



BERGENFIELD LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Conducted virtually via Zoom

Minutes
November 17, 2022

Present

Thomas Neats, President
Barbara Chittum, Recording Secretary
Fanny Cruz-Betesh
Laurie Phipps, Vice President (joined at 8 pm)
Natalie Rivas
Sarah Shaffren (joined at 8 pm)
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 7:31 pm.

Notification of Public Meeting

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

Minutes

Motion by Mr. Langschultz to accept the October 13, 2022 meeting minutes.
Ms. Cruz-Betesh seconded the motion.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum - Abstain
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats - Yes
Ms. Phipps – Absent
Ms. Rivas - Yes
Ms. Shaffren - Absent

The motion carried.

Bills

Motion by Ms. Chittum to approve the November 17, 2022 bill list.
Ms. Cruz-Betesh seconded the motion.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes



Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats - Yes
Ms. Phipps – Absent
Ms. Rivas - Yes
Ms. Shaffren - Absent

The motion carried.

Public Portion

No public comments.

Correspondence

The Tri-Valley program requested use of the facility for student development. Discussion followed.

Motion by Ms. Rivas to approve the application contingent on amending the original application. Ms. Cruz-Betesh seconded the motion.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Abstain
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats - Yes
Ms. Phipps – Absent
Ms. Rivas - Yes
Ms. Shaffren - Absent

The motion carried.

President's Report

President Neats reported on the following:

- He spoke to Mayor Amatorio regarding the ribbon cutting ceremony for the reopening of the Children's Room on December 5th
- An article regarding the event was published in the Twin-Boro.
- He visited with staff working at the Bergenfield Trunk or Treat event on Halloween which was well received and attended.
- He visited the Library several times during the re-carpeting project.
- The Friends annual appeal was sent out and included leveled sponsorship opportunities for local businesses.

Committee Reports

BCCLS and Friends

Ms. Ballo reported that the Friends sent out their annual appeal.

No report from BCCLS.



Building & Grounds

Ms. Ballo updated the Board on the status of the carpeting project and installation of the 2 murals.

Finance Committee

The financial summary was distributed and discussed.

Personnel

No report.

Policy

No report.

Director's Report

The Director's report was circulated by mail earlier this week. Ms. Ballo requested an early closure on December 22nd for staff development.

Motion by Ms. Chittum to approve the Library closing at 1:00 pm on December 22nd for staff development.

Ms. Rivas seconded the motion.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats - Yes
Ms. Phipps – Yes
Ms. Rivas - Yes
Ms. Shaffren - Yes

The motion carried.

Ms. Ballo shared that since the state has not released retiree medical insurance rates yet, she is not ready to present a budget to the Board.

Trustee Education

No report.

Old Business

No report.

New Business

Parameters for the 2022 Lucille Tendler Community Service Award were discussed.

Motion by Ms. Phipps to amend the parameters of the Lucille Tendler Community Service Award to state that a nomination will remain active for consideration for 3 annual cycles.

Mr. Langschultz seconded the motion.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum - Yes



Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats - Yes
Ms. Phipps – Yes
Ms. Rivas - Yes
Ms. Shaffren - Yes

The motion carried.

Ms. Rivas shared programming and fundraising ideas for the Friends of the Library. Discussion followed.

**Motion by Councilman Lodato to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters.
Ms. Phipps seconded the motion.**

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats - Yes
Ms. Phipps – Yes
Ms. Rivas - Yes
Ms. Shaffren - Yes

The motion carried. The Board went to closed session at 8:39 pm.

The Board returned to open session at 9:04 pm.

**Motion by Ms. Phipps to approve the Personnel Committee’s recommendation to deny Mr. Capps’ request.
Mr. Langschultz seconded the motion.**

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats - Yes
Ms. Phipps – Yes
Ms. Rivas - Yes
Ms. Shaffren - Yes

The motion carried.

President Neats reminded the board of the upcoming events:

- 12/3 – Holiday at the Park
- 12/5 – Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Children’s room
- 12/8 – Next Board meeting, at the Library.
- 12/22 – Staff development



Adjournment

**Motion by Councilman Lodato to adjourn the meeting.
Ms. Cruz-Betesh seconded the motion.**

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Ms. Chittum - Yes
Ms. Cruz-Betesh - Yes
Mr. Langschultz - Yes
Councilman Lodato - Yes
Mr. Neats - Yes
Ms. Phipps – Yes
Ms. Rivas - Yes
Ms. Shaffren - Yes

The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Chittum

Jennifer Murray, Recorder for
Barbara Chittum, Recording Secretary