

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
STATE LIBRARY BOARD
February 5, 2026

INDEX

Members joining in person:
None

Members joining via Teams:
Antay Bilgutay, Judge Henry Cohn, Jessica de Perio
Wittman, Mary Etter, Melissa Hickey, Scott Matheson,
Claudia Jalowka, Betsy Pittman, Sandy Ruoff, Sally Whipple

Members absent: Allen Hoffman, Sheri Szymanski

Others joining via Teams:
Deborah Schander

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Chair Jessica de Perio Wittman. Deborah Schander took roll call attendance of Board members. No attendance of the members of the public attending the meeting was taken.

MINUTES

It was MOVED (A. Bilgutay) seconded (S. Matheson) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 24, 2025 STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED. PASSED with one abstention (M. Hickey).

MINUTES

Motion

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was needed.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

BOARD COMMENTS

Scott Matheson shared kudos for the CSL team for another great report reflecting the good work of the staff. He noted it was good to see grants being wrapped up and new grants starting which benefit the agency.

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Deborah referred everyone to her written report for a full list of recent agency activities. She then highlighted several recent initiatives. The State Library has received the final version of the pre-design related to a potential State Archives site, which included a recommendation for how to proceed with that site, as well as some in-depth information about potential costs. Option 1 focused on renovating and expanding the existing vacant facility and is estimated to cost \$200 million (based on mid-2029 estimates); Option 2 would be for an entirely new facility on the site of the present building and is estimated to cost \$208 million. The pre-design team, DAS Construction Services, and CSL staff all agreed that Option 2 is preferred. This information has been shared with the Bonding team at the Office of Policy and Management (OPM); unfortunately, it was not included in the proposed budget adjustments for FY27 due to the anticipated cost, but CSL will continue its conversations with OPM for future budgets.

**STATE
LIBRARIAN'S
REPORT**

Deborah is currently scheduled for more than two dozen visits to public and academic libraries across the state in the next few months, which offers an opportunity for her to see libraries directly engage in their work and with their communities.

The Government and External Affairs Manager hiring process continues, the first of its kind within our agency. The position's focus includes legislative and agency affairs as well as strategic communications.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES

None at this time.

OTHER REPORTS

External Organizations

Written reports from the Connecticut Town Clerks Association and the Connecticut Digital Archive were included in the Board packets.

CONSENT AGENDA

The item on the consent agenda was:

Construction Grant Contract Extension for James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford (#014P-SC-23) (SLB DOC 26-1)

Approval of Item on the Consent Agenda: There being no objections, the consent agenda was MOVED (M. Etter), seconded (S. Matheson) and PASSED unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update: The FFY26 budget for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has been set, remaining functionally steady with the most recent appropriation. This was a very positive outcome. In CT, the Governor's Budget has been released with an overall focus on affordability, health and childcare, and increased transparency of the administration of Legislatively Directed Funds (LDF), also known as earmarks. A new OPM policy has provided guidance for all agencies administering these funds to external organizations. The Governor has proposed moving these LDF to their own budget lines within an agency's appropriations, rather than continuing to place them in the agency's Other Expenses/operating budget appropriation. The Governor has also proposed across-the-board cuts of 20% to all existing LDF for the next fiscal year. The Governor's budget also includes a proposed 20% cut to the BorrowIT appropriation; BorrowIT is part of the resource sharing ecosystem within Connecticut and would have direct impact on library patrons across the state. The State Library is updating its information about the BorrowIT program online for all interested.

Legislative Update: There are no known bills impacting CSL at this time, but staff will continue to monitor as bills are proposed.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES

OTHER REPORTS
External Organizations

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion

OLD BUSINESS
Budget Update

Legislative Update

NEW BUSINESS

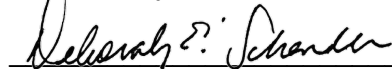
ADJOURNMENT
Motion

ADJOURNMENT

At 2:26 p.m. it was MOVED (B. Pittman) and seconded (S. Matheson) TO ADJOURN. PASSED unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah Schander, Secretary