

**Freedom to Read Foundation  
Minutes of the Organizing Meeting  
2023–2024 Board of Trustees  
2023 Annual Conference  
Chicago, Illinois**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Organizing Meeting of the 2023–2024 Freedom to Read Foundation Board of Trustees was called to order at 2:16 p.m. on Thursday, June 21, 2023 by Peter Coyl, President pro tem.

**ATTENDANCE**

Trustees

Jarrett Dapier  
Emily Drabinski  
Sukrit Goswami  
Jennifer Griswold  
Tracie Hall  
Lesliediana Jones  
Christine Kujawa  
Jim Neal  
Lessa Kanani’opua Pelayo-Lozada  
Pat Scales  
Sophia Sotilleo  
Barbara Stripling

Counsel

Theresa Chmara

Staff

Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Director / Secretary  
Karen Gianni, Program Coordinator  
Joyce McIntosh, Assistant Program Director

Guests

Peter Coyl, Departing Trustee and President pro tem  
Jamie Gregory  
Pamela Verfaillie

Absent

Trustees

Kent Oliver  
Stephanie Cole Adams  
Loida Garcia-Febo

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

There being twelve trustees in attendance, Caldwell-Stone declared a quorum present.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved by the consent of the body.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Peter Coyl, as president pro tem, asked for nominations for the office of president of the Freedom to Read Foundation Board of Trustees. Sophia Sottileo nominated Sukrit Goswami to serve as president, and Lesliediana Jones seconded the nomination. James Neal nominated Barbara Stripling to serve as president, and Jarrett Dapier seconded the nomination. A secret ballot was held, with General Counsel Theresa Chmara tallying the votes. She announced that Sukrit Goswami was elected President of the Freedom to Read Foundation for 2023-2024. Coyl then passed the gavel to Goswami, who presided over the remainder of the organizing meeting.

Goswami then called for nominations for the office of vice-president of the Freedom to Read Foundation Board of Trustees. Sophia Sotilleo nominated Jarrett Dapier to serve as Vice-President, and Jennifer Griswold seconded the nomination. There being no other nominations, there was a request for consent. There being no objection, Jarrett Dapier was declared Vice President of the Freedom to Read Foundation Board of Trustees for 2023–2024.

Goswami then called for nominations for the office of Treasurer of the Freedom to Read Foundation. Pat Scales nominated James Neal to serve as treasurer, and Jarrett Dapier seconded the nomination. There being no other nominations, there was a request for consent. There being no objection, James Neal was declared Treasurer of the Freedom to Read Foundation Board of Trustees for 2023-24.

Goswami asked the trustees to nominate candidates for the two at-large positions on the Board of Trustees' Executive Committee. Sophia Sotilleo and Lesliediana Jones self-nominated themselves as candidates for the two positions. James Neal nominated Barbara Stripling to serve on the Executive Committee, and Jennifer Griswold seconded the nomination. A secret ballot was held, with General Counsel Theresa Chmara tallying the votes. She announced that Lesliediana Jones was elected, and that Sophia Sotilleo and Barbara Stripling were tied. A second secret ballot was held, and Theresa Chmara announced that Barbara Stripling won the second secret ballot. Lesliediana Jones and Barbara Stripling were declared at-large members of the FTRF Board of Trustees Executive Committee for 2023-2024.

## **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

Goswami asked each trustee to volunteer to serve on one of FTRF's committees. He asked each trustee to send their preferences to him via email.

Sotilleo then moved to adjourn the meeting, and Griswold seconded the motion. There being no objection, Goswami adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah Caldwell-Stone  
Secretary