

The Board of Trustees of Teaneck Public Library

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees

December 4, 2025

Call to Order, Attendance

Call to order at 7:01 PM.

Sunshine Notice: This meeting is being held in accordance with Public Law - 1975 Chapter 231, the Open Public Meetings Act, also known as the "Sunshine Law." The adequate notice of the meeting, including the date, time, and place of the meeting, has been provided.

Trustees Present: Benjy Burnat, President; Keisha Carter, Vice President; Paul Ostrow, Treasurer; Chondra Young, Secretary; Evalyn Brownstein; Myron Chaitovsky; Sandra Silverberg; Seleene Lewis Wong, Mayor's Representative.

Also Present: Shinae Hyun, Library Director; Karen Orgen, Council Member.

Absent: Dr. Andre Spencer, Superintendent.

Minutes

Upon motion by Paul Ostrow (Myron Chaitovsky, second), the minutes of the Board's November 2025 meeting were approved, with all in favor.

Friends Report

Sandi Silverberg, President of the Friends, reported the Friends were - and continue to be - very busy in November:

- Friends was the primary sponsor for the Teaneck International Film Festival's *The Librarians*.
- Some Friends attended the BCCLS meeting for fundraising ideas.
- The November concert, which was held 2 weeks after reopening with minimal publicity, had 48 participants.
- There are 2 upcoming concerts in December, in addition to *Friends Friday* programs.
- This Sunday's concert features the talented concert pianist, Renee Guerrero.
- December 21 will be the first *Movies that Matter* program after reopening.
- The Friends would like to offer a suggestion box, which can then be shared with the Board.

Treasurer's Report

Upon motion by Sandi Silverberg (Evalyn Brownstein, second), the Financial Report was accepted without objection, with all in favor. The Treasurer noted that prices are higher than ever.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees on January 8, 2026

Director's Report

Director Shinae Hyun reported that the Library has been pretty busy since reopening:

1. The door count is consistently 500-600 vs 300 previously.
2. Daily circulation is ~900 - 1,000 items/day, which is a lot, even without books. Empty shelves were due to:
 - a. The Library only purchased bestsellers - not its usual volume - during the 14-month closure.
 - b. Baker & Taylor, the primary book vendor for libraries, suddenly declared bankruptcy and closed, leaving all libraries in the lurch.
3. Because of that situation, there is more work for the staff, with more processing.
 - a. With the recent holiday, some staff were off, leaving some items unprocessed.
 - b. Buying books from Amazon means multiple deliveries of a book or books in a box or boxes, which then need to be separated (adults vs kids), and then sorted by genres.
 - c. The Library is looking into Ingram as a vendor, but they are also onboarding a lot of libraries and there are delays there too.
4. November programs were successful:
 - a. Kids' literacy programs - *Saturday Storytime*, *Sensory Storytime*, *Books & Bubbles*, and *Playtime* - were over capacity, with many unable to register because they fill up quickly.
 - b. December programs are all planned and the Winter Newsletter is out.
 - c. *Book Tasting* was also successful, with additional ones planned.
 - d. *Artful Afternoons* was very popular, with families requesting future sessions.
 - e. Adults' *Seinfeld Trivia* had 24 participants, who made their own teams and got to know each other. Additional programs are planned for every other month on different topics, as different programs attract different people.
 - f. The ESL program started slow, as it was scheduled on a rainy day, so hopefully it will take off in the future. And the Library applied for the Pizza Hut *Slice of Literacy* grant to enhance the ESL program.
5. Head of Patron and Adult Services Departments Jonna Davis evaluated Overdrive's cost-per-circulation feature, so patrons don't need to wait for their items. If the budget allows, the digital budget will be increased for the cost-per-circ.
6. The Director met with the Teaneck Historical Society, which has been working on an oral history project; they completed 25 interviews and have another 25 soon. These audio files will be hosted on the Library website after it's migrated next year.
7. \$22,334 was received in State Aid and deposited into the Library's Provident Account. The Director awaits the balance in State Aid from the Township.
8. Recent new hires are working out, bringing new perspectives. Work flows are monitored for optimization.
9. There is a small group who come in often, at different times, to play shooting games, taking advantage of Microsoft Game Assist and a workaround to the games. Sometimes they are disruptive, take over the computers, and are disrespectful to the staff, who ask them to release their computer to a waiting adult.

Good and Welfare

The Board Treasurer wished everyone Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanzaa, and Happy New Year.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Paul Ostrow (Myron Chaitovsky, second), the meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM, with all in favor.