Belmar Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
October 19, 2026 Minutes

Present: Danielle Arnold, Bruce Blattner, Mark Furey, David Hallman, Darleen Havens, Luis Pulido, Maria Rondinaro, Johanna Roper-Robinson, Sharon Russell-Fowler, Michael Schappert

Absent: Jimmy Alvarez, Mayor Caitlin Donovan

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Ms. Russell-Fowler read the notice of the meeting posted on Belmar.com and Belmar Public Library websites.

Attendees pledged allegiance to the flag. Ms. Havens called the roll.

Mr. Blattner moved to accept the September 14, 2026 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Roper-Robinson and the board voted unanimously to accept the September minutes.

Award Presentation: The Belmar Environmental Commission members attended this meeting to award the Belmar Public Library with their "Patchwork for Wildlife" Chapter Award, recognizing yards in town that "keep the green in Belmar". The BEC's Chair, Dianne Veilleux, presented the award, BPL employee Bernie Lis accepted this award on the library's behalf and was thanked for continuing the library's tree planting, manicuring, and diligently caring for the yard. Mr. Lis extended his gratitude to the Belmar DPW in all of their help with the property care. The award will be posted on the library grounds.

Library Update- Dave Hallman: The library facility update report of 62 pages has been completed. The facility committee will go through the report and present on it at the next BPL Board Meeting. Projects are itemized, conditions of areas labeled from poor, fair, good and excellent, ADA issues are addressed, such as ramps and plumbing is also addressed in this report.

The Gaming club has been disbanded, however there is a strong recommendation for the creation of a Spanish club with an advisor. Mr. Hallman spoke to BES Superintendent Jimmy Alvarez to further coordinate.

Library Events Update: Luis Pulido:

Mr. Pulido discussed recent events put on by the library including "This is Us" stories of Belmar, which had 45 attendees. October 3, 2026 Petting Zoo was successful with other 200 people, children, parents and other guests, and the October 17th Sand, Sweaters and Stories Beach Reader's book fair, 41 authors attended, good reviews from them, and estimated 200 people attended the book fair.

Upcoming Events: Discussed October 22, 2026 Native American Cultural Celebration-featuring the Red Hawk Native American Council at the Taylor Pavilion. 45 minute presentation about Native American tribe, music and dance, focused on people of present not past.

November 7, 2026- 11am Taylor Pavilion: Live Animal Series-Wolves- Howling Woods Farm

November 12, 2026- Taylor Pavilion 6pm- Veteran's Appreciation Event-Manasquan HS Chorus-collecting messages of appreciation, letters from students, Marine Academy to present colors.

November 14, 2026- Authortime with Jorge Urquiola at the BPL 11am. Will discuss how families deal with raising a child with autoimmune disease and keeping a positive mindset.

November 18, 2026- Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore Recruitment Drive Event at 5pm Taylor Pavilion: presentation on why girls should join!

November 21, 2026- New Program: Live Animal Series- Rainforest Revelations-Jenkinson's Aquarium- Taylor Pavilion 11am.

Reminder: Belmar Public Library will have a decorated trunk that is library related at the Belmar Recreation Dept Trunk or Treat event on Friday October 23rd.

Treasurer's Report- Darleen Havens

September 2026

Budget Amount	**$1.084,404.00**
Spent to Date.	$659,999.88
Waiting to Pay Vendor:	$57,484.36
STD + Waiting	$717, 484.24
Balance of Budget.	$366,919.76

Budget Amount.	$1,084,404.00
Amount Spent	$717, 484.24
Balance.	**$366,919.76.** 66%

Old Business:
Facility Committee will schedule meeting to discuss facility update report.

New Business: Spanish Club will be under $2.000, so no need to re-motion because it is replacing gaming club.

-Library of Things: waiting to see if the shed needs to go to planning board for approval.

-Discussion of need for exterior cameras, as recording does not work. Cameras are more than 9 years old- inside and outside need replacement. There also was a request for a no smoking sign. Ms. Russell Fowler reminded trustees to complete continuing education from the NJ Trustee Meetings.

Public Comment:

Anita Peccarelli suggested veterans at the Belmar Housing Authority be offered rides to the Veteran event at the Taylor Pavilion. Requested Dawn Lisko get an award for her work with art education for our children. Discussed idea of library having "ICE OUT" folders on hand to give to businesses, who may need resources. Asked question about Storytime changes.

Other Comments:
Mr. Hallman explained Storytime in August has gotten too large, and BPL may need to consider just having Belmar residents during August to prevent overcrowding.

Ms. Russell Fowler discussed need to put up a patron sign and presented the idea of ordering Belmar Library sweatshirts for staff and trustees. Mr. Hallman to inquire how the borough departments order their shirts.

Next Library Board meeting will be at November 9, 2026 at 6pm.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Maria Rondinaro, seconded by Sharon Russell Fowler and the board voted unanimously.

Submitted by: Maria Rondinaro 10/28/2026