

MOTION#2026-24 Motion to accept the minutes of the March 24, 2026 meeting.

Moved by Bill M.

Seconded by Mike B.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from Minutes

- a. Electrical Expense/Formula
 - i. Nadine has been working with relevant departments in the ToFF to collect historical electricity usage and billing data for the library.
 - ii. Data will be forwarded to the FFPC CEO for review and feedback.
 - iii. The ToFF will be conducting an energy audit in 2027, and the library will be included.

5. Financial Report

- a. Budget YTD
 - i. Amounts reflected on budget report spreadsheet are not fully accurate, as VISA transactions from the past two months have not yet been updated. These figures are expected to be updated by the next meeting.
 - ii. Library was approved for the Canada Summer Jobs grant at 50% of the requested funding, as anticipated, in the amount of \$2464
 - iii. Nadine asked for permission to use the Board Discretionary fund to pay for lunch for the Strategic Plan Committee in-person session with OLS on May 2, 2026.

MOTION#2026-25 Motion to accept the financial report of April 16, 2026.

Moved by Ken K.

Seconded by Hue E.

CARRIED

6. CEO Report

MOTION#2026-26 Motion to accept the CEO Report of April 16, 2026.

Moved by Hue E.

Seconded by Tanis F.

CARRIED

7. Items for Action/Discussion

- a. FOPL 2026 Advocacy Campaign
 - i. Discussion regarding the 2026 advocacy campaign led by the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries. Primary objective of the campaign is to highlight the increasing pressures faced by public libraries across the province as they respond to complex social challenges linked to mental health, addictions and housing.
 - ii. Discussion regarding the recent pilot project at Hamilton Public Library Central Branch.
 - iii. Brief discussion regarding the 2026 Ontario Provincial Budget. No new or increased funding for libraries was announced. However, a statement within

the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund section acknowledged libraries as a "critical service," alongside public transit and road maintenance.

b. In-camera Session

MOTION#2026-27 Motion to go in-camera @ 5:03pm due to labour relations or employee negotiations.

Moved by Bill M.

Seconded by Ken K.

CARRIED

The Board moved out of camera @ 5:15pm.

MOTION#2026-28 Motion to accept the minutes of the in-camera session of March 24, 2026.

Moved by Mike B.

Seconded by Bill M.

CARRIED

8. Policy Review

- a. OP-11 Programming
- b. OP-20 Shredder Use
- c. OP-21 Records Retention

MOTION#2026-29 Motion to approve policies OP-11, OP-20 and OP-21 as amended and move to a 4-year review.

Moved by Hue E.

Seconded by Bill M.

CARRIED

9. Communication between Staff and Board - none

10. Information Items


- a. Correspondence - none
- b. Friends of the Library Meeting Minutes
 - i. Thursday, March 15, 2026

11. Stating of next meeting date

The next FFPL Board meeting will be May 21, 2026 @ 4:35pm.

12. Adjournment

MOTION#2026-30 Motion to adjourn the FFPL Board meeting of April 16, 2026 @ 5:31pm.
Moved by Mike B.
Seconded by Bill M.
CARRIED



Sheri De Gagné, Board Chair



Nadine Cousineau, CEO