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Board of Trustees (and Finance Committee)

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Agency: [Cleveland Public Library](#)

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Summary

- The Cleveland Public Library (CPL) Board of Trustees formally accepted the state's 2026 fiscal year budget for the [Ohio Library for the Blind & Print Disabled \(OLBPD\)](#), which is run by CPL and based in Cleveland. The [state budget cuts to public libraries in general](#) did not affect the program for the OLBPD, an official said.
- CPL also accepted \$10,000 from the estate of Marjorie Wells to be donated to the OLBPD.
- The OLBPD won the [National Library Service](#) Library of the Year Award in 2010.
- Glenville residents have [a new remodeled library](#).

Follow-Up Questions

- Will homeowners' property taxes increase due to the increased need for library funding?
- How will state budget cuts affect the library system?
- Will the cost of a new printer affect free printing?

Notes

Board members in attendance:

Maritza Rodriguez, president

Anthony Parker, vice president

Thomas Corrigan

Alice Butts

Jasmine Fryer

Melanie Shakarian

Melaak Rashid

CPL CEO Felton Thomas Jr. was also present.

The meeting opened with the approval of the minutes for the May 13 Finance & Human Resources Committee meeting and the May 15 board meeting.

The meeting began with Will Reed, director of the Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (OLBPD), discussing the state's [2026-2027 budget in relation to libraries](#). Reed said the budget cuts to libraries in general did not impact the OLBPD.

The board proceeded to review and approve resolutions on the [agenda](#). That included the following:

The **Board of Trustees** approved and accepted a donation of \$10,000 for the OLBPD from the estate of Ohioan Marjorie Wells. Corrigan read from the resolution, saying Pamela Cooper contacted CPL to say her mother, Wells, passed away on April 12 at age 101. Wells enjoyed her job as a receptionist at Liberty Presbyterian Church, in Delaware, Ohio, for 23 years. Wells lost her eyesight and retired in 2010. She included the donation in her last will and testament.

The **Board of Trustees** approved a \$17,100 grant from Ohio's TechCred Program for investment in CPL employees. Some employees will receive training in Microsoft 365, Microsoft Certified Azure AI Fundamentals, and CompTIA Security+. The TechCred program grants reimbursement money to employers of up to \$2,000 per credential and up to \$30,000 in reimbursement per funding period, Corrigan said.

Corrigan added that the library selected employees from [CLEVNET](#) for the TechCred approved courses. The library intends to seek reimbursement for a total of 16 credentials at the rate of \$1,100 per credential.

The **Board of Trustees** approved a resolution for the state to pay CPL for expenses for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for the continuation of statewide library services for the OLBPD in the amount of about \$1.5 million. Corrigan said \$150,000 carries over from 2024 and \$84,000 from 2025. About \$1.27 million is freshly budgeted by the state for the 2026 fiscal year.

The **Board of Trustees** approved receiving \$100,000 of funding from the Cleveland Public Library Foundation. The breakdown is \$30,000 for early literacy, \$30,000 for digital literacy, and \$40,000 for outreach and programming services.

The **Board of Trustees** approved three architectural engineering firms for the renovation and expansion of the Fleet campus. These firms were selected by a committee of library

staff members that looked at their qualifications and determined them as qualified: Bialosky, GPD Group, Moody Nolan.

Bialosky's experience in "interactive children library spaces" and work with the Mandel Foundation and on the Glenville Branch also stood out, Corrigan said.

The **Board of Library Trustees** approved the insurance packages identified by Marsh & McGowan & Co., costing no more than \$727,000 for one year, an increase of 13.5% from current premiums, which Corrigan said is in line with industry-wide trends. Marsh & McGowan is looking for other carriers for policies while the library continues coverage without interruptions.

The **Board of Trustees** approved an increase of a contract for print management services with BSL-Applied Laser Technologies LLC by \$87,000. This contract covers service and maintenance to the library's multi-function devices, desktop printers, and production equipment. CPL CEO Felton Thomas Jr. said the library will continue allowing patrons \$2.50 worth of free prints until a decision is made on a new printer.

The **Board of Trustees** authorized the CEO to enter an agreement with National Library Relocations for relocation of offsite storage collection for the amount of \$535,000 for moving services, eligible to be amended to allow for a total expense of \$588,500. The total cost estimate of this project, when factoring in mold remediation services described below, is about \$1 million, a speaker said.

The **Board of Trustees** authorized the CEO to contract with Polygon US Corp. in the amount of \$344,622 for mold remediation services for prepping the offsite storage collection of 75,000 linear feet of bound volumes of books to the main library. The agreement could be amended to cost up to \$379,122.80.

The **Board of Trustees** authorized the CEO to enter an agreement with OARnet for VMware software licenses for a five-year term for the cost of \$91,213.44. This regards secure server storage and connectivity.

The **Board of Trustees** approved the CEO to amend an agreement with Securitas Technology for their alarm monitoring services. This will increase the total cost of the contract by \$38,868, bringing it to \$130,260.

[Editor's note: Follow along with the rest of the meeting beginning [here](#).]

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