



BERGENFIELD LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes
September 12, 2024

Present

Thomas Neats, President
Laurie Phipps, Vice President
Sorah Shaffren, Recording Secretary
Fanny Cruz-Betesh
Jamie Orlando (arrived 8:30 pm)
Natalie Rivas
Christopher Langschultz, Alternate for Superintendent of Schools (arrived 8:00 pm)
Allison Ballo, Director
Jennifer Murray, Administrative Assistant

President Neats called the meeting to order at 7:47 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 Mr. Langschultz, to accept the June 20, 2024 minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bills

A motion was made by Ms. Shaffren, seconded by Ms. Rivera, to approve the July and August bill lists. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Public Portion

No public comments.

Correspondence

No report

President's Report

President Neats shared he had been in communication with Ms. Ballo over the summer regarding upcoming projects, staffing and the supervisory contract negotiations. President Neats attended the concert held at the Library honoring Linda Mohr, recipient of the Lucille Tandler Award, who was unable to attend. The Friends of the Library accepted on her behalf. President Neats recognized over the summer the previous suggestion for signature stamps should be explored. The Board instructed Ms. Ballo to draft a sample resolution regarding instances for use of such stamps.

Committee Reports

BCCLS and Friends



Ms. Ballo reported the Friends of the Library will be holding the Town Wide Garage Sale the weekend of September 28th.

Building & Grounds

No report.

Finance Committee

The financial summary was distributed and discussed.

Personnel

No report.

Policy

Ms. Ballo discussed revisions to the Code of Conduct and Library Card policies. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Ms. Shaffren, seconded by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, to approve the revisions to the Code of Conduct and Library Card Policies. All in favor. Motion carried.

Director's Report

The Director's report was circulated by mail earlier this week. Ms. Ballo shared that last year we started a relationship with her alma matter, UNC at Chapel Hill. In lieu of a thesis, MLS students are asked to do a group project. Their project was research into an adult basic education component of the ESL program at the Bergenfield Public Library. Discussion followed. As requested at the June Board meeting, Ms. Ballo shared more information regarding libraries in NJ, either on their own or in partnership with their municipalities, becoming book sanctuaries. A robust discussion followed. Ms. Ballo will draft a resolution to be introduced at the November meeting. Ms. Ballo revisited a concern regarding Columbus Day. Discussion followed. The Board will continue to follow the language used by the Borough and the state. Ms. Ballo provided more information regarding the New Jersey Cash Management Fund as an additional depository as recommended by our Auditor. Discussion followed. Ms. Ballo will research answers to questions raised by the Board for the next meeting. Ms. Ballo shared a request from staff to hold events and programs outside of normal business hours. Discussion followed. Ms. Ballo will ask the staff for a more detailed plan regarding this request.

Trustee Education

No report.

Old Business

Presidents Neats discussed the diagrams included in the Board packet for the upcoming construction project related to the CPF Grant. Ms. Ballo shared an update from the architect. Discussion followed.

New Business

President Neats shared that the CWA Supervisory contract negotiations have been resolved and the collective bargaining agreement is presented for Board approval.

A motion was made by Ms. Phipps, seconded by Mr. Orlando, to approve the 2024 – 2026 Memorandum of Understanding for the Supervisory members of the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO Local 1031 who represent the bargaining employees of the Bergenfield Library. This Memorandum of Understanding shows a 2.25 % salary increase for 2024, 2.00% increase for 2025 and 2.00% increase for 2026 as well as clarification of certain language in the existing contract.



President Neats discussed potentially holding the next meeting via Zoom as Ms. Cruz-Betesh will not be able to attend in person for the next few months. The October meeting should not be affected by her upcoming excused absences so that meeting can be held in person.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Cruz-Betesh, seconded by Ms. Rivas, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sorah Shaffren

Jennifer Murray, Recorder for
Sorah Shaffren, Recording Secretary