BERGENFIELD LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes
June 11, 2026

Present

Thomas Neats, President
Laurie Phipps, Vice President
Jamie Orlando, Treasurer
Marcela Deauna
Natalie Rivas
Thomas Lodato, Council Liaison
Allison Ballo, Director
Jennifer Murray, Administrative Assistant

President Neats called the meeting to order at 7:40 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 Ms. Rivas, to accept the May 14, 2026 meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bills

A motion was made by Mr. Orlando, seconded by Ms. Rivas, to approve the June 11, 2026 amended bill list. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Portion

Mr. Allen McGinley of Library Crossroads Consulting, LLC, presented the Board with the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan for the Bergenfield Public Library. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Ms. Rivas, seconded by Ms. Phipps, to approve the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan with discussed minor corrections. All in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence

SACC (School Aged Child Care) Summer Camp in Bergenfield requested use of the Friends room on Fridays in July during camp to show a movie. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Ms. Phipps, seconded by Ms. Rivas, to approve the room request for SACC. All in favor. Motion carried

Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. requested use of the Friends room on occasional Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout 2026, when available, for gatherings and learning events. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Ms. Deauna, seconded by Ms. Rivas, to approve the room request for Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. David Rothschild, President of Social Scene of NJ, requested use of the Friends room on June 23rd, 24th and 30th to host various social gatherings. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Mr. Orland, seconded by Ms. Phipps, to approve Mr. Rothschild's request. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Ballo presented several letters to the Board from residents encouraging the Library to go fine free. Discussion followed.

President's Report

President Neats reported he has attended the strategic planning committee meetings. President Neats shared he also attended a new Zumbini Children's program with his granddaughter, which was a lot of fun, as well a story time that included planting seeds. President Neats thanked the library staff who participated in the Memorial Day parade, as well as Ms. Deauna, who represented the Board. President Neats also thanked Library staff for participating in Family Fun Day and bringing items from the Library of Things to introduce them to the community.

Committee Reports

BCCLS and Friends

Ms. Ballo presented HVAC proposals for repairs needed on split units that are older and the cooling component is not working in one of them. One proposal replaces both remaining split units for $24,000; the other proposal fixes the one that is not cooling for $10,000. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Ms. Phips, seconded by Ms. Deauna, to authorize Ms. Ballo to obtain additional quotes for repairs to the HVAC and utilize $10,000 or less in capital funds to proceed with the repair. All in favor. Motion carried.

Building & Grounds

No report.

Finance Committee

The financial summary was distributed and discussed.

Personnel

To be discussed in closed session.

Policy

As discussed last month, the state is requiring public libraries to have stronger worded policies by the end of 2026, updated with the required language from The Freedom to Read Act. Ms. Ballo presented drafts of the following policies updated to be Freedom to Read compliant:

- Request for Removal Policy
- Collection Development Policy
- Request for Removal/Consideration of Library Material Form and Procedures

Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Ms. Rivas, seconded by Mr. Orlando, to amend the Request for Removal/Consideration policy as discussed. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Rivas, seconded by Mr. Orlando, to approve the Request for Removal Policy, Collection Development Policy and Request for Removal/Consideration of Library Material Form and Procedures. All in favor. Motion carried.

Director's Report
Ms. Ballo requested delayed openings of the library on July 10th for staff development and on August 21st for active shooter training.

A motion was made by Ms. Phipps, seconded by Ms. Deauna, to approve the request for delayed openings on July 10th and August 21st. All in favor. Motion carried.

Trustee Education
No report.

Old Business
No report

New Business
No report

Motion to go into closed session made by Ms. Rivas, seconded by Ms. Deauna, to discuss matters related to potential litigation and personnel matters. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Board went into closed session at 8:54 pm.

The Board returned from closed session at 9:26 pm.

President Neats reminded the Board we do not meet in the summer unless an emergency meeting is necessary and wished the Board a great summer.

Adjournment
A motion was made by Ms. Rivas, seconded by Ms. Phipps, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sorah Shaffren

Jennifer Murray, Recorder for
Sorah Shaffren, Recording Secretary