

South Plainfield Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes February 10, 2026

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 Courier-News and The Home News Tribune, and South Plainfield TapInto. Prior to the meeting Mayor Anesh swore in Robert Goman as a representative for the Superintendent of Schools.	
Roll Call	Trustees Present: Cheryl Nagel-Smiley, President; Melissa Katsingris, Vice President/Secretary; Matthew Anesh, Mayor; Robert Goman, School Rep; Robert A. Bengivenga (Bob); Carol Christatos; Janine Kupcho; Stephanie Wolak; Excused Absent: Annemarie Stoeckel, Treasurer; Linda Hansen, Director	
Of Note	Cheryl noted that Matthew Anesh's birthday is February 24th.	
Approval of Minutes	Cheryl called for a motion. Bob motioned to accept the minutes from the previous meeting's open session. Melissa seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously with Janine and Robert abstaining.
Payment of Vouchers	Cheryl reviewed the vouchers (checks #16639 - #16686 totaling \$50,700.81) and called for a motion. Melissa motioned to accept the voucher payments. Carol seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously.
Expense Report Review	Cheryl called for a motion. Carol motioned to accept the report. Janine seconded the motion. Stephanie asked why the office supply amount was so high compared to last month. Cheryl replied that they would need to ask Linda at the next meeting.	Motion carried unanimously.
Cash Receipts Report Review	Cheryl called for a motion. Melissa motioned to accept the report. Janine seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously.
Statistical Report Review	Cheryl called for a motion. Stephanie motioned to accept the report. Carol seconded the motion. Matt asked if the report showed a comparison to the same month in the previous year. Cheryl replied that it did not. Matt stated that there was no need to change the report based on his question.	Motion carried unanimously.
Director's Report	Cheryl reviewed Linda's report. Cheryl called for a motion. Stephanie motioned to accept the report. Bob seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously.

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Committee Assignments	Cheryl distributed and reviewed the committee assignments document. There were no questions.	
Finance and Budget/ Treasurer's Report	Cheryl presented the bank statement.	The bank statement was accepted.
Buildings and Grounds	Cheryl informed the Board that the Library's Christmas tree is still up because the town does not have room to store it anymore. Linda was told by DPW that since the town had bought Christmas decorations there was no room for the tree in the borough shed. Cheryl asked Bob to meet with the Buildings and Grounds committee to look into possibilities for storing the tree i.e. renting a storage space, or buying a shed and having it erected on borough property since we exhausted our available shed dimensions and no sheds can be erected in the blacktop area due to it is a flood zone. Bob stated that the problem with the urinal has been fixed.	
Policy Report	Cheryl stated that there were no updates.	
Personnel Committee Report	Cheryl explained that Linda is finding interested persons for the positions that were mentioned at the January meeting. One of the librarians from Plainfield who was assigned to South Plainfield during Plainfield Library refurbishing is interested in the part time computer instructor position.	
Technology Committee Report	Cheryl stated that there were no updates.	
Capital Projects Committee	Cheryl stated that the committee needs to meet.	
Community Relations Committee	Bob shared that 12 - 15 people from South Plainfield's UNICO sister city from Italy are coming to visit Memorial Day weekend. The Community Relations Committee will make plans for a library visitation when they arrive.	
Mayor's Report	Cheryl complimented the Borough's snow removal (much better than other towns she had to travel through). Matt noted upcoming events for the Borough: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the 100 year celebration kick off on March 14th at 2 PM, the Council will perform a reenactment of the Borough's first Council Meeting. Former Council Members will be invited to participate in the reenactment. • The new Borough website is coming. There will be space for library and school links, as well as QR codes for easy navigation. • In the Fall, there will be a groundbreaking for Centennial Square (in Putnam Part on the corner of Park and Oak Tree Roads). 	

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Schools Rep Report	<p>Robert stated that he had no updates.</p> <p>Cheryl noted that she and Carol are looking forward to working at the Kennedy School book fair. This is through the Senior Center not the library.</p>	
Board President's Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cheryl shared that she attended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunar New Year • Chinese Calligraphy • Friends Meeting • Staying Young At Heart event 2. Cheryl shared the 100 Years of Books Flyer. It lists the most popular books from the years 1926 - 2025. Cheryl gave credit to Librarian Danielle Aronowitz for the design and distribution of the flyer. 3. Cheryl is donating the book "No More Chairs", a book by Dan Gill that tells the story of a teacher who keeps an empty chair in his classroom as a symbol of inclusion and acceptance. It is based on a true story from the author's childhood, highlighting themes of friendship and standing up against prejudice. 4. Cheryl distributed her monthly report on Trustee's attendance and professional development accomplished by each Trustee. Cheryl noted that there are NJLTA workshops tomorrow and on March 25th. She also noted that Linda sent all the Board Members' names to NJLTA so everyone should be receiving emails related to their membership and workshops. 5. Cheryl noted upcoming events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese brush painting on February 13th and 26th • Presentation about African American business entrepreneur Madam C. J. Walker, the first female self-made millionaire in America, on February 21st. • There are other adult workshops available. 	
Old Business	<p>There was no Old Business to discuss.</p>	
Public Comments	<p>Cheryl called for a motion. Stephanie motioned to open Public Comment. Janine seconded the motion.</p> <p>Lisa reviewed what was discussed at the Friends meeting in January.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother Daughter Tea, renamed Family Social Event • Jewelry Sale - will advertise to the public that the Friends are accepting donations of jewelry and gently used pocketbooks. • Babysitting class is on the calendar for Saturday, March 7, 2026. It will be a 6 hour class for 11 - 17 year olds. The class costs \$70 and the Friends are paying half of the cost. 	<p>Motion carried unanimously.</p>

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Public Comments, continued	<p>Cheryl noted that she, Stephanie Bonanno and Carol will be working/representing the Friends at Trunk or Treat dressed in costumes representing the different decades within the Borough's 100 years. Jessica, the children's librarian will be getting children's books that were popular in the past to distribute at Trunk or Treat. The Friends' Trunk's theme will be "100 Years of Reading in South Plainfield" to coincide with the 100-year anniversary of South Plainfield.</p> <p>Ken stated the new Historical Society display will be about railroads.</p> <p>Ken shared that he still is working with Piscataway TV on the South Plainfield history video segments for the 100 Year Celebration.</p> <p>Ken noted the passing of Arthur Walter, who was the library's computer technician for many years. Cheryl said she would get a sympathy card and send to Mrs. Walter from the Library Board.</p>	Motion carried unanimously.
New Business	Cheryl stated that there was no new business.	
Public Comments	Cheryl called for a motion. Stephanie motioned to close Public Comment. Melissa seconded the motion. There was no discussion.	Motion carried unanimously.
Trustees Remarks	<p>Stephanie wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day and to stay warm.</p> <p>Janine stated she finds the Consortium exciting and uses it all the time. She plans to put "No More Chairs" on hold so she may borrow it when it becomes available. She shared that she has been enjoying the Children's programs and they are great. Janine wished Matt a happy birthday.</p> <p>Bob wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day and Matt a happy birthday.</p> <p>Matt did not have any further remarks.</p> <p>Carol shared an article that had information about an entire Library Board that was fired for objecting to censoring a book about a trans child, as well as other examples of recent book censorship in libraries. She stated that what is happening is frightening. Carol stated that she is worried about future censorship and wants everyone to stay aware about what is happening.</p> <p>Melissa welcomed Robert and said she is looking forward to the 100 year celebration activities. She wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day and Matt a happy birthday.</p> <p>Robert thanked the Board for having him and wished Matt a happy birthday.</p> <p>Cheryl wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day and Matt a happy birthday.</p>	

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Trustees Remarks, continued	<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"> • Black History Month: Cheryl explained how Black History Month evolved. As a slave, Frederick Douglass did not know what his birthday was, so he chose to use February 14th as his birthday (because his mother called him her little Valentine). Frederick had been sold away from his mother as a young child. He taught himself to read. After escaping from slavery, he became a statesman, writer, abolitionist, and advisor to President Lincoln. Since he was the most notable African-American at that time, in 1926, Carter Woodson, an African-American historian, developed and assigned the second week of February to be "Negro History Week" because it coincided with Douglass's birthday. "Negro History Week" evolved to be "Negro History Month" then "Black History Month". • February 1st: National Freedom Day • February 1st-2nd: Tu Bishvat Jewish (New Year to the trees) • February 2nd: Groundhog Day, United States Groundhog Day • February 2nd: Pagan and Wiccan: Imbolc - Marks the early signs of spring and is associated with the goddess Brigid. • February 4th: World Cancer Day • February 14th: Susan B. Anthony's Birthday and Frederick Douglass' birthday • February 14th: Valentine's Day • February 15th: Maha Shivratri Hindu celebration of the deity Shiva • February 16th: Presidents' Day * (United States Presidents' Day) • February 17th: Mardi Gras United States Mardi Gras • February 17th: Lunar New Year (China Lunar New Year) • February 17th to March 18th: Ramadan Muslim • February 20th: World Day of Social Justice, International World Day of Social Justice • February 21st: International Mother Language Day • February 22nd: George Washington's Birthday (Presidents' Day) • February 28th: Rare Disease Day 	
Adjournment	Cheryl called for a motion. Carol motioned to adjourn. Melissa seconded the motion.	Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.