



REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE
NEW WESTMINSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

In-Person Meeting
January 21, 2026
6:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Rachel Chong
Stephanie Lau
Darius Maze
Nadine Nakagawa - Council Representative
Karen New
Mark Ritchie
Deb Thomas
Diana Whellams

ABSENT:

Amina Yasin

STAFF:

Carolyn Caseñas - Chief Librarian
Shane Parmar - Acting Manager Programming and Community Development
Sandy Shein - Note taker

1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Trustee Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
Trustee Thomas presented the Land Acknowledgement.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

3. AFFIRMATION OF CONDUCT

C. Caseñas administered the Affirmation of Conduct. Board Trustees also reviewed and signed the Trustee Code of Ethics.

4. BOARD ELECTIONS

- Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
Trustee Thomas was elected board chair by acclamation
Trustee Maze was elected vice chair by acclamation

Chair was passed to Trustee Thomas.

- Introduction to Committees – Chair and Vice-Chair
The Chairs provided a brief overview, including a description of responsibilities and time commitment, of the Finance and Advocacy, and Governance and Policy Committees. Returning Trustees also spoke to their committee experiences, including serving on the InterLINK and Public Art Committees. Trustees were encouraged to consider committee roles with further discussion at the upcoming Board Retreat.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: To adopt the agenda as presented

MOVED: Trustee Whellams
SECONDED: Trustee Chong

6. ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: To adopt the consent agenda as presented

MOVED: Trustee Maze
SECONDED: Trustee Whellams

7. NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

- Meeting Schedule and Format
Trustees confirmed the meeting schedule, locations and format for 2026. Meeting decision was made for carrying on for the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6pm.

MOTION: To adopt the meeting schedule as amended.

MOVED: Trustee Lau
SECONDED: Trustee New

- Board Retreat
The Board considered dates for the retreat and selected February 8, 2026.

MOTION: To adopt the date of Board Retreat as selected.

MOVED: Trustee Ritchie
SECONDED: Trustee New

- Community Agreement
The Board reviewed and revised the Community Agreement.

MOTION: To adopt the Community Agreement as discussed.

MOVED: Trustee Chong

SECONDED: Trustee Lau

- Work Plan
Trustees Thomas and Maze presented a draft work plan for 2026. Trustees discussed key points and ask questions about items. The work plan is a living document with updates expected over the course of the term.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Reports – None.

b. Verbal updates

i. Chief Librarian

C. Caseñas noted that regularly scheduled seasonal program which now includes Spanish and Punjabi storytimes. She provided a brief overview of library activities, including the Library’s work with the City’s Community Advisory Assembly, as well as initial plans for the Summer Reading Club Wrap Party in the fall.

ii. InterLink – Trustee Ritchie

No update.

c. Upcoming Events

See [Library Events Calendar](#).

9. ROUNDTABLE

Trustee Thomas noted she attended a BCLA webinar on climate literacy.

10. MOTION FOR IN-CAMERA

MOTION: To Move to in camera pursuant to section 90 of the Community Charter.

MOVED: Trustee Lau

SECONDED: Trustee Whellams

11. NEXT LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Wednesday February 18, 2026, 6:00pm – 8:00pm at Main Branch

12. ADJOURNMENT ON MOTION, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.



C. Caseñas (Secretary)



Trustee Thomas (Chair) or Trustee Maze (Co-Chair)