

East Brunswick Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 20, 2025

Attendees:

Dr. Joyce Boley (arr. 7:05 pm)
Wayne Christie (arr. 7:12 pm)
Dr. Kenneth Freedman
Lisa Gurevich
Joseph Palombit
Patricia Palumbo
Colleen Talbot
Ashish Verma (arr. 7:26 pm)

Karen Parry, Library Director
Maria Carmelo, Executive Administrative Assistant
Deborah LeSeur, Friends of the Library President
April Yu, Teen Representative

Ms. Palumbo called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. A roll call was made and a quorum was present. Ms. Palumbo stated that the meeting was advertised and the Open Public Meetings Act requirements were met.

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of April 22, 2025:

Ms. Talbot made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2025 meeting. Dr. Freedman seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: Ms. Gurevich and Mr. Palombit.

Closed Session Minutes of April 22, 2025:

Ms. Talbot made a motion to approve the closed session minutes of the April 22, 2025 meeting. Ms. Palumbo seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: Ms. Gurevich and Mr. Palombit.

Public Participation:

April Yu presented the Teen Report. April programs included Eli's 5 session intro to Dungeons & Dragons and Myer's Cool Science Stories and Experiments and Teen Writer's Program as well as Blackout Poetry and Debate Club. 71 teens volunteered in April, helping with shelving, packing transits and assembling Take & Make craft kits.

Ms. LeSeur presented the Friends Report. May's Calendar Raffle has raised \$3,100.00 with patrons visiting the library on Saturdays to view the drawings. The in house Bling Sale has raised approximately \$5,000.00 since the display case was placed in the library. Over 75 people attended the Friends' Spill the Tea event. Future events include Dine to Donate at Habit Burger on June 10th and the 50th anniversary of the Friends of the Library Book Sale will be held at the library the week of October 19th.

There was no Foundation Report.

There was no Township Report.

Dr. Boley presented the School District Report. The 4th annual Art Walk is currently displayed at the municipal building. Schools will be closed Tuesday, May 27th for an unused snow day and summer break is just around the corner!

There were no public comments.

Financial Report:

Ms. Parry presented the Financial Report. The 2025 budget is complete and library is currently at approximately 30% encumbered to date.

Ms. Gurevich made a motion to approve the April 23, 2025 Bill List. Mr. Palombit seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Boley, Mr. Christie, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Gurevich, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees:

There were no reports of standing or special committee reports.

Director's Report:

Ms. Parry presented the April 2025 Director's Report. An East Brunswick high school student donated \$5,000.00 to the library for the purchase of two 3D printers earlier this year and the library is introducing four different 3D printer workshops. The East Brunswick Chamber of Commerce donated \$1,100.00 towards health and vitality. There will be 6 new cameras installed around the building for security purposes with better resolution and wider angles than the library's current cameras. The library has wrapped up another successful year with the AARP Tax Preparation program.

Ms. Gurevich made a motion to approve the April 2025 Director's Report. Mr. Christie seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Boley, Mr. Christie, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Gurevich, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Talbot and Mr. Verma. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

Old Business:

Dr. Freedman made a motion to approve the revised April 22, 2025 meeting agenda. Ms. Talbot seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Boley, Mr. Christie, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Gurevich, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Talbot and Mr. Verma. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

New Business:

Ms. Parry introduced the East Brunswick Library's new Youth Services Manager, Jennifer Fitzgerald to the board. Ms. Fitzgerald shared that she is an East Brunswick resident and was previously a Youth Services Supervisor in the Manville branch of the Somerset library system. She has worked in many different settings and with many different age groups. Her niece and nephew attend East Brunswick schools and she is excited for the opportunity to do good things in her community.

The Board discussed the Cultural and Community Celebrations Policy and agreed to have the library's policy attorney give feedback regarding insurance requirements for outside organizations prior to approving the policy.

Information Items:

There were no information items.

Closed Session:

Mr. Palombit made a motion to enter Closed Session at 8:42 pm. Ms. Gurevich seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Boley, Mr. Christie, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Gurevich, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Talbot and Mr. Verma. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

The Board returned to open session at 8:55 pm.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Christie made a motion to adjourn at 8:59 pm. Ms. Talbot seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Wayne Christie, Secretary