

South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes June 10, 2025

Topic	Discussion	Outcome/To Do
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Nagel-Smiley at 6:00 pm. President Nagel-Smiley announced that the meeting was held in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act and as such, proper notice of the meeting was published in the official newspapers, The Observer, The Courier-News and The Home News Tribune.	
Roll Call	Trustees Present: Cheryl Nagel-Smiley, President; Annemarie Stoeckel, Treasurer; Ray Rusnak, Mayor's Rep; Bill Seesselberg, School Rep; Carol Christatos; Janine Kupcho; Stephanie Wolak; Excused Absent: Melissa Katsingris, Vice President/Secretary; Robert A. Bengivenga	
Of Note	Cheryl noted that Lisa's birthday was on May 13th and Carol's birthday is coming up on June 15th. Cheryl shared a thank you note from the Mayor for the flowers sent by the Board to console him on his father's passing.	
Approval of Minutes	Cheryl called for a motion. Annemarie motioned to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Stephanie seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously with Janine, Bill and Ray abstaining from the vote.
Payment of Vouchers	Cheryl reviewed the vouchers (checks #16256 - #16290 totaling \$45,912.74) and called for a motion. Stephanie motioned to accept the voucher payments. Bill seconded the motion.	Motion carried unanimously.
Expense Report Review	Cheryl called for a motion. Janine motioned to accept the report. Annemarie seconded the motion.	Motion carried unanimously.
Cash Receipts Report Review	Cheryl called for a motion. Janine motioned to accept the report. Carol seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously.
Statistical Report Review	Cheryl called for a motion. Carol motioned to accept the report. Annemarie seconded the motion. Linda noted that the total is up !0,000 overall. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously.
Director's Report	Linda reviewed her report. Cheryl called for a motion. Stephanie motioned to accept the report. Annemarie seconded the motion.	Motion carried unanimously.
Finance and Budget/ Treasurer's Report	Annemarie presented the bank statement.	The bank statement was accepted.

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Buildings and Grounds Report	Linda presented a report about some emergency lights being inaccessible on the 16 foot ceilings above book shelves making it hard to change bulbs and service units. A repair is currently needed on an inaccessible unit. Linda suggested installing other support lights in accessible areas, like on the walls.	Linda recommends waiting until the Fire Inspector comes so she can ask him what the options are.
Policy Report	Janine stated that there are no updates at this time.	
Personnel Committee Report	Cheryl stated that there are no updates at this time.	
Technology Committee Report	Annemarie shared that Linda will meet with John to proofread the website. Annemarie said the site is almost done and training will be scheduled soon.	
Capital Projects Committee	Ray suggested adding another Buddy Bench sign to another bench, and the Board agreed by consensus. Ray shared that there is a leak in the sprinkler control system.	Linda shared that they are waiting for a part to complete the sprinkler repair.
Community Relations Committee	Stephanie stated that there are no updates at this time.	
Mayor's Alternate Report	Ray said it has been very quiet.	
Schools Report	<p>Bill shared that they are preparing for the end of the school year.</p> <p>Bill stated that the Day of Service was very good.</p> <p>Bill explained the impending tax increase mandated by the State. The State is requiring the school district to get to adequacy by going to the tax payers. The School Board made the decision to keep the district as whole as possible, which created a need to increase funds through a one time tax increase. The average household would see a monthly increase of \$44. Bill was then asked some questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheryl said that Bob asked about the Superintendent receiving bonuses on top of her salary Bill replied that the bonuses (which had been implemented during a salary cap) have been phased out. • Cheryl asked if tomorrow's meeting is to renew the Superintendent's contract. Bill replied that the meeting will be to extend the contract. • Ray stated that people should attend the Board of Education Meetings to discuss education issues. 	

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Schools Report, continued	<p>Bill shared that they are posted for School Librarian positions, but there have been no applicants.</p> <p>Bill stated that the roles of libraries is changing with students doing research on computers rather than going to the library. Annemarie stated that is unfortunate, as they should be learning how to research in a library. Janine and Stephanie made statements about what is lacking in the school libraries (staff, money for new books, using the space for classes so it is not available as a library).</p> <p>Janine stated that she is glad that they are looking for School Librarians.</p>	
Board President's Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Cheryl stated she attended the Morris Museum Sweet Treats event where she learned about the history of sweet food and received recipes. 2) Cheryl shared that she learned that there are 4,000 shipwrecks of the New Jersey coast at a workshop about shipwrecks. 3) Cheryl attended the Zoom session about library law and found it very interesting. 4) Cheryl shared that she and Carol were Seniors reaching out helping at the Kennedy School Book Fair. 5) Cheryl attended the Day of Service at the High School 9:45 - 11:30 and enjoyed the performance by the string orchestra, band, jazz band, chorus, male chorus, and female chorus. 	
Old Business	There was no Old Business to discuss.	
Public Comments	<p>Cheryl called for a motion. Janine motioned to open Public Comment. Stephanie seconded the motion.</p> <p>Lisa reviewed the highlights from the last Friends Meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mother's Day Mother/Daughter Tea was a great success and the Friends discussed how to make it better in the future and about a non-gendered event possibly. • Jewelry Sale Fundraiser needs more research. • Friends were asked to consider walking in the Labor Day Parade. • Friends attended and presented scholarships at Scholarship Night at the High School. • Friends are working so they can soon accept applications for the Graduate level scholarships. • The Library Friends Board were reinstated to their positions after being unopposed by acclimation. 	Motion carried unanimously.

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Public Comments, continued	<p>Ken Morgan said at the Historical Society, the Society was looking forward in being part of the South Plainfield 100 Year Anniversary Celebration. Bill shared that the first Anniversary Committee meeting will be next week.</p> <p>Ken said he used his old library card with the plate in it at the Dunellen Library recently.</p> <p>Ken shared that Dorothy Miele from the Historical Society is working on the new display. Cheryl suggested having a display with historical election promotional materials.</p> <p>Ken asked anyone who is interested in donating old town or other memorabilia to contact the Historical Society first before dropping off donations. Stephanie mentioned she has an old Monopoly Game based on South Plainfield</p>	Motion carried unanimously.
Public Comments	Cheryl called for a motion. Janine motioned to close Public Comment. Stephanie seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously.
Trustees Remarks	<p>Carol shared that she enjoyed attending Scholarship Night at the High School. She found that one of the recipients is her former Kindergarten student.</p> <p>Bill told everyone to enjoy the summer and hopefully we will get some nice weather that lasts more than a couple of days.</p> <p>Ray joked with Cheryl.</p> <p>Annemarie wished all the Fathers a happy Father's Day.</p> <p>Janine stated that summer is coming and she is looking forward to the summer programs at the Library. She also thanked the staff that found her daughter's school library book that had been returned to the Library by mistake.</p> <p>Stephanie shared that she was touched by the Service Day emails from the students to the Library.</p> <p>Cheryl shared she submitted a form to the National Wildlife Foundation and now her yard is designated a National Wildlife Habitat. Cheryl also wished all the dads a happy Father's Day.</p> <p>Cheryl noted that the Library will be closed on June 20th in observance of Juneteenth.</p> <p>Cheryl mentioned what is on this month's Diversity Events Calendar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Month-long Observances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBTQIA+ Pride Month: Commemorates the contributions of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer+ culture and community • National Caribbean American Heritage Month: Recognizes the contributions of National Caribbean American culture in America • Black Music Month: Recognizes the contributions of African-American musicians to American culture 	

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Trustees Remarks, continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 5: World Environment Day: Promotes global efforts to protect our environment • June 6: Eid al-Adha Islamic festival commemorating the willingness of Ibrahim to sacrifice his son • June 8: Pentecost -Christianity • June 12: Loving Day Celebrates the anniversary of the US Supreme Court decision striking down laws formerly banning interracial marriage • June 12: Philippines' Independence Day Celebrates the independence of the Philippines • June 12-13: Shavuot Jewish celebration commemorating the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai • June 14: Flag Day • June 15: Father's Day • June 18: International Day of Countering Hate Speech Promotes efforts to combat hate speech worldwide • June 19: Juneteenth Commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the US • June 26: Islamic New Year • June 28: Pride Day A day to recognize and support the LGBTQIA+ community 	
Adjournment	Cheryl called for a motion. Stephanie motioned to adjourn. Annemarie seconded the motion.	Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.