

BPL Board Minutes

Minutes of a regular meeting held February 19, 2026 at 6:01pm at the Boardroom Bob Prittie
Metrotown Branch 6100 Willingdon Ave BC V5H 4N5.

Attendance

Board: Anna Lu (Chair)
Sarah Bartnik
Katrina Chen
Raj Hundal
Paul Nixey
Shiraz Ramji
Mandy Yang

Staff: Beth Davies (Secretary)
Jennifer Bradley (left at 6:31pm)
Cristina Freire (left at 6:31pm)
Linton Harrison
Christel Johnson
Mark Landau (left at 6:31pm)
Tina Lee (left at 6:31pm)
Trish Mau
Heidi Schiller

Guests: Jackie Flowers

Regrets: Hakam Bhaloo
Maita Santiago

We respectfully acknowledge that Burnaby Public Library is located on the unceded territories of the [xʷməθkʷəy̍əm \(Musqueam\)](#), [Skwxwú7mesh \(Squamish\)](#), [səlilwətaʔ \(Tsleil-Waututh\)](#), and [kwikwəłəm \(Kwikwetlem\)](#) Peoples. Each Nation has distinct histories and distinct traditional territories that fully or partially encompass the city of Burnaby.

We encourage you to learn more about the Host Nations whose ancestors have occupied and used these lands, including parts of present-day Burnaby, for thousands of years.

1. Agenda

That the agenda be received as amended with the addition of the re-election of the Alternate InterLINK Representative.

Moved by Anna Lu
Seconded by Paul Nixey
Carried.

2. Minutes

That the minutes of the regular meeting held January, 15, 2026 be adopted as circulated.

Moved by Mandy Yang
Seconded by Shiraz Ramji
Carried.

3. Presentation

3.1 Collections

The Collections Librarians shared an overview of their work. They described their extensive research and considerations during the material selection process to keep up with community interests and inclusivity. They also highlighted BPL's collections in other languages, e-resources, intellectual freedom, the curiosity collection and the growing struggle of identifying AI material. Trustees asked questions about purchase requests, the requests for reconsideration process, material donations, and vinyl.

Jennifer Bradley, Cristina Freire, Mark Landau, and Tina Lee left the meeting at 6:31pm

4. Reports

4.1 Board Chair

The Board Chair shared that BCLTA has now launched a quick reference guide summarizing their courses, making the information more accessible for those who are not able to attend. She also encouraged Trustees to take advantage of the courses offered by BCLTA. The Chief Librarian will provide a list of upcoming courses for the Trustees.

4.2 Council Liaison

The Council Liaison sent her regrets for this meeting.

4.3 InterLINK Representative

InterLINK Representative Sarah Bartnik reported that the first InterLINK meeting of the year is scheduled for next week.

5. Items for Decision

5.1 Election of Officers

Election of Alternate InterLINK Representative

Anna Lu resigned as alternate InterLINK representative. Anna Lu nominated Paul Nixey. Paul Nixey was acclaimed.

Election of Chair and Members of Finance Committee

Anna Lu nominated Paul Nixey for Finance Committee Chair. Paul Nixey was acclaimed. Hakam Bhaloo and Anna Lu expressed interest in being Finance Committee members and were acclaimed.

Election of Chair and Members of Personnel Committee

Sarah Bartnik volunteered to be Personnel Committee Chair. Sarah Bartnik was acclaimed. Raj Hundal, Hakam Bhaloo, Mandy Yang, and Katrina Chen expressed interest in being Personnel Committee members and were acclaimed.

5.2 Libraries Branch Report

The Chief Librarian shared a summary of the Provincial Public Library Grant Report. She highlighted valuable community initiatives and services BPL has worked on in 2025 and how provincial grants have supported some of these services. She also shared some of the new challenges BPL faces such filling in the

gaps of disappearing free public services, and the rise of incidents in public libraries. Trustee Mandy Yang asked if there's a chance we might not continue to receive this grant. The Chief Librarian replied that currently there is no indication of cuts to public library grants in the recently passed 2026 provincial budget.

That the Board endorse the 2025 Provincial Public Library Grant Report.

Moved by Sarah Bartnik
Seconded by Raj Hundal
Carried.

6. Items for Information

6.1 Annual statistics

The Director, Public Service shared a snapshot of BPL's 2025 statistics with a comparison of the past 5 years. She shared that overall, there was modest but steady increase of library visits, material circulation, and services. There were more notable increases in computer usage and streaming content. Trustees asked questions on digital literacy programming and the demand for digital materials. The Director, Public Service described the various levels of digital literacy programming at BPL. The Director, Collections and Technology added that there is currently not a huge demand for BPL to lend technology such as laptops and tablets and that laptop or tablet lending machines are no longer in the capital budget. The Chief Librarian added there are partner organizations that are meeting some of the community's needs in this area.

6.2 2024-2027 Operating Plan Mid-point Review

The Chief Librarian gave a mid-point update on the 2024-2027 Operating Plan. She described updates and changes to the Strategic Plan such as the cancellation of the project to develop services and programs that advance goals in the strategic plan. Trustee Katrina Chen asked for an explanation for the cancellation of this project. The Chief Librarian explained that it was decided to not approach this goal as a project but rather integrate it operationally into the development of programs. Trustee Raj Hundal inquired about the courtesy phones and if there is interest to also incorporate a community voicemail service. The Chief Librarian replied that she is not aware of any libraries or other organizations currently offering this service, and that she will look into this more.

6.3 Operating Plan

The Chief Librarian shared the 2026 Operating Plan.

7. Other Business

The Board Chair acknowledged that this will be the Chief Librarian's last board meeting before her retirement and shared her appreciation for her support and hard work. The Chief Librarian gave her thanks to trustees.

8. Adjournment

8.1 **That** the regular meeting adjourn and that the Board resolve itself into an in camera meeting from which the public is excluded to consider patron bans.

Moved by Raj Hundal
Seconded by Sarah Bartnik
Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.

Anna Lu (Meeting Chair)

Beth Davies (Secretary)