

East Brunswick Public Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
June 21, 2022

Attendees:

Otu Amankwah (Arr. 7:35)  
Wayne Christie (Arr. 7:40)  
Mayor Brad Cohen  
Ken Freedman  
Patricia Palumbo  
Aarti Punjabi  
Nicole Tibbetts

Michael Bobish, Assistant Library Director  
Daragh McAuley, Exec. Admin. Assistant  
Angel Albanese, CFO, Township of East Brunswick  
Shreya Bhardwaj, Student Representative  
Jaden He, Student Representative

Ms. Palumbo called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. A roll call was made and a quorum was present. Ms. Palumbo stated that the meeting was advertised and the Open Public Meeting Act requirements were met.

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes of May 17, 2022 and May 17, 2022 Closed Session:**

Mayor Cohen made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2022 regular meeting. Dr. Freedman seconded. Voting yes: Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo and Ms. Tibbetts. Voting no: None. Abstaining: Ms. Punjabi.

Dr. Freedman made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2022 closed session meeting. Ms. Tibbetts seconded. Voting yes: Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo and Ms. Tibbetts. Voting no: None. Abstaining: Ms. Punjabi.

**Public Participation:**

The Friends of the Library Presidents were not in attendance, but sent a report which was read by Mr. Bobish. 132 dozen donuts were sold at the Krispy Kreme donut sale, yielding a profit of \$754.00. The Friends have no events planned for the summer, so the co-Presidents will return for the September Board meeting.

Shreya Bhardwaj, the Student Representative, read the teen report for May. Eleven programs were held throughout the month, with 162 participants. The applications for TAG and TLC are being reviewed. Ms. Bhardwaj introduced Mr. Jaden He, who along with Eliana Zhang, will be the Board representatives for the next school year.

Mr. Bobish reported that the Foundation Board met on June 1, and Mr. Arthur gave them several ideas for small scale fundraising projects.

Mayor Cohen reported that taxpayers in East Brunswick may see some relief soon. The state hopes to pass the ANCHOR program, which will give homeowners making less than \$150,000 a

year a \$1500 tax credit. In addition, there is a bill before the state legislature which would return energy tax credits back to the towns, as this credit has been a flat payment for years.

**Treasurers Report:**

Mr. Bobish reported that the budget numbers indicated are the final budget for 2022.

Mr. Amankwah made a motion to approve the June 22, 2022 bill list. Mayor Cohen seconded. Voting yes: Mr. Amankwah, Mr. Christie, Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Punjabi and Ms. Tibbetts. Voting no: None.

**Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**Reports of Standing and Special Committees:**

*A. Building Committee*

Mr. Amankwah reported that the committee received estimates for the Youth Services area flooring, which will be for both carpet and vinyl flooring in the programming room, and vinyl flooring elsewhere. Ms. Albanese commented that all of these estimates were from state contract vendors.

*B. Policy Committee*

This committee did not meet.

*C. Personnel Committee*

This committee did not meet.

*D. Strategic Planning Committee*

Dr. Freedman reported that the committee is working with Rutgers to compile the survey questions.

**Director's Report:**

Mr. Bobish reported that the library held a staff training day on May 25. The morning featured an instructor led-training on improving internal and external communication skills. Mr. Bobish and Chris Barnes then led a trivia game. After lunch and a demonstration of some of the Makerspace equipment, Mr. Arthur led a discussion on the strategic planning process. Two applications have been received for the Makerspace Coordinator position, and interviews will be conducted soon. PBS filmed a segment with the coordinators of the Lost Souls Project in the library, which will air on June 22, 2022.

Mr. Christie made a motion to approve the staff changes in the May 2022 Director's Report. Mayor Cohen seconded. Voting yes: Mr. Amankwah, Mr. Christie, Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Punjabi and Ms. Tibbetts. Voting no: None.

**Old Business:**

*A. Building Projects Update*

Mr. Bobish reported that the HVAC system needed some repairs last week, which totaled approximately \$6,000. More work is needed on the system, but the technician feels that the already completed repairs should keep the system running through the summer. Mayor Cohen said that the township applied for funding for a new HVAC system through the Federal Infrastructure Bill. This bill is currently before Congress, and they are hopeful that it passes before the November mid-term elections. Mr. Bobish shared that the current HVAC system is between 15 and 20 years old- at end of life for such a system.

*B. Canceling August 2022 Board Meeting*

Mr. Bobish stated that the August meeting traditionally has a light agenda, and with many planning vacations, it has been difficult obtaining a quorum for the meeting in the past.

Mr. Christie made a motion to cancel the August 2022 Library Board of Trustees Meeting. Ms. Punjabi seconded. Voting yes: Mr. Amankwah, Mr. Christie, Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Punjabi and Ms. Tibbetts. Voting no: None.

**New Business:**

*A. Approve 2023 Schedule of Days Closed*

A discussion was held about whether to close for Juneteenth, and it was decided to remain open in order to hold special programming and accommodate students who are studying for finals.

Mr. Christie made a motion to approve the 2023 schedule of days closed. Ms. Tibbetts seconded. Voting yes: Mr. Amankwah, Mr. Christie, Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Punjabi and Ms. Tibbetts. Voting no: None.

*B. Resolution #10,813 Acceptance of Middlesex County Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Grant*

Resolution #10,813

**Acceptance of Middlesex County Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Grant**

WHEREAS, Middlesex County awarded the East Brunswick Public Library a grant to purchase equipment to be used for the deaf and hard of hearing population attending library programs.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE EAST BRUNSWICK PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES accepts the Grant from Middlesex County in the amount of \$45,000.00.

Mr. Bobish explained that this grant will provide funding for programs for the deaf and hard of hearing populations, as well as fund adaptive devices for those customers' use in the library meeting rooms.

Mr. Amankwah made a motion to approve the above resolution. Mayor Cohen seconded. Voting yes: Mr. Amankwah, Mr. Christie, Mayor Cohen, Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Punjabi and Ms. Tibbetts. Voting no: None.

**Information Items:**

There being no further business, Mr. Christie made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Mayor Cohen seconded.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mr. Wayne Christie, Secretary