



BERGENFIELD LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

**Minutes
December 9, 2021**

Present

Thomas Neats, President
Laurie Phipps, Vice President
Barbara Chittum, Recording Secretary
Marcela Deauna, Treasurer
Fanny Cruz-Betesh
Natalie Rivas
Sarah Shaffren
Christopher Langschultz, Alternate for Superintendent of Schools
Thomas Lodato, Council Liaison
Allison Ballo, Director
Jennifer Murray, Administrative Assistant

President Neats called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

Notification of Public Meeting

President Neats read the report on public notification of this meeting.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Langschultz, seconded by Ms. Phipps to accept the November 18, 2021 meeting minutes. All in favor, except for Ms. Deauna and Councilman Lodato who abstained as they were not in attendance. Motion carried.

Bills

A motion was made by Ms. Chittum, seconded by Mr. Langschultz, to approve the December amended bill list. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Portion

No public comments.

Correspondence

No report.

President's Report

President Neats reported that he stopped by the Library and met with Ms. Ballo a few times. President Neats thanked the Library staff who participated in Holiday on the Pond and shared he received positive feedback on the books the Library distributed.

Committee Reports

BCCLS and Friends

The Friends are on a hiatus for the holidays.

Ms. Ballo reported that she'd be forwarding the Board a survey from BCCLS if they wished to participate.



Building & Grounds

Ms. Ballo reported that Library contracts yearly with the Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System as part of a cooperative to save on our electric supply and she received the invitation for 2022. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Ms. Phipps, seconded by Ms. Deauna, to continue with the Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System for our electric supply for 2022. All in favor. Motion carried.

Finance Committee

The financial summary was distributed and discussed.

Personnel

Ms. Ballo distributed updated Job titles and descriptions for the Library staff. Discussion followed.

Policy

No report

Director's Report

The Director's report was circulated by mail earlier this week. Ms. Ballo shared that we received the check from FEMA for COVID expenses from September, 2020 through December 2020. To date we've received over \$34,000 for all of 2020 expenses. The government has extended the application window and though our expenses were not significant in 2021, the Board encouraged Ms. Ballo to apply for reimbursement. Ms. Ballo reported that she found out we were not awarded the NJSL Construction Bond Act Grant to renovate the teen room. Ms. Ballo recommends that the funds already earmarked for that project now be put towards re-carpeting the Library. Discussion followed.

Trustee Education

President Neats recommended the Trustees attend the Staff Development event on December 22nd to meet new staff that have been hired this year.

Old Business

President Neats shared publicity about the recent Lucille Tendler award presentations.

New Business

Ms. Shaffren raised questions regarding the Library policy on masks. Discussion followed. The Library will continue to align ourselves with Borough requirements. Ms. Cruz-Betesh shared her daughter took part in a teen program and praised how well run it was.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, seconded by Ms. Deauna, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Chittum

Jennifer Murray, Recorder for
Barbara Chittum, Recording Secretary

