



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES February 18, 2026

In Attendance

Trustees: Mayor Mark Freda, Jeffrey Liao, Stephanie Oster, Priya Peyman, Keisha Smith-Carrington (6:06 p.m.), Sebnem Tuzun, Chris Van Buren
Library Staff: Erica Bess, William Chong, Kim Dorman, Janie Hermann, JiHae Ju, Andre Levie, Karen Rackley
Teen Reps: Carina He

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. 6, 2026. 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: Ms. Oster motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Tuzun seconded the motion. Mr. Van Buren asked that the Jan. 21, 2026 minutes be removed from the consent agenda. The minutes were removed from the consent agenda. There was no further discussion. Mayor Freda abstained. Ms. Smith-Carrington was not present for the vote. Mr. Liao, Ms. Oster, Ms. Peyman, Ms. Tuzun and Mr. Van Buren approved the consent agenda, without the Jan. 21, 2026 minutes.

- ~~Jan. 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes~~
- Final January 2026 Bills
- Preliminary February 2026 Bills
- Resolution 2026-10: State Contracts & Cooperative Purchasing Agreements Authorization
- Resolution 2026-11: COLA Adjustment 2026

Jan. 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Tuzun motioned to approve the Jan. 21, 2026 meeting minutes. Ms. Oster seconded the motion. Mr. Van Buren asked that the following be changed in the Finance Committee Report: "...that amount is an aggregate to the ~~\$147K~~ \$547K which should be in the Community Fund." There was no further discussion. The motion to approve the Jan. 21, 2026 meeting minutes, with the correction noted, passed unanimously.

Board Materials: There was no discussion on the Monthly Director's Report, Monthly Statistics.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

President's Report: Mr. Van Buren noted he attended the donor event on Friday and the public opening event for the Spark Lab, both were filled with energy, curiosity, interest and joy.

Teen Representative: Carina He noted the Teen Advisory Board went into the Spark Lab during their last meeting and brainstormed ideas for events or activity days. She noted TAB's annual a capella night for

local highschoolers, in collaboration with other teen groups in the area, had a great turnout and Teen Book Tuesday videos were released (required short book recommendation videos created by TAB members for Instagram). Carina noted TAB's upcoming events: KPop Dance Party in collaboration with Princeton University KPop dance group which will photo decorating activities and prizes from the Princeton Record Exchange; Open Mic night for local highschoolers to perform poetry, sing or other; and Keeping TABs podcast interviews with authors Anica Mrose Rissi and Emily X.R. Pan. Carina also noted TAB is discussing the potential of language learning programs at the library by peers or possible partnerships with local high school teachers to engage both esl and students that want to learn more languages.

Executive Committee Report: Mr. Van Buren noted the committee had their first meeting and discussed combining the Friends and Foundation report and the fundraising report into one agenda item.

The **Finance and Personnel Committees** did not meet; there was no report.

Policy Committee Report: Ms. Oster noted the committee met and welcomed Priya Peyman as a new member. They reviewed the revisions to the Policy and Procedures Manual as a result of the elimination of fees to the DVDs and games. These revisions will be presented later in the meeting.

Fundraising Report: There was no report.

Director's Report: Ms. Bess, in Ms. Podolsky's absence, reported on the Spark Lab opening. The library welcomed approximately 300 people over a few hours with events that included ribbon cutting, tours of the space and demonstrations. To further celebrate the opening the public was invited for activities, demos and hands-on displays and to meet the scientists and engineers involved in the IMAP (Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe) mission (a Princeton-led NASA mission to study our solar neighborhood, the solar wind, and the cosmic shield between our solar system and the rest of space.)

Ms Bess noted the upcoming Princeton Environmental Film Festival with film screenings for kids, families and adults, and discussion panels and programs to supplement learning. PEFF partnered with the Arts Council of Princeton on "Princeton: A Living Landscape" - the mural on Spring Street that contains elements of the environment and the library building prominently displayed.

Ms. Bess noted there are many author events in the next few weeks and the library will host a certificate ceremony for the students enrolled in the eight-session J-Lab Course. She noted there is still time to sign up for the winter reading program.

There was no **unfinished business** and no **correspondence**.

Policies and Procedures Manual Revision: Ms. Oster motioned to approve the revisions to the Policies and Procedures manual, specifically Section 2.4 Borrowing Library Materials, Section 2.5 Renewing Library Materials and Section 2.9 Interlibrary Loans. Ms. Peyman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was no **board comment** and no **proposed agenda items**.

Adjournment: Ms. Peyman motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Liao seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2026.