



Ajax Public Library Board

6.1 Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Place: Multi-Purpose Room, Audley Branch

Library Board Present

Piyali Correya (Chair)

Pia Kaukoranta Vahabi (Vice-Chair)

Voytek Bialkowski

Sepelene Deonarine

Mallik Fernando

Rebecca Hayes

Douglas Miller

Deborah McDougall Jones

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Regrets

None.

Library Staff

Sarah Vaisler, Chief Librarian & Executive Officer and Secretary/Treasurer

Jason Tooral, Manager of Corporate Services

Kiley Percy, Interim Manager of Public Service

Sai Mahendran, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin this meeting by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is situated within the traditional and treaty territory of the Mississaugas. More specifically, the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, signatories of the Gunshot Treaty of 1788 and the Williams Treaties of 1923. This land is, and will continue to be, home to the Indigenous Peoples. Let us acknowledge the mistakes and traumas of the past through authenticity and support truth and reconciliation. Let us engage and celebrate Indigenous communities by being leaders of action in acknowledging the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations towards truth and reconciliation. Let us keep these principles close, as we continue towards truth and reconciliation and as we move forward with kindness and respect as a community.

3. Approval of the Agenda

26-04/01 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Deborah McDougall Jones

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves
the agenda of the April 16, 2026, Board Meeting.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

5. Presentation:

5.1 Eric Guernsey, Vice President, Ontario Library Boards' Association

Eric Guernsey delivered a presentation on the Ontario Library Boards' Association (OLBA). Mr. Guernsey invited the Ajax Public Library Board to join the ONLibChats meeting on Board Recruitment virtually on Thursday, May 14 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

6. Consent Agenda

Items 6.2 Chief Librarian's Report & 6.6 Annual Agenda/Work Plan were pulled for further discussion as item 8.9 & 8.10 in Other Business.

26-04/02 Moved by: Voytek Bialkowski
Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approves
the Consent Agenda as amended.

CARRIED

7. Correspondence

7.1 Customer Testimonial – Corrie Dixon

A testimonial video featuring Corrie Dixon, a Grandview Kids employee about the Grandview Kids Express Branch was presented to the Library Board.

7.2 Raymond James Canada Foundation – Donor Letter

The Library Board acknowledged receipt of an anonymous donation of \$300 to support the Library's general funds.

8. Other Business

8.1 TAC Update – Tanvi Lee, TAC Co-President

TAC Co-President, Tanvi Lee, provided the Library Board with an update on TAC's Mental Health Support program in partnership with Durham Region Health Centre held in early April. Tanvi shared upcoming TAC events such as Asian Heritage Month, Drag Queen Storytime and the heARTbeat Art Show and reception.

8.8 Guest Presentation – MPP Rob Cerjanec

MPP Rob Cerjanec delivered a provincial update to the Ajax Public Library Board. MPP Cerjanec highlighted the importance of libraries, public education system, and community programs. He discussed current and upcoming initiatives on youth employment, entrepreneurship, community sports, and health care, as well as challenges of rising homelessness in Ajax.

8.2 Council Update – Regional Councillor Sterling Lee

Regional Councillor Sterling Lee updated the Ajax Public Library Board on the development of 50 units of support housing on the strip of land by Achilles Road. Councillor Lee provided an update on the decisions for regional councils, including plans for improved efficiency and provincial appointments of regional chairs.

8.3 Internal Monitoring Report – Executive Limitations 3.8 General Executive Constraint

26-04/03 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
Seconded by: Voytek Bialkowski

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receives the monitoring report EL 3.8 General Executive Constraint and agrees that it provides reasonable interpretation of the policy and evidence of compliance.

CARRIED

8.4 Staff Report – Revised Library Board Recruitment Matrix

26-04/04 Moved by: Rebecca Hayes
Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approve the revised Recruitment Matrix for the 2026-2030 Library Board Term.

CARRIED

9. Closed Session (Commenced at 8:29 p.m.)

Upon motion by Councillor Lee (the “Mover”), the Board Meeting moved into Closed Session for the stated purpose of discussing personal matters about an identifiable individual.

9.1 Personal Matter

To discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual.

26-04/05 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
 Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board moves into Closed Session.

CARRIED

26-04/06 Moved by: Rebecca Hayes
 Seconded by: Deborah McDougall Jones

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board rise from Closed Session.

CARRIED

Open Session (9:22 p.m.)

26-04/07 Moved by: Regional Councillor Sterling Lee
 Seconded by: Deborah McDougall Jones

Motion that all decisions made in Closed Session be ratified.

CARRIED

8.6 Board Report – Review of the Board-Staff Relationship Policy

26-04/08 Moved by: Douglas Miller
 Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board approve the revised “Board-Staff Relationship Policy,” 3.1-3.6 as presented.

CARRIED

8.7 Committee Updates

Community Engagement Committee meeting on Tuesday April 21 at 5:00 p.m. to review topics of discussion for the upcoming Report to Council.

Regional Councillor Lee left the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

8.9 Chief Librarian's Report

6.2.4.1 The Chair, Piyali Correya, inquired about customer feedback processes, noting an increase in concerns related to the Library as a safe space. The CLEO clarified that feedback is provided directly to staff by customers.

6.2.5.5 The Chair, Piyali Correya, asked about the evaluation of low participation rates in Library programs, citing an example of 33 participants across three programs. She questioned whether increased advertising and outreach were being considered. Library staff responded that the lower participation numbers were intentional, as the programs were designed to target specific demographic groups within Ajax.

6.2.6.2 The Chair, Piyali Correya, asked what steps were being taken to ensure that the number of passes offered by the Library is comparable to other public libraries in Durham Region. She noted that Pickering offers 12 passes, Oshawa 10, and Whitby 7, compared to Ajax's current offering of 6. The CLEO confirmed that this matter is under active staff review and that efforts are underway to increase the number of passes available.

26-04/09 Moved by: Rebecca Hayes
 Seconded by: Douglas Miller

Motion that the Ajax Public Library Board receive the Chief Librarian's for information.

CARRIED

8.10 2026 Annual Agenda/Work Plan

The Chair, Piyali Correya, requested Library staff add the Library Board Recruitment work to the 2026 Annual Agenda/Work Plan.

26-04/10 Moved by: Mallik Fernando
 Seconded by: Rebecca Hayes

Motion that Ajax Public Library Board receive the 2026 Annual Agenda/Work Plan for information.

CARRIED

10. Announcements

None.

