



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2026

In Attendance

Trustees: Holley Barreto, Robert Ginsberg, Mayor Mark Freda, Jeffrey Liao, Stephanie Oster, Priya Peyman, Keisha Smith-Carrington, Sebnem Tuzun, Chris Van Buren

Library Staff: Erica Bess, Becky Bowers, Janie Hermann, Shannon Hurley, JiHae Ju, Jennifer Podolsky, Karen Rackley, Sonja Vloeberghs

Teen Reps: Lilly Ludewig

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

- April 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- April 17, 2026 Emergency Meeting Minutes
- Final April Bills
- Preliminary May Bills

Board Materials - There was no discussion on the Monthly Director's Report.

Reviewing the monthly statistics and Q1 accomplishments, Ms. Barreto requested clarification regarding the 20% increase in active library cardholders from last year.

Public Comment - There was no public comment.

President's Report - Mr. Van Buren noted that he participated in and enjoyed the Winnie-the-Pooh Community Read Aloud. He noted that the June board meeting will be held on June 24 at 6 p.m., rather than on the originally scheduled date of June 17. He also noted that the July 15 board meeting will be held in the Community Room.

Teen Representative's Report - Ms. Ludewig noted the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) hosted two successful author events, including a weekend rom-com YA author that drew 70 attendees, collaborating with JaZams for book sales. "I Read This Book" is recorded and uploaded on YouTube; the teens put a lot of time and effort into this event and it has many book recommendations. For mental health awareness month, TAB created multilingual post-it notes (including in Korean and Chinese) and displayed them throughout the Teen Center. In the Spark Lab, they held VRcade activities to help students de-stress from

AP exams. They continued the “Teen Book Tuesday” videos on YouTube and geared up for the upcoming end-of-year senior party.

Executive Committee Report - Ms. Podolosky noted the committee met to set the board meeting agenda, review the resolution related to health care and preview non-resident card structures to be presented at June’s meeting.

Finance Committee Report - Mr. Liao noted the committee met and discussed the 2026 operating budget.

Personnel Committee Report - Ms. Tuzun noted the committee did meet to discuss the process for the executive director’s review. She noted the board will have a closed session meeting following the June board meeting.

Policy Committee Report - Ms. Oster noted the committee met to discuss the possibility of raising meeting room rental rates and compared rates of nearby venues. She noted the committee will further discuss the Community Room rates and will discuss non-resident cardholders next month.

Fundraising Report - Ms. Barreto noted the spring appeal (250 donors campaign) received 298 donors: 201 have not given in 2025 and 80 were new donors, resulting in \$20,000 ahead of this time last year. She noted the Friends and Foundation met this week. Ms. Barreto noted a slate of new board members will be presented to the library’s board of trustees for approval prior to the F&F September meeting; they are looking for candidates with skills in finance or events planning. She noted the events calendar is still being planned.

Director’s Report - Ms. Podolsky introduced the library’s marketing and communications director, Shannon Hurley. Ms. Podolsky noted “I Read This Book” was again a success; she thanked the teens and the Youth Services staff that supports them, and those trustees that were able to attend. She thanked the board for providing breakfast for staff for National Library Week, during which was also “Take Your Child to Work” day with five children of library staff participating. Ms. Podolosky referred the board to the BoardBUZZ on the board’s website, which includes information on grant funding for radio frequency transmitters and receivers to be used for walking tours given by the library, second floor signage repair and replacement and upcoming events including Pride on the Plaza and a few American 250 events. She noted that the Q1 accomplishments also have been posted to the board’s website. She reminded the board that the library sells merchandise with PPL’s logo at the Checkout Desk.

Resolution 2026-13: Approval of 2026 Operating Budget - Mr. Ginsberg motioned to approve the 2026 operating budget. Ms. Oster seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Freda abstained.

Correspondence - Mr. Van Buren noted that the trustees received a letter from Arkadi Choufrine, titled “Request for Reconsideration of Kanopy Access and Clarification of Funding.” Mr. Van Buren thanked the author for sending the letter and noted that the board will send a response.

Resolution 2026-14: Authorizing the Use of Competitive Contracting for Newsroom and Technology Center Audiovisual Equipment Update - Mr. Ginsberg motioned to approve Resolution 2026-14; Ms. Oster seconded the motion. Ms. Bowers, IT manager, provided a brief description of the request for proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 2026-15: SHBP Reform Request - Mr. Ginsberg motioned to approve Resolution 2026-15; Ms. Peyman seconded the motion. Mayor Freda noted the municipality will present a similar resolution to the council. There was a brief discussion on health care costs. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Comment - Ms. Smith-Carrington noted that the schools met with Marissa Warren, head of Youth Services, and Youth Services staff to ensure summer reading is shared and clearly communicated.

Ms. Podolsky noted that not only does the library serve as a community center, but also as a heating and cooling center evidenced by yesterday's use of the library and attendance at story time by Princeton Nursery School students when their air conditioner failed.

Ms. Smith Carrington noted that as an occasional attendee of the journaling group at the library, she observed that it has become its own unique community. She added that amid the ongoing loneliness epidemic, the library provides safe spaces where people can come and engage socially in a way they feel comfortable.

Proposed Agenda Items - Ms. Podolsky noted that June's agenda will include a clarification to the request by Ms. Barreto regarding the increase in library cardholders.

Adjournment - Ms. Smith-Carrington motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Ginsberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2026 at 6 p.m. in the Newsroom.