



## **BERGENFIELD LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**Minutes  
April 16, 2026**

### **Present**

Thomas Neats, President  
Laurie Phipps, Vice President  
Jamie Orlando, Treasurer  
Fanny Cruz-Betesh  
Marcela Deauna  
Natalie Rivas  
Sorah Shaffren  
Allison Ballo, Director  
Jennifer Murray, Administrative Assistant

President Neats called the meeting to order at 7:41 pm.

### **Notification of Public Meeting**

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

### **Minutes**

**A motion was made by Ms. Deauna, seconded by Mr. Orlando, to accept the March 12, 2026 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.**

### **Bills**

**A motion was made by Ms. Rivas, seconded by Ms. Phipps, to approve the April 16, 2026 amended bill list. All in favor. Motion carried.**

### **Public Portion**

No report

### **Correspondence**

Ms. Ballo shared an email from Mr. Ray Gehring which he requested be brought to the Board of Trustees regarding a Drag Queen Story time. Discussion followed. At the instruction of the Board, Ms. Ballo will send a response based on their feedback.

### **President's Report**

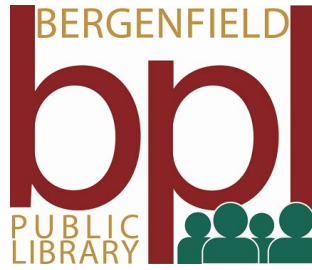
President Neats discussed completed new spaces in the building, including the YA room. President Neats shared he has enjoyed attending story time with his granddaughter, which he feels are well attended.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **BCCLS and Friends**

BCCLS – No report.

The Friends will be holding a jewelry sale at the Library April 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> during after school hours.



### **Building & Grounds**

The annual HVAC maintenance contract for service for 2026 was received from O'Neill Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$4,944.00.

**A motion was made by Ms. Shaffren, seconded by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, to approve payment for the 2026 maintenance contract with O'Neill Contracting. All in favor. Motion carried.**

Ms. Ballo presented the annual bid to participate in the Bergen County Natural Gas cooperative. This is a cost saving opportunity which the Borough also participates in.

**A motion was made by Ms. Phipps, seconded by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, to continue participating in the Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System for natural gas. All in favor. Motion carried.**

### **Finance Committee**

The financial summary was distributed and discussed.

The merger of NVE and Ion Bank and changes to our accounts was discussed. At the request of Board, Ms. Ballo will gather information on other local banks to potentially increase interest earnings and expand ACH use.

**A motion was made by Ms. Phipps, seconded by Ms. Deauna, authorizing Ms. Ballo to gather information on additional local banks and change the financial institutions the library uses based on her findings. All in favor. Motion carried.**

### **Personnel**

To be discussed in closed session.

### **Policy**

No report

### **Director's Report**

Ms. Ballo shared that the next all staff meeting will be on May 6<sup>th</sup> and historically this has been the Staff Appreciation breakfast and the Board is invited to attend.

### **Trustee Education**

President Neats reminded the Board they must complete their Financial Disclosure Statements. Ms. Phipps and Mr. Orlando shared information on workshops attended.

### **Old Business**

The three finalists for the 2025 Lucille Tendler Award were determined to be Edna Pfannen, Thomas O'Reilly and Lora Shade. Discussion followed.

**A motion was made by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, seconded by Ms. Deauna, selecting Lora Shade as the 2025 Lucille Tendler Award recipient. All in favor. Motion carried.**

### **New Business**

No report.

**A motion was made by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, seconded by Ms. Phipps, to move to closed session to discuss personnel matters. All in favor. Motion carried.**



The Board went into closed session at 8:57 pm.

The Board returned from closed session at 9:29 pm.

**A motion was made by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, seconded by Ms. Phipps, to approve the following personnel proposals made by the Library Director:**

- **A recommended 7% salary adjustment and title change from Librarian I to Librarian II for Dulcie Beauregard**
- **A recommended 7% salary adjustment for Elizabeth McSorley**

**Both effective April 20, 2026.**

**All in favor. Motion carried.**

**Adjournment**

**A motion was made by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, seconded by Ms. Deauna, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sorah Shaffren*

Jennifer Murray, Recorder for  
Sorah Shaffren, Recording Secretary