

**Belmar Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
September 09, 2025
Minutes**

Present: Danielle Arnold, Bruce Blattner, Mayor Jerry Buccafusco, Mark Furey, Darleen Havens, Pat Hutchinson, Maria Rondinaro, Johanna Roper-Robinson, Sharon Russell-Fowler, Michael Schappert

Absent: Jimmy Alvarez

Also present: David Hallman, Luis Pulido

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Ms. Russell-Fowler read the notice of the meeting. Attendees pledged allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Blattner moved to accept the August, 2025 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Roper-Robinson. Board members provided details to the list of speakers from the public at the August 4 meeting, and the board voted unanimously to accept the July minutes with corrections.

Director's Report

Mr. Hallman reported on progress with several of the library's programs:

Bilingual Storytime now includes about 19 students, a considerable increase.
Book Club regularly has six to eight students.
Knitting Club is intergenerational, with a good mix of seniors and students. A similar approach to Sewing Club is planned.
E-Sports Club is popular, and features a goal of helping students appreciate internet hazards and developing safe internet use.
Fishing Club is also well-attended.

The Facilities Committee has met three times with the town engineer, and will shortly be accepting bids on the replacement/upgrade of the envelope.
Mr. Schappert has also suggested the development of an all-inclusive facilities & operations manual be developed that tells staff what to do and whom to contact for specific facility problems (eg. elevator, heating/cooling systems.)

Mr. Pulido's report

Mr. Pulido has provided an ambitious plan of Fall activities featuring a multi-event Hispanic Heritage Month. The report is provided electronically as an addendum to the minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Havens delivered the financial report for July and August, 2025.

July 2025	Spent to date		
Budget Amount	\$973,580.00		
Spent to date	\$337,141.24		
Waiting to pay vendor	\$31,239.66		
STD & Waiting	\$368,380.90		
Balance of Budget	\$605,199.10		
Budget Amount	\$973,580.00		
Amount Spent	\$368,380.90		
Balance	\$605,199.10	38%	

August 2025	Spent to date		
Budget Amount	\$973,580.00		
Spent to date	\$380,374.52		
Waiting to pay vendor	\$25,466.63		
STD & Waiting	\$406,208.15		
Balance of Budget	\$567,371.85		
Budget Amount	\$973,580.00		
Amount Spent	\$406,208.15		
Balance	\$567,371.85	42%	

President's Report

Having the library open seven days/week is working well. Sunday is as popular as Saturday.

A vote is needed to continue support of two clubs that we have previously sponsored.

- Ms. Russell Fowler made a motion to continue the Board's expenditure of a maximum of \$5000 to support the Fishing and E-Sports Clubs for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year. Ms. Havens seconded the motion. After discussion, a roll-call vote was taken.

Voting:

Alvarez	Absent
Arnold	Abstain
Blattner	Yes
Buccafusco	Yes
Furey	Yes
Havens	Yes
Hutchinson	Yes
Roper-Robinson	Yes
Russell-Fowler	Yes
Schappert	Yes

The motion was carried.

- A motion was then made by Mr. Schappert to accept the Scope of Services and Cost Proposal for the Belmar Library Facade Improvements submitted by Remington & Vernick Engineers at a cost of a maximum of \$29,250.00. The motion was seconded by Mayor Buccafusco.

The goal is to have the work bidded out by November to ensure that the expenditure is made from this year's budget. After discussion, a roll-call vote was taken.

Voting:

Alvarez	Absent
Arnold	Yes
Blattner	Yes
Buccafusco	Yes
Furey	Yes
Havens	Yes
Hutchinson	Yes
Roper-Robinson	Yes
Russell-Fowler	Yes

Schappert Yes

The motion was carried.

- A third motion was then made by Mr. Blattner and seconded by Mr. Schappert to approve having a property survey done by Leon S. Avakian at a cost of up to \$2,860.00.

This survey will allow us to consider longer-range improvements. After discussion, a roll-call vote was taken.

Voting:

Alvarez	Absent
Arnold	Yes
Blattner	Yes
Buccafusco	Yes
Furey	Yes
Havens	Yes
Hutchinson	Yes
Roper-Robinson	Yes
Russell-Fowler	Yes

The motion was approved.

New Business

Mr. Pulido asked that it be noted that all graphics for the holiday events have been done in-house by Bruce and Laura.

Mr. Hallman reported that the Middle School Reading Club and the Summer Youth Art Classes were very popular.

Returning intern from Academy Charter School Giselle has been hired as a substitute and helps regularly with Bilingual Storytime.

At 6:42 pm, Mayor Buccafusco moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Furey seconded the motion.

The next meeting will be held Nov. 10, 2025.

Submitted by Pat Hutchinson, 09/15/2025

