



BERGENFIELD LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

**Minutes
October 13, 2022**

Present

Thomas Neats, President
Fanny Cruz-Betesh
Marcela Deauna, Treasurer
Laurie Phipps, Vice President
Sarah Shaffren
Christopher Langschultz, Alternate for Superintendent of Schools
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 Ms. Phipps, seconded by Ms. Deauna, to accept the June 9, 2022 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, seconded by Mr. Langschultz, to accept the September 8, 2022 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bills

A motion was made by Mr. Langschultz, seconded by Ms. Phipps, to approve the July, 2022 and August, 2022 bill lists. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, seconded by Mr. Langschultz, to approve the September, 2022 bill list. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Langschultz, seconded by Ms. Phipps, to approve the October 13, 2022 amended bill list. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Portion

Bergenfield resident Max Vinpa questioned the Board's denial of his March, 2022 room request. Discussion followed. The Board explained that using Library public space for his business, Therapy Arcade, was not in compliance with our meeting room policy. The Board will consider allocating space for small business use sometime in the future.

Correspondence

Room Requests:



- The Tri-Valley program at Roy W. Brown is requesting use of the Friends room for a half hour every Thursday during the school year for reading activities and discussion.

A motion was made by Ms. Phipps, seconded by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, to approve the Tri-Valley request to meet Thursdays at 12:30 pm in the Friends room. All in favor. Motion carried.

President's Report

President Neats reported that he met Devon Allan, the new Library Associate working in the Adult Services Department. President Neats also spoke with Kara Gilbert, head of Youth Services, about some of the new programming being implemented in her department. President Neats shared that staff told him that Ms. Ballo has been instrumental in dealing with BCCLS to ensure the success of the new lockers.

Committee Reports

BCCLS and Friends

No report from BCCLS.

Ms. Ballo reported that the Friends' spring town-wide garage sale was this past weekend and 37 houses participated and raised approximately \$800.

Building & Grounds

Ms. Ballo reported that based on information from the carpet installers and furniture movers, the Library will be closed on Friday 11/4/22 to give staff time to prepare the building for the carpeting project. Ms. Ballo discussed staff assignments and library procedures during the closure. The updates to the Children's room and the new AV system were also discussed. Ms. Ballo shared plans for a ribbon cutting for the reopening of the Children's room on 12/5/22. Ms. Ballo will follow up on Ms. Phipps suggestion to invite CSX to attend the event.

Finance Committee

The financial summary was distributed and discussed

Personnel

No report.

Policy

No report.

Director's Report

Ms. Ballo reported that she has been working on the budget and advised that with steep health care increases, the preliminary draft has an 8.2% increase. Ms. Ballo shared a Library Journal article regarding going fine free. Discussion followed. The Board requested that Ms. Ballo invite a director from a local fine free library as well as Dave Hanson, Executive Director of BCCLS, to a future meeting to share their experience and input regarding going fine free.

Trustee Education

President Neats recommended an article by BCCLS on northjersey.com regarding banned books.

Old Business

A motion was made by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, seconded by Ms. Deauna, to charge \$15 for the Library's upcoming passport photo service. All in favor. Motion carried.



New Business

- Approval of 2023 Library Closings and Holidays. Discussion followed.
A motion was made by Ms. Phipps, seconded by Mr. Langschultz, to accept the 2023 Library Closings and Holidays, amended per discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Approval of 2023 Board of Trustee Meetings. Discussion followed.
A motion was made by Mr. Langschultz, seconded by Ms. Shaffren, to accept the 2023 Board of Trustees Meetings. All in favor. Motion carried.

President Neats shared a parade trophy found in the building that was awarded to the Library in 1976.
A motion was made by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, seconded by Ms. Deauna, to donate the award to the Bergenfield Museum. All in favor. Motion carried.

President Neat's shared upcoming town events. The Board agreed to hold the next meeting virtually on November 17th due to the building closure and scheduling conflict with the NJEA convention.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Deauna, seconded by Ms. Phipps, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcela Deauna

Jennifer Murray, Recorder for
Marcela Deauna, Treasurer