

The Board of Trustees of Teaneck Public Library

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees

January 8, 2026

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; Sandra Silverberg; Seleene Lewis Wong, Mayor's Representative; Dr. Andre Spencer, Superintendent.

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

Absent: Chondra Young, Secretary; Evalyn Brownstein; Myron Chaitovsky.

Reorganization of the Library Board of Trustees

Board Trustee and Vice-President Keisha Carter swore in Seleene Lewis Wong, who was reappointed Mayor's Representative.

1. Elections:

- A. President - Benjamin Burnat (Keisha Carter, first; Paul Ostrow, second)
- B. Vice President - Keisha Carter (Benjy Burnat, first; Sandra Silverberg, second)
- C. Treasurer - Paul Ostrow (Benjy Burnat, first; Seleene Lewis Wong, second)
- D. Secretary - Myron Chaitovsky (Benjy Burnat, first; Sandra Silverberg, second)

There were no other nominees for the positions. Myron Chatovsky was nominated for Secretary in absentia. All named nominees were unanimously elected. Sandra Silverberg suggested that all board members are invited to become officers prior to future elections.

2. The following items were moved by Keisha Carter (Paul Ostrow, second), with all in favor, with the exception of Resolution LB 26-03, where Sandra Silverberg abstained:

B. Approval of Official Financial Institutions - Resolution LB-26-01

C. Approval of Designated Newspapers - Resolution LB-26-02

D. Approval of Official Library Auditor - Resolution LB-26-03

E. Approval of Payment of Claims - Resolution LB-26-04

F. Approval of Official Library Attorney - Resolution LB-26-05

The Director explained that 2025 Library Attorney Debra Guston was wonderful but not as experienced with library law. Donald Zucker was just appointed Attorney for the State Library and is conducting their training in library law.

G. BCCLS Certification of Agreement

Minutes

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

Friends Report

Sandi Silverberg, President of the Friends, reported the Friends were very busy in December:

- Steven Axelband, who died suddenly a few weeks ago, will be missed personally and professionally.
- This Sunday, there will be a Jay Daniels concert, performing music from Elton John and Billy Joel.
- There are several *Friends Fridays* programs.
- For *Movies that Matter*, *Thelma*, is coming up; it is the true story of an older woman who was scammed and tried to get her money back.
- There are concerts scheduled for February, including the Teaneck Community Chorus and Winds 4 You, which will be a special program dedicated to Dr. Martin Luther King.
- Summer dates are sought for future Sunday concerts and movies.

Treasurer's Report

Upon motion by Sandi Silverberg (Seleene Lewis Wong, second), the Financial Report was accepted without objection, with all in favor.

Director's Report

Director Shinae Hyun reported that December was a busy month, with many people visiting the Library to check out the space, lots of programs, and fun activities.

1. *Music Time with Mr. Corbitt* happened over 3 Fridays in December. There was full registration and it was in the Children's Room, where the tables - on wheels - and the chairs were easily moved. This program was partially funded by the Arthur Brody Memorial Music Fund, which used to fund the music CD collection.
2. The *Gingerbread House*, *Dog Man*, and *Kpop Demon Hunters Parties* were very well attended.
 - a. Board Member Seleene Lewis Wong added that she saw a lot on social media, posts and photos shared on different platforms.
 - b. She queried the capacity for each program, to which the Director replied that it was different for each one, depending on the supplies, resources, and waitlist.
3. TAB had 17 participants discussing future programs.
4. *Teen Paint Night* had the teens painting Van Gogh's *Starry Night*.
5. Adult Services moved their ESL program to Tuesday at 1 PM, exploring a different time to increase participation. *Tutor Training* is planned for January; 16 volunteers signed up. There were 3 (tutor/trainee) matches in December, with more matching afterwards. Classes will be added; a white board has been ordered.
6. *Seinfeld Trivia Night* was very successful. Additional are planned for every other month; *The Office* is planned for February and registration is going well. Future ones will be *Friends* and *The Simpsons*.
 - a. Program Assistant Jane Barnes was the host and prepared by rewatching all the seasons.
7. Staff are rebuilding Collections, but shelves are still empty.
 - a. Friends President Sandra Silverberg suggested that there be a Facebook post about what's going on with the empty shelves/why there are no books (between patrons checking out what is available and that primary book vendor Baker & Taylor is no longer, so every library is scrambling to purchase from other sources).
 - b. Youth Services staff are correcting call numbers and changing labels to improve access.

- c. Adult Services staff are adding new labels for: *Fantasy, Adult Graphic Novel, Manga, and Science Fiction* collections, with very positive feedback from patrons.
8. In January and February, Youth Services staff are preparing for the Winter Reading Challenge, to encourage the kids to read. They sign up in Beanstack and read to earn prizes and to win “medals.”
 - a. Friends President Sandra Silverberg also added that they are ready for the Closing Ceremony on February 23; they are sponsoring Bamballoon, who was to come on Reopening Day.
9. December 14 and 27 were snow closings. And since town residents park in the lot, parking for staff and patrons was difficult when the Library reopened.
10. The new copier is arriving next Tuesday - for black and white or color copies, and the ability to pay by credit card.
11. There has been a problem with the new bathroom, which DPW was great with helping the Library out, but ultimately the plumber had to come to snake the pipes to clear the clog.
12. Recent outreach from a disabled/special services organization led to volunteer Jonathan and his helper coming every Tuesday to the Library.
13. Bookkeeper Chatur Patel’s father passed away recently.
14. Thank you to the Board and to the Friends President for supporting our staff holiday party.

Friends President Sandra Silverberg offered that the Friends would pay for the new chairs for the Auditorium, to which the Director replied that the chairs are included in the Auditorium Renovation Phase in 2027 - as part of one cohesive design. It was decided that at least 100 new chairs were needed, some with arms, and to wait for the Auditorium Plans to determine the kinds of chairs needed.

Council Member Karen Orgen asked if closing for New Year’s Eve was standard. The Director clarified that it was not and that in 2026, the Library will be open half day. President Benjy Burnat suggested that the Library be in sync with the Township. The Director replied that holidays and closings have to be submitted to BCCLS in advance, so it is difficult to spontaneously close, as it affects the due dates.

Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Andre Spencer reported that the Board of Education reorganized with Ms. Clara Williams re-elected; and congratulations to Ms. Nadia Hosein, who was elected President

and to Dr. Gerald Kirshenbaum, Vice-President. The district was the 2025 winner of the prestigious National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) Demonstration District Award.

Swearing-In of Officers

Vice-President Keisha Carter performed the swearing-in of Seleene Lewis Wong.

Public Remarks

Seleene Lewis Wong inquired about the museums in the Museum Pass Program; and the Director requested suggestions to be emailed to her.

Closed Session

Closed Session started at 7:47 PM and ended at 8:16 PM, when Sandra Silverberg moved (Paul Ostrow, second) that the discussed personnel/compensation/legal issues be approved, with all in favor.

Good and Welfare

Board Treasurer Paul Ostrow wished everyone a good January and to stay safe. The Director reminded everyone that February is Black History Month, and the Library has programs every Thursday, as well as a special program on February 4.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Paul Ostrow (Seleene Lewis Wong, second), the meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM, with all in favor.

Prepared by Deborah Young