Warren-Newport Public Library District
Lake County, Illinois
Board of Trustees

George Kotsinis, President
Celeste Flores, Vice President
Kerry Eagar, Secretary
Wendy Hamilton, Treasurer
Bonnie Sutton
Caroline Costa Beadle
Lauren Bugner

Regular Board Meeting
January 20, 2026
McCullough Board Room

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Determination of Quorum
President Kotsinis called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Trustees present: Bugner, Eagar, Flores, Kotsinis, Hamilton and Sutton.
Trustees present by video conference: Costa Beadle.

Also present: Executive Director Ryan Livergood, Recording Secretary Gina Ornelas, Rebekah Raleigh, Katie Troyer and Smruti Savarkar.

Pledge of Allegiance
President Kotsinis led those present in the pledge of Allegiance.

Reading of Mission Statement
President Kotsinis read the Mission Statement aloud.

President Kotsinis moved and Vice President Flores seconded to allow Trustee Costa Beadle attend the meeting by video conference due to illness.
The motion carried on a voice vote.
Absent: Costa Beadle

Public Comments, Correspondence and Communications. None.

Consent Agenda

a. Approval of payrolls for December 2025
b. Approval of bills payable for November 2025
c. Patron Suggestions December 2025

Vice President Flores moved and Treasurer Hamilton seconded that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.
The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

President's Report
President Kotsinis presented a written report in the packet.

Reports of Other Trustees
Vice President Flores expressed her appreciation to the Board for their support to her and her family following the passing of her father.
Vice President Flores attended the *Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service: Care Kits* event. She noted that Vanessa Harris, Programing Coordinator, lead the event and did a good job.

Secretary Eagar provided an overview of "Be My Neighbor: A Community Portrait Exhibit" by photographer Anna Rasmussen. Secretary Eagar shared that she knows the artist personally and highlighted that Anna is very talented and the exhibit is well done.

Executive Director's Report January 2026
Executive Director Livergood presented a written report in the packet.

Old Business

a. Facilities Plan Update
   Executive Director Livergood presented a written report in the packet.

President Kotsinis moved and Trustee Sutton seconded that the Library will be closed on February 17, 18, and 19, in addition to delayed openings at 12:00 p.m. weekdays from February 20 through March 6, 2026.
The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:
Ayes: Hamilton, Costa Beadle, Sutton, Flores, Eagar, Bugner, Kotsinis

b. Adoption of WNPL Strategic Plan FY 2026-2029
   Executive Director Livergood presented a written report in the packet.

Vice President Flores moved and Secretary Eagar seconded that the Board adopt the Strategic Plan 2026-2029 as amended.
The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:
Ayes: Costa Beadle, Eagar, Bugner, Flores, Hamilton, Sutton, Kotsinis

c. Adoption of Revised Mission Statement
   Executive Director Livergood presented a written report in the packet.

Trustee Bugner moved and Trustee Sutton seconded that the revised mission statement: "***Empowering our community by connecting people to information, ideas, and opportunities,"*** be approved as amended.
The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:
Ayes: Eagar, Bugner, Sutton, Costa Beadle, Hamilton, Flores, Kotsinis

d. Approval of Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant Application. Illinois Public Library Standards update.
Executive Director Livergood presented a written report in the packet.
Vice President Flores moved and President Kotsinis seconded that the Board approve the Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grant Application to be submitted to the office of the Illinois State Librarian pursuant to Law.
The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:
Ayes: Bugner, Sutton, Eagar, Hamilton, Costa Beadle, Flores, Kotsinis

New Business

a. Secretary's Reports.
i. Minutes of Executive Session November 18, 2025.
Trustee Sutton moved and Treasurer Hamilton seconded that the Minutes of Executive Session November 18, 2025 be approved to remain closed to the public.
The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:
Ayes: Sutton, Eagar, Hamilton, Costa Beadle, Bugner, Kotsinis
Abstain: Flores

ii. Minutes of Executive Session December 2, 2025.
Treasurer Hamilton moved and Trustee Sutton seconded that the Minutes of Executive Session December 2, 2025 be approved to remain closed to the public.
The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:
Ayes: Hamilton, Sutton, Bugner, Eagar, Costa Beadle, Kotsinis
Abstain: Flores

iii. Minutes of Regular Meeting December 16, 2025.
Secretary Eagar moved and Trustee Sutton seconded that the Minutes of Regular Meeting December 16, 2025 be approved as presented.
The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:
Ayes: Costa Beadle, Eagar, Hamilton, Sutton, Kotsinis
Abstain: Flores, Bugner

iv. Minutes of Executive Session December 16, 2025.
Vice President Flores moved and Trustee Bugner seconded that the Minutes of Executive Session December 16, 2025 be approved to remain closed to the public.

The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:
Ayes: Hamilton, Sutton, Eagar, Costa Beadle, Kotsinis
Abstain: Flores, Bugner

v. Minutes of Special Meeting December 22, 2025.

Trustee Bugner moved and Vice President Flores seconded that the Minutes of Regular Meeting December 16, 2025 be approved as presented.
The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

b. Monthly Financial Statements for November 2025

Executive Director Livergood presented a written report in the packet.
Treasurer Hamilton moved and Vice President Flores seconded that the Board approve the Monthly Financial Statements for November 2025 as presented.
The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:
Ayes: Sutton, Flores, Hamilton, Costa Beadle, Eagar, Bugner, Kotsinis

c. Ordinance # 2025/2026-8 Tax Abatement for Debt Service

Executive Director Livergood presented a written report in the packet.
President Kotsinis moved and Trustee Sutton seconded that the Ordinance # 2025/2026-8 Tax Abatement for Debt Service for the Year 2025 be approved as presented.
The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:
Ayes: Bugner, Sutton, Eagar, Hamilton, Costa Beadle, Flores, Kotsinis

d. Semi-annual Review of Closed Executive Session Minutes and Recordings

Executive Director Livergood presented a written report in the packet.
Secretary Eagar moved and Trustee Bugner seconded that the Board approve the semi-annual review of closed Executive Session Minutes and Recordings for the second half of 2025 as presented.
The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

e. Board Self-Evaluation and Goals

Executive Director Livergood presented a written report in the packet.

f. Fundraising update

Executive Director Livergood gave an oral report.

g. Board Policies update to incorporate portions of recent amendments to OMA and FOIA as per Public Act 104-0438 effective January 1, 2026

i. Board Policy 1001 Bylaws of Warren-Newport Public Library District

Vice President Flores moved and Trustee Sutton seconded that Board Policy 1001 Bylaws of Warren-Newport Public Library be approved as presented.
The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Hamilton, Eagar, Flores, Costa Beadle, Bugner, Sutton, Kotsinis

ii. Board Policy 4030 FOIA

Trustee Bugner moved and Treasurer Hamilton seconded that Board Policy 4030 FOIA be approved as presented.
The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:
Ayes: Costa Beadle, Flores, Bugner, Eagar, Hamilton, Sutton, Kotsinis

h. Reschedule of Meetings to Incorporate recent OMA and FOIA amendments and accommodate the temporary library closure during the transformation process
Executive Director Livergood presented a written report.

i. Regular Meeting February 2026

President Kotsinis moved and Trustee Sutton seconded to approve cancelling the Committee of the Whole Meeting originally set for February 03, 2026, and rescheduling the Regular Meeting set for February 17, 2026 to February 10, 2026, due to the temporary Library closure on February 17, 2026.
The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:
Ayes: Flores, Costa Beadle, Eagar, Sutton, Bugner, Hamilton, Kotsinis

ii. Regular Meeting March 2026

Trustee Kotsinis moved and Vice President Flores seconded to approve rescheduling the Regular Meeting originally set for Tuesday, March 17, 2026 to Monday, March 16, 2026, due to General Primary Election.
The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:
Ayes: Sutton, Flores, Bugner, Hamilton, Costa Beadle, Eagar, Kotsinis

i. Other Potentially actionable items: Agenda items for February 2026 Regular Meeting:
iii. Monthly Financial Statements for December 2025
iv. Initial overview of potential capital projects for FY 26-27
v. Board Self-evaluation and Goals
vi. Board Policies TBD
vii. Personnel Policies TBD
viii. Potential Services to be provided by WNPL

Public Forum. None.

Announcements

a. By the Chair:
i. Upcoming calendar
1. Friends of the Library Meeting, January 22, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

2. Friends of the Library Book Sale, Saturday, February 14, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
3. Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
4. Library Closed to the Public for Construction, February 17-19, 2026.
5. Youth Spaces and Meeting Rooms are not available from Tuesday, February 17, to June Early June 2026.
6. Library Open at 12:00 p.m. weekdays for Public, February 20 – March 6, 2026.
7. Library Open with Modified access, Mid-April – Early June, 2026.
8. Soft Opening of the Library June 2026
9. Ribbon Cutting Grand Opening July 25, 2026
10. Next Committee of the Whole Meeting, Tuesday, March 3, 2026.

Adjournment
Trustee Sutton moved and Treasurer Hamilton seconded that the meeting be adjourned.
The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

President Kotsinis adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

/s/ *Kerry Eagar*
Kerry Eagar, Secretary

Approved: February 10, 2026

/s/ *Gina Ornelas*
Gina Ornelas, Recording Secretary