

The Board of Trustees of Teaneck Public Library

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees

May 7, 2026

Call to Order, Attendance

Call to order at 7:00 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; Evalyn Brownstein; Chondra Young; Sandra Silverberg; Seleene Lewis Wong, Mayor's Representative.

Also Present: Karen Orgen, Council Member; Shinae Hyun, Library Director; Lynn Kloss, Friends Member; Susan Maier, Friends Member; Toniette Duncan; Yigal Gross.

Absent: Paul Ostrow, Treasurer; Myron Chaitovsky, Secretary; Dr. Andre Spencer, Superintendent.

Minutes

Upon motion by Sandi Silverberg (Seleene Lewis Wong, second), the minutes of the Board's March 2026 meeting were accepted without objection.

Friends Report

Sandi Silverberg, President of the Friends, reported the Friends have been very busy:

- The Book Sale was to have been the main focus, but has been postponed due to the elevator issue; hopefully, it will work - Dr. Spencer agreed to hosting it at one of the schools.
- The Winds4You concert, which had been postponed due to weather, had 92 attendees.
- The *Hamnet* movie had 87 attendees.
- Carolyn Enger's (concert pianist) concert* had 67 attendees.
- The Friends are considering marching in the July 4th parade on Friday, July 3.

*That day, it was noted that the elevator was "balking," as reported by the PT Maintenance Worker. The Friends President pointed out that there was no reason why the elevator should have been included in the renovation study because the elevator had no problems at the time.

Treasurer's Report

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

Director's Report

Director Shinae Hyun reported there is a new spring newsletter out and:

1. The Library partnered with the Little Dance Project to have music and dance classes for toddlers.
2. *Career Carnival* was very popular, with 150 participants on a Sunday, and interactive experiences for all. The Library would like to do more, possibly STEM-specific, in the future.
3. A new parent and caregiver program, *Coffee, Chat & Play*, was developed for the kids to play while caregivers connected over coffee, which was sponsored by Coffeecol.
4. The *Spy School* program was very well attended.
5. The *Spring Art Lab* program offered different crafts and techniques, including flower pressing and gelli printing, leaning into nature themes.
6. A new *PJ Storytime* accommodated working parents not be able to come during the day.
7. Teen programs on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school are going well.
8. Lots of attendees are anticipated for the next *Teen Volunteer Orientation* and *TAB* meeting.
9. The volunteers had a lot of fun at their *Ice Cream Party*.

10. The summer newsletter is to be delivered door to door soon.
11. The Ice Cream Lady has already been contacted for the *Summer Reading Program* and this year's theme is *Unearth a Story*.
12. The Children's Department is going with a dinosaur theme and there will be a 6 foot tall T.rex for the kickoff on Tuesday, June 23, which will be outside.
13. For adults, there was an AI program, with a new June AI program, with practical ways of using AI.
14. There were computer classes - on *Excel, Budgets, Online Scams, Google Drive, and Canva* - that were well attended.
15. Craft programs - for *Kumihimo Bracelets, Ceramic Painting, and Paper Marbling* - were full.
16. *Brady Bunch Trivia* had a smaller turnout than that for *The Office*, but it was still fun.
17. The Library received a tool kit and books from Bergen County that are in the *Dementia-Friendly* section in the Reference Room.
18. A lot of middle schoolers from Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin (schools) were hosted in March and April. Those without cards were issued library cards, which they then used to borrow books.
19. There were building issues nearly every week:
 - a. The roof AC had an electrical issue, which closed the library.
 - b. The new bathroom clogged multiple times, due to excessive toilet paper and not enough water pressure.
 1. The paper towel dispenser was removed; the electric hand dryer was installed.
 2. The old plumbing has lots of rough edges that catches whatever is deposited into the toilets.
 3. A new law passed in 2023 in NJ limits the amount of water from 1.6 to 1.2 gallons per flush.
 4. The installation of a new toilet and pipes meeting old pipes... lead to issues.
 5. A change to rapid dissolve toilet paper is planned.
 6. And the plumber will be asked if the toilet itself can be changed.
 - c. There has been a particular homeless man loitering in the Library and this was reported to the Police: walking around every space while barefoot; eating; sleeping; and "bathing" in the new bathroom, for which he was repeatedly warned. Staff noted he was the last to use the bathroom the night before, and the first in the morning, and then it clogged. He used profanity and threatened to returned...and the Police advised that they be called if that happens.
20. The ESL Coordinator position has not been filled yet. This PT position and another FT position are expected to be filled this summer.
21. A new Teen Librarian and new PT Youth Services Assistant have started.
22. A temporary YS Assistant will be hired for the summer.

New Business

Resolution LB-26-12: 2026 Holiday/Closing Schedule-revised

As part of union negotiations, it was agreed that Juneteenth would be observed as a Holiday.

Resolution LB-26-13: Cleaning Company for Deep Cleaning

Different estimates were obtained for deep cleaning of the Library and Zimick Brothers was selected again, with the most reasonable cost.

Upon motion by Sandi Silverberg (Keisha Carter, second), the above Resolutions were passed, with all in favor.

Resolution LB-26-14: Disposition of 6-Month Bogota Bank CD X 1572 with Maturity Date of 6/16/26

Upon motion by Evalyn Brownstein (Chondra Young, second), Resolution LB-26-14 passed, with all in favor.

Elevator:

There have been monthly maintenance inspections; and there was a recent township inspection, with non-mechanical issues found (ie. light and safety rail), which have been addressed. Toward the end of March, there was a gradual “grinding” sound, which was determined to be caused by missing hydraulic fluid by the Library’s elevator contractor (for decades), Sharp. They poured in three buckets of hydraulic fluid and advised to “monitor the situation.”

In April, they came to top off more and checked for potential leaks. On their third visit, they determined that there was a problem with the ground jack that pushes the elevator car up/down. Since this is an old elevator, likely the part will have to be custom-made. At this time, it is not known what the cost of the repair would be, or how long it would take; or perhaps instead of a repair, a replacement of the elevator should be considered.

The Board President proposed a special virtual meeting to discuss the elevator on Thursday, May 14; Sandi Silverberg motioned (Keisha Carter, second), with all in favor.

Old Business - Historical Marker

Toniette Duncan spoke of the idea to display some history (of its origin) in the Library itself. The Board President reminded all that the original library started in November 1927, making next year,

2027, the 100th birthday of the Teaneck Library. The Director plans an exhibit for the 100th birthday and intends on rolling the history of the library into that exhibit.

Remarks from the Public

Teaneck resident Yigal Gross, who collects old newspapers as a hobby, donated to the Library an original printing of *Harpers Weekly* from 1863. It was illustrated by Thomas Nast, who later defined American political illustration for the next 20 years. The full-page engraving centers on a dignified scene of African American life surrounded by smaller vignettes contrasting the brutalities of slavery with the promise of emancipated life. As the Library has a connection to slavery, it was the best place for it to go, for all to see, as Yigal Gross said "...both the Jewish and the enslaved Africans fight the same fight... both feel the weight of history on their shoulders to tell their story so the world sees what they see... both need the other to succeed." The Board President thanked Yigal Gross and his family for the donation.

Friends Member Lynn Kloss talked about the book sale, thanking the Director for her "tremendous support," noting "it was more work to cancel than it was to start it..."

Friends Member Susan Maier emphasized the importance of the library to have a (working) elevator: for those who can't navigate steps; for staff to move between the floors returning/pulling materials; for patrons to go to the programs and "use the facilities," etc.

Toniette Duncan asked about the display of the history of the Library, to which the Board President agreed that it would take time to determine how, where, and when to display it, as there is limited space available, and that the Director will work on it.

Closed Session

Closed Session was proposed by the Board President at 7:54 PM, with all in favor; the breakout session started at 7:57 PM. The board returned back into Open Session at 8:28 PM.

Action on Closed Session

Upon motion by Keisha Carter (Evalyn Brownstein, second), Resolution LB-26-15 was passed, with all in favor.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Benjamin Burnat (Keisha Carter, second), the meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM, with all in favor.

Prepared by Deborah Young