

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting for March 3, 2026

Location: Hybrid

Attendees: Maria McCauley, Jim Roosevelt, Michael Baenen, Liz Werby, Irene Monroe, Ruby Vail, Erin Wells, Risa Mednick, and Carson McGrath.

1. **Public Comment:** None

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Jim Roosevelt opened the floor for corrections or comments to the minutes from February 3, 2026. No corrections were made, and the minutes passed.

3. **Central Square Branch Overview** with Ruby Vail and Erin Wells

Manager of Branch Services Ruby Vail and Assistant Director of Branch Services Erin Wells provided an overview of the Central Square Branch including its leadership, staff, programs, and services. The Central Square Branch is home to the Literacy Center which offers ESOL classes, tutoring, resume and job search assistance and more. In FY2025, the center offered over 550 programs and served 17,000 students. The Central Square Branch is also the homebase for the Library's social worker, Brett Dixon. Brett assists patrons with a variety of needs including support with food assistance, housing, mental health and more. In the beginning of the year, the Resource Center launched at Central Square as a place for patrons to access basic needs including food and hygiene products. The space also welcomes community partners to provide services for patrons including Health Care for the Homeless and Recovery Coach.

The Central Square branch has 18 staff members. It is the second largest location after the Main Library and in FY2025 saw over 216,000 patron visits, which is 50% of the Main Library's traffic. Erin and Ruby highlighted some recent programs including a community supper, a citizenship prep course and the popular Twilight Music and Moves children's series. Over 100 people utilize the branch's two bathrooms daily and is a popular resource for the community. Tech help drop-in hours are also popular at the Central Square Branch for patrons looking for support around basic technology, job and resume support, and more.

4. Library Updates

Director McCauley provided library updates on recent programs and events, the strategic planning process, and facilities. On Friday, February 6 the Library held its annual Library Legislative Day and welcomed representatives from various local libraries, Library stakeholders, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Massachusetts School Library Association, Massachusetts Library System, local and state legislators and other community partners. Attendees heard from the legislators present, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, City leaders including Mayor Siddiqui and City Councilors, Trustee Liz Werby, and Library staff. Maria also traveled to Washington D.C. for the National Library Legislative Day held by the American Library Association. She met with representatives from the offices of Representative Seth Moulton, Representative Catherine Clark, Senator Ed Markey and Senator Elizabeth Warren.

The Library's active community engagement work as part of strategic planning wrapped up in late February. Over 2,100 surveys were collected with almost 350 community members participating through community chats across the branches. Members of the Strategic Planning Committee are working on summarizing the data collected through the staff engagement process and beginning to process the community-based data.

The Library also held its annual Staff Appreciation Dinner in January to celebrate the milestone anniversaries staff. A total of 16 dedicated staff members ranging from 5 years of service all the way up to 30 years were recognized. It was a lovely community event; a big thanks to the Friends of the Cambridge Public Library for providing the funding for the delicious food, drinks, and flowers.

Lastly, Maria noted the HVAC project at O'Neill is complete and the branch will be reopening soon.