



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

### August 20, 2025

#### In Attendance

Trustees: Holley Barreto, Kushanava Choudhury, Robert Ginsberg, Mayor Mark Freda, Jeffrey Liao, Keisha Smith-Carrington, Sebnem Tuzun, Chris Van Buren

Library Staff: Erica Bess, Becky Bowers, Jennifer Podolsky, Karen Rackley, Bonnie Sprouls, Sonja Vloeberghs

Others: Ellen Vaknine (member of the public)

At 6:02 p.m. Mr. Van Buren called the meeting to order and announced that pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was provided as part of the annual schedule of meetings to the municipal clerk, Princeton Packet, Town Topics and Trenton Times on Jan. 3, 2025. The notice was posted in the library, on the library's and municipality's websites and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the library's Administration Office.

**Approval of Consent Agenda** – Mr. Ginsberg motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Tuzun seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

- July 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- Final July Bills
- Preliminary August Bill
- Resolution 2025-20: Participate in Cooperative Pricing System

**Board Materials** – Ms. Podolsky mentioned the Board Materials (Monthly Director's Report, Monthly Statistics) included in the Board packet. There was no discussion on the included materials.

**Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

**President's Report** – Mr. Van Buren thanked the staff for their continuing work to make the library a destination of choice for all. He noted that during the heat and humidity, the library provides relief and from a personal perspective, he appreciates the library for being a solid institution when things are unpredictable.

**Friends and Foundation Report** – Ms. Barreto noted the Friends and Foundation completed their audit budget process that will be approved at their September meeting. Their 2025 events calendar is full and they are planning events for 2026. She noted tickets are available for the Beyond Words October event featuring Mary Roach. This is the third Beyond Words event this year following the new model.

Ms. Barreto noted that \$80,000 was raised for the endowment so far this year. The development office is working on planned giving for the fall.

Committee reports - There were no reports for the finance, personnel or policy committees.

**Strategic Overview Committee Report** - Ms. Barreto noted the committee met to review the personnel matter that will be discussed during the closed session and reviewed preliminary budget scenarios.

**Fundraising Report** – Ms. Barreto reported that annual giving is on track. Giving Takes Over which will be previewed at the September meeting and the development department is focusing on grant applications. There is a \$10,000 grant from a new corporate sponsor, Bloomberg. The grant focuses on digital literacy and additionally, Bloomberg employees will be volunteering with adult services to offer programming focusing on digital literacy.

**Director's Report** – Ms. Podolsky noted that the strategic plan second quarter accomplishments will be uploaded to the board website and discussed at the September meeting. The opening of the Spark Lab may be delayed a few weeks at the donor's request. There has been no decision on the state health benefits which are expected to increase by 36.5%.

**Unfinished Business** – There was no unfinished business.

**Correspondence** - There was no correspondence.

**Rear Doors Replacement** - Ms. Podolsky explained to the board that the rear doors to the library need to be replaced. The board discussed options for funding and temporary fixes. Mayor Freda suggested the library obtain a quote to replace the doors, email the finance officer at the municipality to determine if there are any ordinances with remaining funds for the library, if there are any ordinances that have money for building repair and the library needs to determine the amount of money in its building emergency fund.

**Board Comment** – Ms. Smith-Carrington noted the school system will be empaneling a committee led by Dr. Tew to create policy that aligns with the Freedom to Read Act. She noted that most likely they will look for a Youth Services librarian to be on the committee.

Ms. Smith-Carrington noted that she and Ms. Dorman, the library's outreach coordinator, have been talking about additional ways in which the schools and the library can partner. Ms. Smith-Carrington noted that she will provide information as initiatives are discussed and created.

**Proposed Agenda Items** – There were no proposed agenda items.

**Resolution 2025-21:** Executive Session for Personnel Matters - At 6:40 p.m., Mr. Ginsberg motioned to approve Resolution 2025-21; Mayor Freda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. At 6:40 p.m. the board met in closed session. The following were present at the meeting: Mr. Choudhury, Ms. Tuzun, Ms. Smith-Carrington, Ms. Barreto, Mr. Liao, Mr. Ginsberg, Mr. Van Buren, Mayor Freda, Ms. Podolsky and Ms. Sprouls. Ms. Sprouls left at 7:56 p.m.; Mr. Choudhury left at 8:14 p.m.

Ms. Smith Carrington motioned to enter into open session at 8:34 p.m.; Mayor Freda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:34 p.m, Ms. Smith Carrington motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mayor Freda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025 at 6 p.m.