



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 2026

In Attendance

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

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

Others: Raz Godelnik (member of the public), Gerard Stankiewicz (Samuel Klein & Company, LLP)

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 in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act and State regulations governing public meetings, including the time, date and location. In addition, the agenda was posted electronically and made available to the public on the library's and municipality's website in advance of the meeting.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Mr. Ginsberg motioned to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Oster seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

- July 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- Final July Bills
- Preliminary August Bills
- Resolution 2026-21: Change Order #1 for Sylvia Beach Way Rear Entry Doors

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

Special Presentation: Mr. Gerry Stankiewicz presented the 2025 audit to the trustees.

Mr. Van Buren introduced Mr. Stankiewicz, a partner at Samuel Klein and Company, the library's auditors. Mr. Stankiewicz noted that the library will receive a clean unmodified opinion with no comments, adjustments or recommendations. He noted the library has a well-developed system of processing its transactions and a good accounting staff. He also noted that the support staff was very helpful and thanked the support staff. Mr. Stankiewicz noted the accounting records were presented appropriately. From a random sampling, the auditing team determined that all expenditures were properly documented, charged to the correct line item, charged to the correct fiscal year and confirmed that the library is in compliance with the Local Public Contracts Law. He noted that the auditing team performed a random sampling of payroll and the authorized salaries, hourly employees and hourly rates were proper, the required backup information (e.g., w-4, I-9) was on file, and the bank reconciliations agreed to the general ledger. Mr. Stankiewicz discussed the audit report in greater detail and noted the library stayed within its budget. Mr. Stankiewicz noted that the final audit report will be issued once the State provides them with the pension and benefits information.

Public Comment: Mr. Van Buren read the guidelines for public comment. There was no public comment.

President's Report: Mr. Van Buren noted that after looking through the BoardBUZZ, he was particularly interested in the "Star Trek" 60th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 12.

Executive Committee Report: Mr. Van Buren noted the committee met and discussed budget planning and the board meeting agenda.

Finance Committee Report: Mr. Van Buren noted that the committee met with Mr. Stankiewicz and reviewed the 2025 audit.

Personnel Committee Report: The committee did not meet.

Policy Committee Report: The committee did not meet.

Fundraising Report: Ms. Barreto noted there are three fundraising events in the fall: John Searles, Min Jin Lee and Books and Covers. She noted the annual appeal is on track.

Director's Report: Ms. Podolsky noted the trustees can find information on the board website, in the director's report and in the BoardBUZZ. She mentioned a few past and a few upcoming library events. Ms. Podolsky noted the library is looking for pricing to replace furniture (that is original to the building) on the first floor;

Ms. Podolsky thanked the trustees for providing the staff with small succulents as a token of their appreciation.

Ms. Podolsky noted that Verizon is still working with the municipality to maximize cellular reception in town. She referred the trustees to the "Princeton Public Library Cellular Antenna Graphic Wrap" on the board website which documents the project location and the summary of work scope. She indicated that design ideas for the graphic are due by Dec. 14 and that after library roof replacement/repair, the 5G project should take six months to complete. Ms. Podolsky noted that the library will pay for the original graphic cover; Verizon to cover replacement.

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Acceptance of 2025 Audit: Mr. Ginsberg motioned to accept the 2025 audit; Ms. Tuzun seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Comment: Mr. Ginsberg suggested chair naming as a fundraising idea for the first floor furniture. He asked that Ms. Podolsky provide the programs and events that have been substitutes for the Children's Book Festival.

Ms. Smith-Carrington noted that she was looking forward to working with the school librarians and the Youth Services librarians in her role with the public schools this year. She also noted that new staff members were excited about receiving a library card.

Ms. Tuzun asked if there were any issues with the cleaning service? Ms. Podolsky noted there have been no complaints about the "new" cleaning service.

Ms. Oster mentioned the article about the library, written by Shannon Hurley, in “Princeton Perspectives.”

Proposed Agenda Items: There were no proposed agenda items.

Resolution 2026-22: At 6:47 p.m., Ms. Oster motioned to move into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Ginsberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session: At 6:50 p.m., the board met in closed session to discuss personnel matters. At 7:28 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 7:28 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Sept. 16, 2026 at 6 p.m.