



Ajax Public Library Board

7.1 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 19, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Place: Rotary Room, Main Branch

Library Board Present

Piyali Correya (Chair)

Sepelene Deonarine

Mallik Fernando

Rebecca Hayes

Douglas Miller

Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Regrets

Deborah McDougall Jones (Vice-Chair), Voytek Bialkowski

Library Staff

Sarah Vaisler, Chief Librarian & Executive Officer and Secretary/Treasurer

Jason Tooral, Manager of Corporate Services

Kiley Percy, Interim Manager of Public Service

Sai Mahendran, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin this meeting by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is situated within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas. More specifically, the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, signatories of the Gunshot Treaty of 1788 and the Williams Treaties of 1923. This land is, and will continue to be, home to the Indigenous Peoples. Let us acknowledge the mistakes and traumas of the past through authenticity and support truth and reconciliation. Let us engage and celebrate Indigenous communities by being leaders of action in acknowledging the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations towards truth and reconciliation. Let us keep these principles close, as we continue towards truth and reconciliation and as we move forward with kindness and respect as a community.

3. Election of the Board's Executive Positions (Chair and Vice-Chair)

Piyali Correya (Chair) declared nominations open for the position of Chair.

26-02/01 Moved by: Rebecca Hayes
Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that Piyali Correya be nominated for Chair.
CARRIED

26-02/02 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that nominations for Chair be closed.
CARRIED

Piyali Correya assumes the position of Chair and declared nominations open for Vice-Chair.

Sepelene Deonarine joined 7:04 p.m.

26-02/03 Moved by: Piyali Correya
Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi be nominated for Vice-Chair.
CARRIED

26-02/04 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that nominations for Chair be closed.
CARRIED

Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi assumes the position of Vice-Chair.

4. Approval of the Agenda

26-02/05 Moved by: Rebecca Hayes
Seconded by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves the agenda of the February 19, 2026, Board Meeting.

CARRIED

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

9.3 Internal Monitoring Report – Executive Limitations 3.1 Access to Facilities

26-02/07

Moved by: Rebecca Hayes

Seconded by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives the monitoring report EL 3.1 Access to Facilities and agrees that it provides reasonable interpretation of the policy and evidence of compliance.

CARRIED

9.4 Internal Monitoring Report - Executive Limitations 3.4 Compensation and Benefits

26-02/08

Moved by: Sepelene Deonarine

Seconded by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives the monitoring report EL 3.4 Compensation and Benefits and agrees that it provides reasonable interpretation of the policy and evidence of compliance.

CARRIED

9.5 Staff Report – Library Board Term Transition Work Plan Report

26-02/09

Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves the Library Board Term Transition Work Plan as presented.

26-02/10

Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves the Library Board Term Transition Work Plan as amended.

CARRIED

9.6 Staff Report – 2026 Operating and Capital Budget

26-02/11 Moved by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi
Seconded by: Mallik Fernando

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves the 2026 Operating and Capital Budget.

CARRIED

9.7 Staff Report – 2026 Library Board Meeting Schedule

26-02/12 Moved by: Sepelene Deonarine
Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board adopts the 2026 Library Board meeting schedule as presented.

CARRIED

9.8 2026 OLA Super Conference Discussion

Board Members who attended the OLA Super Conference shared details from sessions focused on the Indigenous community, generative AI, and navigating the toxic drug supply crisis as library workers. Attendees encouraged any Board members who have not attended the conference to consider participating.

9.9 Committee Updates

None.

9.10 Chief Librarian's Report

Piyali Correya praised the Library's new Program Calendar, suggested incorporating more diverse events into the displays, and raised questions regarding the increase in incidents in December 2025.

26-02/13 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives this report for information.

CARRIED

9.11 November Financial Report

Piyali Correya raised questions regarding the fees and fines line item and the associated trends.

26-02/14 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives this for information.

CARRIED

9.12 Staff Report – Q4 2025 Donations Report

CLEO addressed concerns regarding the need to absorb a funding shortfall for the Library Book Vending Machine.

26-02/15 Moved by: Rebecca Hayes
Seconded by: Sepelene Deonarine

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives this for information.

CARRIED

9.13 Board Self-Evaluation – Governance Process 3.8 Cost of Governance

Chair raised concerns about the overall cost of governance within the Library's budget, including the allocation of funds that allow the Board to seek external assistance and professional advice.

CLEO addressed related concerns by discussing the inclusions of a legal budget line within Board expenses and the use of the Contracted Services budget line as required.

26-02/16 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives this for information.

CARRIED

10. Announcements

None.

11. Closed Session (Commenced at 8:53 p.m.)

11.1 Personnel Matter

To discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual.

11.2 Solicitor-Client Privileged Advice

To discuss advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege.

26-02/17 Moved by: Rebecca Hayes
Seconded by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Motion that Ajax Public Library Board move into Closed Session.

CARRIED

26-02/18 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that Ajax Public Library Board rise from
Closed Session.

CARRIED

Open Meeting (9:07 p.m.)

Ratify Decisions made in Closed Session

26-02/19 Moved by: Rebecca Hayes
Seconded by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Motion that all decisions made in Closed Session
be ratified.

CARRIED

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

26-02/20 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Next meeting: Thursday, March 26, 2026
7:00 p.m. Multi-Purpose Room, Audley Branch