princeton

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
June 24, 2026

In Attendance

Trustees: Holley Barreto (on phone), Robert Ginsberg, Jeffrey Liao, Stephanie Oster, Priya Peyman, Keisha Smith-Carrington, Sebnem Tuzun, Chris Van Buren

Library Staff: Erica Bess, William Chong, Shannon Hurley, JiHae Ju, Jordan Lilly, Jennifer Podolsky, Karen Rackley, Dana Treichler

Others: Antonio Merolli (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. 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. Smith-Carrington seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

- May 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- Final May Bills
- Preliminary June Bills

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

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

President's Report: Mr. Van Buren noted that as he was walking in town today, he overheard a discussion that someone was having about the library. That person was so happy about the library and had very positive things to say about the staff, the work that they do and the connections they create. Mr. Van Buren thanked the staff and those that provide outreach to the community.

Executive Committee Report: Ms. Podolosky noted that the committee met and discussed the proposed changes to the library card policy.

Finance Committee Report: Mr. Liao noted the committee did not meet this month.

Personnel Committee Report: Ms. Tuzun noted that in preparation for the executive director's mid-year review, the committee spoke with several board members and various stakeholders and will discuss their findings with the rest of the board during their closed session meeting this evening.

Policy Committee Report: Ms. Oster noted the committee met and discussed the proposed changes to the library card policy.

Fundraising Report: Ms. Barreto noted that the development office is busy this summer with future planning. She noted on June 30, there will be a photographer taking photos around the library for use in marketing and fundraising. Ms. Barreto noted that Bloomberg is donating $10,000 to the library for digital literacy, and will have monthly drop-in tech help sessions.

Ms. Barreto noted that the Friends and Foundation will present their new slate of members before the board of trustees July meeting, for approval at that meeting. She noted that the author at the October Beyond Words will be Min Jing Lee, on the third day of her book tour.

Director's Report: Ms. Podolsky noted that over Memorial Day, there was a roof leak with minimal damage to the third floor collections and some roof tiles. The library did not put in an insurance claim as the amount was just over the deductible and not advantageous to do so. Ms. Podolosky noted that the parts for the rear entryway doors have arrived and work will begin to repair the doors on Monday, June 29. The rear entrance will be closed during the repairs.

Ms. Podolsky referred the board to the director's report in their board packet and to the BoardBUZZ on the board's website. She highlighted a few programs and events, including the Not In Our Town Unity Awards and Voices of Princeton: America at 250. She thanked the team led by Susan Orsini (Administration), which included Sara Collins (Administration), Cindy Sottung (Access Services) and Joe Caruso (Facilities), who worked together to refresh the planters around the library.

She noted the library will be participating in The Palace Project which is a digital library app that offers a robust suite of content, services and tools for delivering ebooks, audiobooks and other digital media to benefit public libraries and their patrons. The library will offer access to The Palace Project in the near future. Ms. Podolsky thanked Access Services and JiHae Ju for being proactive and aware of changes in the library world.

Ms. Podolsky noted that she and Becky Bowers, IT manager, looked into the question posed by Ms. Barreto at last month's meeting as to why active card holders increased by 20% from last year. During their research they realized there is either a system error or those numbers are not being recorded as expected. Ms. Podolsky noted that it needs further analysis.

Proposed Library Card Policy Presentation: Ms. Bess presented the changes to the library card policy and the reasons behind those changes. Ms. Bess noted that if the board approved the proposed changes to the library card policy and fee schedule, changes would be effective June 25, 2026. She noted communications were prepared and ready to be sent out in the afternoon on June 25. Ms Podolsky noted that direct communications outreach is in the process of being made to affected community organizations as well.

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Resolution 2026-16: Authorize Emergency Cleaning Service: Mr.Ginsberg motioned to approve resolution 2026-16; Ms. Smith-Carrington seconded the motion. There was discussion on the current cleaning situation. Mr. Chong noted that Princeton Building Maintenance will provide emergency cleaning services for the remainder of the year; the library will prepare a request for bids for cleaning services after July 1 for services to begin January 2027. The motion passed unanimously.

Policies and Procedures Manual Revision - Section 2.3 Library Cards; Attachment 1 - Fee Schedule: Mr.Ginsberg motioned to approve the proposed changes to the library card policy and to the fee schedule. Ms. Oster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Comment: There was no board comment.

Proposed Agenda Items: There were no proposed agenda items.

Resolution 2026-17: Executive Session for Personnel Matters: At 7:05 p.m., Ms. Tuzun motioned to approve the board to enter into executive session. Mr. Ginsberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session: At 7:08 p.m., the board met in closed session to discuss the executive director's mid-year review. At 7:56 p.m., Mr. Ginsberg motioned to move from executive session to open session. Ms. Tuzun seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There was no action taken as a result of the executive session.

Adjournment: Ms. Smith-Carrington motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Ginsberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2026 at 6 p.m.