

Belmar Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting

March 9, 2026

Minutes

Present: Sharon Russell-Fowler, Mike Schappert, Darleen Havens, Bruce Blattner,
Mark Furey, Maria Rondinaro, Danielle Arnold, Johanna Roper-Robinson

Absent: Pat Hutchinson, Jimmy, Alvarez, Mayor Buccafusco

Also Present: David Hallman, Luis Pullido, Deb Graham

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. Attendees pledged allegiance to the flag. Sharon Russell-Fowler proceeded to call the role. Sharon asked members to accept the January 2026 minutes. Bruce Blattner moved to accept the minutes and Maria seconded the motion.

Director's Report:

Mr. Hallman reviewed the status of the Strategic Plan. Work is hopefully beginning when the temperatures are in the 50's, which they anticipate will begin in April. It is hoped that work will begin on the rear of the building, so that it will not interfere with our bicentennial celebration scheduled for the beginning of May. The present plan covers October 2024 through December 2027.

Head Librarian:

Deb informed the trustees that the company, Baker and Taylor, is no longer in business so that the books that were leased to the library, now become possessions of the library. In addition to relying more heavily on Follett Content Solutions and Amazon, as both companies have recently improved their services to public libraries. In addition, we have established purchasing agreements with Ingram Content Group and Barnes & Noble Books. We will monitor the efficacy of the current procurement arrangements for the next several months when we will reconsider other options including returning to a book leasing model.

Of our circulation we have 50% in the children's and 50% in the adult circulations. After the entire circulation had a deep dive, approximately 500 of the possible lost/missing were located and properly replaced in our system.

Mr. Pullido's report:

Luis updated the members with upcoming March through May events which include our historical renditions, the annual parade, poetry jam, and the Bicentennial event which

will include the Ocean Avenue Stompers, Pat Roddy, face painters, ice cream, and hot dogs.

Treasurer's Report:

Darleen presented January and February's budgets:

January budget -	\$403,225.01	
Spent to Date -	\$59,467.97	
Waiting to Pay Vendor -	\$14,119.45	
STD + WTPV +	\$73,587.42	
Balance of Budget -	\$329,637.59	
Amount Spent -	\$73,587.42	
Balance of Budget -	\$329,637.59	18%
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February budget -	\$403,225.01	
Spent to Date -	\$99,548.22	
Waiting to Pay Vendor -	\$219,448.10	
STD + WTPV +	\$318,996.32	
Balance of Budget -	\$84,228.69	
Amount Spent -	\$318,996.32	
Balance of Budget -	\$84,228.69	79%
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President's Report:

*Sharon was excited to mention the internet updates taking place being conducted by Marshall. These updates look promising to improving the connectivity needed on the library's computers.

*The toddler Storytime seems to be a huge hit with our patrons. A suggestion was made that an additional one be offered on Sunday when several staff members are present.

*The copier next to the elevator has been having issues. Dave mentioned they are aware and are planning a different location for it as well as addressing its issues.

*Sharon mentioned that with the numerous changes taking place, that we should rethink and review our schedule for meetings. More discussion will take place in the near future.

*Trustee continuing education has new requirements in 2026 as stated from the New Jersey Statutes Annotated 15:21-2.3. It now requires each trustee to complete a minimum of two hours of continuing education annually to qualify for state aid, among other requirements. Sharon shared an upcoming seminar and wants each trustee to regularly check their emails for additional upcoming sessions.

Motion made to close session

Audience departed as did Maria Rondinaro

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Closed session:

Dave brought up to the members that a social worker could be an added asset to the library. Maria Rondinaro has been approached and has offered her professional services at a reduced rate on a part-time basis to assist the needs of our community. Other local libraries (Long Branch) offer similar services. Mike suggested that a job description be created so that the position had specifics. Additional information will be provided at our next meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn by Bruce and seconded by Mark. Our next meeting will be on May 11, 2026- 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Russell-Fowler

Temporary secretary