



Essex County Library Board Regular Meeting Minutes

(also available at www.essexcountylibrary.ca under About the Library)

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

**Room C, 2nd Floor
360 Fairview Avenue West
Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6**

Mission

The Essex County Library is a space of discovery for all at the heart of our communities.

Vision

The Essex County Library strives to be a trusted community partner, enriching the lives of residents by providing responsive services and creating connections to information, entertainment, and knowledge. As a cornerstone of our County, the Library fosters engagement and lifelong learning through spaces and services that evolve to meet needs of the community.

Members:

Joe Bachetti, Chair
Tracey Bailey
Sherry Bondy, Vice Chair
Terry Burns
Chris Gibb
Heather Latam
Lauren Segedin

Administration:

Bianca Azzopardi, Coordinator, HR
Adam Craig, Chief Librarian/C.E.O.
Grant Munroe, Manager, Public Services
Manuela Denes, Manager, Community Services

6:00 PM Regular Meeting

1. Land Acknowledgement

We begin by acknowledging that the land on which the County of Essex is located is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, Odawa, and Potawatomie Peoples.

We specifically recognize Caldwell First Nation and other First Nations which have provided historical and contemporary contributions to this region.

We also value the contributions of all Original Peoples of Turtle Island, who have been living and working on this land from time immemorial.

2. Recording of Attendance

Members of the Essex County Library Board attended the meeting at the Civic Centre.

Ms. Latam was not in attendance.

3. Approval of the Agenda

24/47

Moved by Ms. Segedin

Seconded by Ms. Bondy

That the Agenda be accepted as distributed.

Carried

4. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

24/48

Moved by Ms. Segedin

Seconded by Ms. Bondy

That the minutes of the July 31, 2024 Regular Meeting of Essex County Library Board be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Consent Agenda

A) Chief Executive Officer's Report

Throughout July and August, 16,000 people attended summer reading programs. ECL hosted 371 programs, and the most popular programs were drop-ins as this type of program caters to the busy schedules of patrons.

The floor design for the new Cottam Community Centre has been approved and demolition is scheduled to begin as early as October of this year. It has been confirmed that the Cottam branch will not experience an interruption of service. The branch will remain in its current building until the new building is ready for the move. The expected grand re-opening for the Cottam branch is early summer 2025.

On October 17, Michael Jacques will be visiting the Tecumseh branch. Michael is a motivational speaker and activist for autism.

After the success of the ECL's Green Bench program in June, Schlegel Villages of Aspen Lake and the Village at St. Clair have donated a green bench to Essex County Library. The green bench program encourages conversation between elders and members of the community. The bench will rotate throughout all 14 branches. The first event will be October 3 at 4:00pm at the LaSalle branch.

The Town of Tecumseh and the Tecumseh branch will be co-hosting a joint open house event to showcase the great collection of art in both facilities. This will be held on October 23 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.

An all-staff training day for ECL has been scheduled for December 11, 2024, in which all branches will be closed.

Statistics and financial statements were presented to the Board.

The Board recognized staff for their success with drop-in programs.

24/49

Moved by Mr. Burns

Seconded by Ms. Segedin

That the Board receive the consent items: CEO report for information.

Carried

6. Reports

A) Strategic Plan

A finalized strategic plan report was presented to the Board and it is recommended to approve the strategic plan prior to communicating with the communities.

The plan includes a new mission statement; new vision statement; updated values; and updated strategic objectives.

It is recommended that the strategic plan be in effect for 5 years effective January 1, 2025.

Drafts of the official plan will be presented to the Board at the October meeting.

24/50

Moved by Ms. Bailey

Seconded by Mr. Gibb

That the Board receive the Strategic Plan for Essex County Library for information; and, approve the 5-year Strategic Plan for Essex County Library.

That a tracking matrix be developed and that the strategic plan be presented to the Board on a quarterly basis to ensure progress on the goals.

Carried

B) 2025 Budget Proposal

Essex County Library's 2025 budget will be presented to County Council on November 28, 2024.

The proposed budgetary increase for 2025 is 4.4%. This increase takes into consideration inflation; furniture/equipment; salary

and wages; and benefit premiums. The budget will also provide funding to capital reserves to return reserves to a healthy level.

The Board requested that Administration provide a verbal report on sick time trends and that more information be provided in regarding to facility lease costs.

24/51

Moved by Mr. Gibb
Seconded by Mr. Burns

That the Board receive the 2025 Budget Proposal for Essex County Library for information; and, approve the 2025 Budget Proposal for Essex County Library.

Carried

7. Communication

Mr. Gibb thanked members of the Essex County Library Board for sending a letter, requesting that the Amherstburg branch be considered during the Town's facility review, to Amherstburg Council.

8. New Business

A) Public Reporting of Closed Meeting

A closed meeting of the Essex County Library Board was held immediately prior to this evening's meeting pursuant to Section 16.1 of the *Public Libraries Act*, R.S.O. 1990, as amended to discuss personal matters pertaining to identifiable individuals.

B) Motion

There was no motion.

C) Notice of Motion

There was no notice of motion.

9. Date and Location of Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Location: Room C, Civic Centre

10. Adjournment

Upon motion of Ms. Segedin and Mr. Gibb, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.



Joe Bachetti
Chair – Essex County Library Board



Adam Craig
CEO/Chief Librarian, Essex County Library
Secretary and Treasurer to the Board