

# The Board of Trustees of Teaneck Public Library

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees

February 5, 2026

## Call to Order, Attendance

Call to order at 7:01 PM with the reading of the latest iteration of Section 5A of the Open Public Meetings Act, indicating that adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by way of an annual meeting schedule posted in the Library and on the Library's website, in the Bergen Record, *Teaneck Patch*, *The Jewish Link*, and *The Jewish Standard*, and in the Town Clerk's office.

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; Myron Chaitovsky, Secretary; Evalyn Brownstein; Sandra Silverberg; Chondra Young; Dr. Andre Spencer, Superintendent.

Also Present: Shinae Hyun, Library Director.

Absent: Seleene Lewis Wong, Mayor's Representative; Karen Orgen, Council Member.

## Minutes

Upon motion by Sandi Silverberg (Paul Ostrow, second), the minutes of the Board's January 2026 meeting were accepted without objection. (Evalyn Brownstein and Myron Chaitovsky abstained.)

## Friends Report

Sandi Silverberg, President of the Friends, reported:

- The Friends arranged for a re-screening of *The Librarians*, shown last night.

- The Sunday Concert by Jay Daniels, featuring music by Elton John and Billy Joel, had over 100 attending.
- *Movies That Matter*, featuring *Thelma*, the true story of an older woman who was scammed and attempts to get her money back, was cancelled due to weather.
- Upcoming concerts scheduled for February include a performance by the *Teaneck Community Choir* and, celebrating Black History Month, a performance by *Winds 4 You*.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Upon motion by Sandi Silverberg (Myron Chaitovsky, second), the Treasurer's Report was accepted without objection.

### **Director's Report**

Director Shinae Hyun reported that despite the cold weather and several closings, January was a busy month with high demand across all ages. Registrations for children's and adult programs filled quickly.

1. For adults, our *Calligraphy Workshop* had 14 participants. An *Office Trivia Night* on January 14 had 24 participants.
2. *One-On-One Tech Help* has filled consistently on Monday evenings, and the *Virtual Job Workshop Series* (job search, resumes, cover letters, and interviewing) saw 44 attendees.
3. 11 tutors were trained for *ESL programs* by the Literacy Volunteers of Pascack Valley and there were seven new tutor-student matches made.
4. Due to the winter weather, the *Monthly Book Club* met virtually while the (growing) *Thriller Book Club* and the *Cookware Club* met in person. More book club offerings (*Non-Fiction* and *Fantasy*) are planned to launch in spring.
5. For Youth: The *Winter Reading Program* is ongoing with an Olympic theme but not it is not as popular as our *Summer Reading Program*.
6. A new offering, *Sensory Story Time*, has proven popular as children explore play-clay.
7. *The National Bagel Day Program* was a big hit. Families enjoyed a funny bagel story, learned how bagels were made, and created their own bagel craft. A bagel bar was generously provided by Teaneck Road Hot Bagels.
8. *Needle Felting* with the Clover Folks Studio provided an opportunity for children to learn a new craft, developing fine motor skills, focus, and creativity. Participants needle-felted adorable snowmen and, despite the occasional poked finger, enjoyed the process.

9. *Teen Tuesdays* began on January 20 and despite the small numbers, students have expressed satisfaction with the project. Teen volunteers meet Tuesday evenings through our *Craft Helpers Program*.
10. We have transitioned to ordering books from Ingram as well as Amazon, and we will assess the delivery process and overall efficiency of each option.
11. BCCLS was unable to complete book deliveries in late January due to snow-related inaccessibility between our building and the parking lot.
12. Library Flyers for spring (March - May) are being prepared.
13. Our payment kiosk is being updated; the existing machine was no longer serviceable without an upgrade. A new credit card terminal has been installed and we expect a new color copier next week.
14. *Adult Services* continued regular monthly visits to Arbor Terrace and the staff met with the activity coordinator at Brightside Manor to plan library card sign-ups for residents.
15. *Youth Services* has received many requests for class visits from public and charter schools, and are working to accommodate as many such requests as possible.
16. On January 21, a male patron was found to be violating Library protocols. Teaneck Police escorted him from the building and he was banned from the Library for six months.
17. The architect is expected here later this month to begin assessing renovations to the lower level bathroom.

## **Superintendent of Schools**

Superintendent Dr. Andre Spencer noted:

- A *Community Forum* was held recently to address concerns about ICE and to clarify rules regarding visitors on campus.
- At month's end, there will be a presentation to the Board of Education on the topic of Artificial Intelligence, how the school system plans to implement its use, and the anticipated effects it will have.
- Tomorrow (2/6 at 6 PM), the *Black Youth Organization* will present a Black History Month show in the THS auditorium.
- January 26 was a snow day; half of this will be made up on 2/17 (Lunar New Year). If there is another snow day, March 9 is an available make up day while avoiding stealing back a Spring Break Day.

## **Closed Session**

Closed Session started at 7:34 PM, with a motion by Chondra Young (Sandi Silverberg, second). The meeting reopened at 7:45 PM, upon motion by Sandi Silverberg (Paul Ostrow, second).

## **Action on Closed Session**

Upon motion by Myron Chaitovsky (Sandi Silverberg, second), the revised union contract and salary adjustments (retroactive to January 1) for Head of Adult and Patron Services, Head of Youth Services, and Head of Maintenance all passed without objection.

## **Good and Welfare**

Teen Services Librarian Jacqueline Quinn submitted her resignation effective at the end of February. The position has been posted, along with a Part-Time Library Assistant position in the Patron Services Department.

## **Adjournment**

Upon motion by Paul Ostrow (Myron Chaitovsky, second), the meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM, with all in favor.

Myron Chaitovsky, Secretary

Prepared by Deborah Young