

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December 22, 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>excused</i>	Edward Ward	<i>excused</i>
Tianna Gresham	<i>absent</i>	Agnes Kulu-Banya	<i>present</i>		

January Adams *present*

The meeting was opened for the first of two public comment opportunities. There being no members of the person who wished to speak, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

Iris motioned to approve the minutes of the November 10 meeting. Agnes seconded and all were in favor.

Director's Report:

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

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

- During October, November, and December the library held 88 adult programs with 1,048 attendees. The Youth Services Department held 6 virtual presentations and 30 outdoor and indoor programs.
- Reciprocal borrowing with SCLS started with a soft opening on November 22. So far, 10 patrons from FTPL have received SCLS cards.
- All three (teen, adult, child) winter reading programs started on December 20 and will run until February 28, 2022.
- The library's application for participation in the new NJHealthConnect service was approved and the library will be receiving special iPads with health resources and access to tele-health applications.
- The final documents for the sale of the BOE's land to FTPL have been received, the payment has been wired, and the closing has been set for Thursday, December 23.

President's Report:

Bids for construction of our new Southern Branch were opened on November 4.

Fifty contractors took out bid specs, and nineteen of them submitted bids.

Bids ranged from about 2.3 million to 4.4 million dollars, with a mean of 2.95 million.

The lowest qualified bid was for \$2,590,000 and the board is prepared to award that bid as soon as we close on the sale of land from the Board of Education. This sale has hit many snags, but we are scheduled to close tomorrow, December 23.

Later under new business, we will discuss plans for a special meeting for early next week.

Correspondence and communications:

SCLS Press Release Announcing Reciprocal Borrowing

Old Business:

Kevin motioned to proceed with 2022 board meetings via Zoom until the Covid-19 situation changed. NBC seconded and all were in favor.

New Business:

Nick motioned to hold a special meeting on December 27 at 5:45 to award the construction bid to Pal-Pro for \$2,590,000. Kevin seconded and all were in favor.

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

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 Agnes and seconded by Kevin. All were in favor and the board adjourned into Executive Session at 6:08 p.m.

The board returned from Executive Session at 6:18 at which time it was stated that members would be giving the director a bonus of \$3,000 for her work in securing the 1.3M grant for construction of a new southern branch.

The next monthly meeting will be on January 26, 2022.

Kevin motioned to adjourn and Iris seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:21.

January Adams
Director of Library Services