



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Sept. 16, 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, William Chong, Kim Dorman, Janie Hermann, Shannon Hurley, JiHae Ju, Kaylie Keesling, Jordan Lilly, Karen Rackley, Sonja Vloeberghs, Marissa Warren

At 6:01 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. 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 website in advance of the meeting.

Amendment to the Agenda: Mr. Van Buren referred the board to Resolution 2026-23 that was finalized earlier in the day, posted on the board website and needs to be added to the agenda under New Business. He noted that the August monthly statistics will be presented at the October meeting. Mr. Ginsberg motioned to amend the agenda to add Resolution 2026-23 and remove the monthly statistics, Ms. Tuzun seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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.

- Aug. 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- Final August Bills
- Preliminary September Bills

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

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

President's Report: Mr. Van Buren deferred his report to the Board Comment section.

Executive Committee Report: Mr. Van Buren noted that the committee met and discussed budget planning for 2027 and the agenda for the board meeting.

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

Personnel Committee Report: Ms. Tuzun noted the committee did not meet.

Policy Committee Report: Ms. Oster noted the committee did not meet.

Fundraising Report: Ms. Keesling noted that 49% of our goal of \$367,000 for annual giving. She noted there is a special year-end appeal to launch in October and continue to the end of the year that features members of our community. The Development Office is working on building their donor base in preparation of growing the annual appeal next year.

Director's Report: Ms. Bess, in Ms. Podolsky's absence, referred the board to the BoardBUZZ posted on the board website. She noted that the library is launching a partnership with Cotsen Children's Library, part of Firestone Library to offer Time Travel 101. This resource features five themed, portable cases containing authentic historical artifacts curated from the collections of Princeton University's Cotsen's Children's Library. The cases contain adaptable teaching guides designed to support inquiry-based learning across multiple grade levels and subjects.

Ms. Bess noted several upcoming programs: Re-visioning America Gallery Crawl on Sept. 24, What Happened to Lucy's Son: An Archival Mystery Tour on Sept. 27 and Festival Cultural Latino on Oct. 4. She noted the Understanding 9/11: A Resource Guide and Carolyn Forché in Conversation with Patricia Smith.

Unfinished Business: Mr. Freda remarked that in July he inquired about the relationship between the trustees and the Friends and Foundation board since the trustees appoint the Friends and Foundation board members. Mr. Van Buren said it is still unfinished business and on his radar.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Resolution 2026-23: Mr. Van Buren noted the inclusion of Resolution 2026-23 now under new business. He asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2026-23: Executive Search for Library Director to authorize the board's search committee to conduct a search for an executive director and to contract with a search firm according to the process stated in the resolution. Mr. Ginsberg motioned to approve Resolution 2026-23; Ms. Tuzun seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Van Buren commented that the board will determine next steps tomorrow and communicate them as soon as possible.

Board Comment: Mr. Van Buren read the following:

On behalf of the board, after more than six years of dedicated service, Jennifer Podolsky will be leaving her role as executive director of Princeton Public Library.

On behalf of the board of trustees, I want to express our gratitude to Jennifer for her leadership, her commitment, her service to our library and to our community. During her tenure, Jennifer guided the library through many of these important moments, perhaps none more significant than the unprecedented COVID-19 epidemic, through that period, her leadership helped ensure the library remained a vital resource and place of connection for our community. We are proud of all that the library has accomplished under Jennifer's leadership and we are grateful for the energy, dedication and care she has brought to this institution.

We thank Jennifer for her service and wish her all the very best in her next chapter.

Mr. Ginsberg agreed with Mr. Van Buren's statement and commented that one of Ms. Podolsky's strengths was bringing really strong people to the library.

Mr. Ginsberg noted that Stephanie Liao, Jeffrey Liao's daughter, Princeton High School student and contributor to one of the library's film festivals, has been named a National Merit semi-finalist.

Ms. Smith-Carrington expressed her excitement about the school librarians and Youth Services librarians working together. She noted they will be working together on activities, working with the district's family liaison, focusing on a list of possible outreaches, communicating with families that receive services from human services and creating programming applicable to the schools' mission. She noted this collaboration will be a way to be supportive of the community at large.

Proposed Agenda Items: There were no proposed agenda items.

Adjournment: Mr. Ginsberg motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Smith-Carrington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Oct. 21, 2026.