ALSIP-MERRIONETTE PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MINUTES
April 14, 2026

PAR. 1 The regular monthly meeting of the ALSIP-MERRIONETTE PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES was called to order at 6:03 pm by President Leyva. Roll was called. Present were Trustees Buergel, Dujsik, McLaughlin, McKendree, Opila, Schneider, and President Leyva. A quorum was present. Ms. Cottonaro, Director; Ms. Malysa, Youth Services Manager; Ms. Navabi, Adult Services Manager; Ms. Leyva, Patron Services Manager and Ms. Moore, Marketing Associate, were also in attendance. No public was present.

PAR. 2 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PAR. 3 Ms. Leyva, Patron Services Manager introduced the new Marketing Associate, Ms. Moore to the Board. The Board gave her a warm welcome.

PAR. 4 **MINUTES:** Motion made by Trustee Dujsik, seconded by Trustee McLaughlin, to accept and place on file the regular board meeting minutes of March 10, 2026, as presented. Motion carried by voice vote 7 – 0.

PAR. 5 **ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** Director Cottonaro said she has a couple of things from the attorney that need to be addressed in an executive session.

PAR. 6 **OFFICERS' REPORTS:**

PAR. 7 **PRESIDENT REPORT**: No Report.

PAR. 8 **VICE PRESIDENT:** No Report.

PAR. 9 **SECRETARY:** No Report.

PAR. 10 **TREASURER:** The financial report for March 2026 was presented for approval.

PAR. 11 Motion made by Trustee Opila, seconded by Trustee McLaughlin, to place on file the financial report for March 2026, as presented. Roll #1 was called. Voting was 'Aye' by Trustees Buergel, Dujsik, McKendree, McLaughlin, Opila, Schneider, and President Leyva. No 'Nays'. Motion carried 7 – 0.

PAR. 12 **FINANCE:** A list of invoices dated April 14, 2026, was presented for payment.

PAR. 13 Motion made by Trustee Opila, seconded by Trustee Buegel, to approve the payment of April 14, 2026, invoices in the amount of $272,600.44, as presented. Roll #2 was called. Voting was 'Aye' by Trustees Buergel, Dujsik, McKendree, McLaughlin, Opila, Schneider, and President Leyva. No 'Nays'. Motion carried 7 – 0.

PAR. 14 **BUILDING & GROUNDS:** No Report.

PAR. 15 **POLICY:** No Report.

PAR. 16 ** **BY-LAWS:** Director Cottonaro said she meant to add the $5000 increased spending threshold for herself on this agenda and will have it listed for approval at the regular May 2026 board meeting.

PAR. 17 **PUBLIC RELATIONS:** No Report.

PAR. 18 ** **PERSONNEL:** Trustee McLaughlin asked all trustees to send her their goals for the director for the upcoming fiscal year within the next six to eight weeks.

PAR. 19 ** Director Cottonaro said she would provide her goals for herself to Trustee McLaughlin by the regular May 12, 2026, board meeting.

PAR. 20 **TRUSTEE EDUCATION:** A lively discussion ensued regarding the Library Standards for Finance & Budget.

PAR. 21 ** Director Cottonaro informed the board that the United for Libraries Virtual Conference for Library Trustees is scheduled for July 28, 2026. She will let the board know the start time.

PAR. 22 Director Cottonaro reminded the board of the upcoming American Library Association Conference, to be held at McCormick Place in Chicago on June 25-29, 2026.

PAR. 23 **INSURANCE:** No Report.

PAR. 24 **MANAGER'S REPORTS:** Manager's reports were placed on file.

PAR. 25 Trustee McLaughlin commended all department managers on their reports and thanked them for doing such a great job.

PAR. 26 **LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Director's report was placed on file. Most items were previously discussed.

PAR. 27 Director Cottonaro shared her report on attending the Public Library Association Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

PAR. 28 Director Cottonaro reported that the new Marketing Associate, Ms. Moore is doing a fabulous job collaborating with all staff, as well as creating a specific voice/tone for our social media accounts.

PAR. 29 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Director Cottonaro presented for approval a list of Strategic Plan Focus Areas for patron input.

PAR. 30 Motion made by President Leyva, seconded by Trustee Dusik, to approve five areas of Express Creativity, Visit a Comfortable Place, Celebrate Diversity, Create Young Readers and Welcome to the United States, as presented. Roll #3 was called. Voting was 'Aye' by Trustees Buergel, Dujsik, McKendree, McLaughlin, Opila, Schneider, and President Leyva. No 'Nays'. Motion carried 7 – 0.

PAR. 31 **NEW BUSINESS:** Director Cottonaro presented a staff tuition reimbursement request for approval.

PAR. 32 Motion made by Trustee Opila, seconded by Trustee McLaughlin, to approve tuition reimbursement for Ms. Zimmerman, as presented. Roll #4 was called. Voting was 'Aye' by Trustees Buergel, Dujsik, McKendree, McLaughlin, Opila, Schneider, and President Leyva. No 'Nays'. Motion carried 7 – 0.

PAR. 33 **PUBLIC DISCUSSION:** None.

PAR. 34 **TRUSTEE COMMENTS:** None.

PAR. 35 Motion was made by Trustee McKendree, seconded by Trustee McLaughlin, to adjourn to executive session at 6:50 pm to discuss personnel.

PAR. 36 Trustee McKendree reconvened the meeting at 7:20 pm. Roll was called. Trustees Buergel, Dujsik, McKendree, McLaughlin, Opila, Schneider, and President Leyva were in attendance. A quorum was present.

PAR. 37 Motion made by Trustee Opila, seconded by Trustee Buergel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 pm. Motion carried by voice vote 7 – 0.

REBECCA DUJSIK, SECRETARY

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ALSIP-MERRIONETTE PARK
PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
APPROVED-AMENDED_____ DATE_____
** Denotes follow-up needed