

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 23, 2021
Recorded virtual meeting

President Nick Ciampa called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Nick stated that the virtual meeting was being held in compliance with the **Open Public Meetings Act**.

Roll Call:

Kevin McNeil	<i>present</i>	Nicholas Ciampa	<i>present</i>	Nabil Choueiri (NBC)	<i>present</i>
Iris Kislin	<i>present</i>	Mayor Kramer	<i>present</i>	Edward Ward	<i>present</i>
Tianna Gresham	<i>present</i>	Agnes Kulu-Banya	<i>ill</i>		

January Adams *present*

The meeting was opened for the first of two public comment opportunities. There being no members of the public that wished to speak at this time, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

Ed motioned to approve the minutes of the May 26 meeting. NBC seconded and all were in favor.

Director's Report:

January presented the financial reports of the **Director's report** for the month of May. The financial reports were filed for audit.

January highlighted various aspects of the narrative section of her monthly report. She noted that:

- During April, the library held 29 adult programs with 502 attendees. The Youth Services Department posted four new weekend fun programs on the Kids' Blog in addition to hosting three in-person, outside, programs.
- The Youth Services Department held its first outdoor, in-person programs since last November. They included *Stories under the Stars*, a nursery rhymes program and a *Story Trail*.
- All three summer reading programs have started.
- The opening of the Youth Center has been delayed to September 30, but staff librarians are busy working to stock the library with teen, child, and adult collections.
- The new Wonderbook, a sample copy of which January brought to a board meeting earlier in the year, has been launched with a display and advertising on social media.

President's Report:

None

Correspondence and communications:

"Author Tours Are Still on Hold" *Publishers Weekly*, April 26, 2021.

Sarah Hashimoto & Christa Van Herreweghe, "Listening in Lockdown," *Library Journal*, May 2021

Jeanne Bonner, "Many Turned to Libraries during the Pandemic for Free Wi-Fi and Other Services. Will these Venerable public Institutions Get the Credit They Deserve?" *CNN*, June 15, 2021

A brief discussion of the contents of the articles followed.

Old Business:

The following resolution was presented:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PILOT RECIPROCAL BORROWING AGREEMENT WITH SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

WHEREAS the Franklin Township Public Library Board of Trustees wishes to increase the services it provides to the township’s residents; and

WHEREAS Franklin Township Public Library (FTPL) staff frequently turn away SCLSNJ cardholders from borrowing materials from its branches; and

WHEREAS collaborative projects with SCLSNJ are desirable and of benefit to all; and

WHEREAS customer service expectations, commuting patterns and technologies have all changed in ways that minimize geographical distinctions; and

WHEREAS technologies exist that can identify, address, and remedy any imbalances that might arise in offering reciprocal borrowing services between SCLSNJ and FTPL;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Franklin Township Public Library Board of Trustees authorizes the Director of Library Services to work with the County Library Administrator to devise and conduct a two year reciprocal borrowing pilot with SCLSNJ that would permit residents of Franklin to borrow materials from SCLSNJ; allow residents of SCLSNJ’s 15 member communities to borrow from FTPL; and would address any significant imbalances in borrowing between the two; and to regularly report to the Board of Trustees on the status of the project.

The aforesaid resolution was moved by Iris and seconded by NBC.

Roll call vote:

Kevin McNeil	<i>yes</i>	Nicholas Ciampa	<i>yes</i>	Nabil Choueiri (NBC)	<i>yes</i>
Iris Kislin	<i>yes</i>	Edward Ward	<i>yes</i>		

January asked if all of the members had had a chance to review the architect’s drawings for the exterior of the southern branch and if there were any comments. Members indicated that they had received the drawings and had no comments.

Mayor Kramer asked about the library’s recent pandemic precautions. January replied that all patrons and staff in public areas were required to wear masks, that the number of public computers had been increased but were still 6 feet apart from each other, that patrons could now sit in the library without time limits, and that the public fax and copiers were available. All virtual programming and other services started during the pandemic were ongoing. She added that there were still no inside programs or meeting rooms available.

Iris motioned to hold the August 25, 2021 via Zoom and to decide at that meeting how the September meeting would be held (virtually or in-person). NBC seconded and all were in favor.

New Business:

The following resolution was presented:

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the open Public Meetings Act, (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b) (1-9), Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the Public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin Township Public Library Board of Trustees is of the opinion that such circumstances do exist;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Franklin Township Public Library Board of Trustees in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matters:
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - a) Personnel

3. The Franklin Township Public Library Board of Trustees may take official action on those items discussed in Executive Session upon completion of the Executive Session.
4. The minutes of the discussions shall be made available to the public as soon as the matters under discussion are no longer of a confidential or sensitive nature.
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The aforesaid resolution was moved by Kevin and seconded by Iris. All were in favor and the board adjourned into Executive Session at 6:06 p.m.

The board returned from Executive Session at 6:52 at which time it was stated that members would be raising the director's salary by \$4,500 to \$132,870.

The meeting was opened for the second of two public comment opportunities. There being no members of the public that wished to speak at this time, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

The next meeting will be on August 25, 2021.

Iris motioned to adjourn and NBC seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:12.

January Adams
Director of Library Services