



Belleville Public Library & Information Center

221 Washington Avenue
Belleville, NJ 07109
973-450-3434
Bellepl.org

AGENDA
Library Board of Trustees
Wednesday, October 8, 2025 – 6 PM
The Teen Room at the Belleville Public Library & Information Center

- Call to Order
- Sunshine Notice:
This meeting, published under Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, and commonly referred to as the "Open Public Meetings Act," is hereby notified that notice of this meeting has been given.
- Roll Call
- Approval of the minutes of September 17, 2025.
- Executive Session
- Communications:
 - Per Capita State Library Aid
- Committee Reports:
 - Building and Grounds
 - Personnel
 - Budget
- Interim Director's Report
- Old Business:
 - Children's HVAC system
- New Business:
 - Lighting
- Resolutions:
 - 10-0001 Authorization to pay October 2025 Bills.
- Public Comments
- Adjournment



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MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Belleville Public Library and Information Center
September 17, 2025

The Belleville Public Library and Information Center Board of Trustees held its monthly meeting in the Teen Room on September 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Present: Renato Peralta, Christine Lamparello, Nelson Barrera, and Dr. Erick Alfonso. Jeanne Lombardi called in. Mayor Michael Melham, Ralph Tunis, and Marleni Muñiz were absent. Frances Bacardi attended.

Renato Peralta opened the meeting, and Frances Bacardi announced that it had been published by the Open Public Meetings Act.

MINUTES:

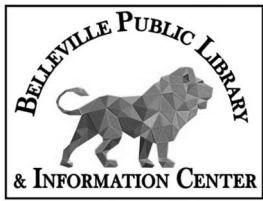
As presented, Renato Peralta moved to accept the minutes of June 11. Christine Lamparello made the motion, Nelson Barrera seconded, and the board approved it by voice vote

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The board convened at 6:01 PM to address personnel matters. Christine Lamparello made the motion, which Nelson Barrera seconded, and the Board approved it by voice vote. The Board returns to the regular session at 6:03 PM. Nelson Barrera made the motion, seconded by Christine Lamparello, and a voice vote of the Board approved it.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The library was hit with a ransomware attack on August 6th at approximately 11:15 AM. Exigent was contacted, and the server was immediately disconnected from the network. With the firewall on lockdown and both the public and private servers disconnected, all services dependent on the library network were not available. This included the phone service, public computers, the Academy Street door control system, and staff service points. With all services inoperable, the library closed its doors to the public on Thursday, August 7th, and Friday, August 8th. Field Effect was hired to remediate the situation. Field Effect reviewed the server to determine the extent of the compromise. Field Effect was informed that, although the server functioned as our file server, it did not contain much sensitive or critical information, and the operational aspects of the server were the priority. All services were restored online on Monday, August 11, at 10:00 AM. The pirates never asked for money once they realized there was nothing of value to demand. After a thorough investigation, Exigent uncovered that the worm entered Frances Bacardi's remote workstation through SonicWall via the VPN. Exigent has since replaced SonicWall with Ninja with a two-part authenticator.



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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings and Grounds:

Takeo Sugihara built flower boxes, filled them with coleus, and placed them along the wall on Academy Street to draw attention away from its crumbling surface.

Personnel:

Executive Session

Budget:

The library received its third-quarter appropriations from the township.

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The library had a successful summer season, with programs designed for families. Attendance and digital engagement were strong, reflecting continued growth in patron involvement and outreach.

The summer reading program, Color My World, had 276 registrants. One hundred forty-one thousand five hundred forty minutes were read—a 43% increase from 2024.

The library continued its tradition of the Four Great Monday Nights in July.

The events held were;

- Color My World with Mr. Boom Boom
- Sand Art
- Junie B. Jones
- DIY Stamping
- Eyes of the Wild
- Mike's Ice Cream Giveaway

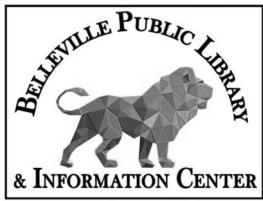
All of the events were sold out.

August is a slow month for the library. With families and staff taking summer vacations, no new events were scheduled; however, the recurring programs continued throughout the month. A few examples are Chess Club, Guitar Lessons, and Tiny Tales Storytime.

In addition, the library celebrated Independence Day by illuminating the building with red, white, and blue lights, LGBTQ+ Month by displaying themed books throughout the library, and a performance by Carrie Jackson in honor of Juneteenth.

OLD BUSINESS:

For the first time, the library had all vents professionally cleaned. The compressor and two ductless air conditioners in the staff and server rooms were replaced after more than ten years of use. A new HVAC system, including heat, air conditioning, and dehumidification, will be installed in the children's room in late October or early November. This unit will provide the children's room with an independent HVAC system.



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NEW BUSINESS:

The library presented two health insurance quotes to the board, one from IMAC and one from SIP. Both quotes, through Blue Cross Blue Shield, were identical. Following the discussion, the board unanimously approved purchasing the insurance through SIP.

RESOLUTIONS:

- a) 9-0001: Authorization to pay July, August, and September 2025 bills. The motion was approved by Christine Lamparello, seconded by Nelson Barrera, and backed by a unanimous roll call from the Board.
- b) 9-0002 Authorization to increase the bid threshold to \$53,000 for the QPA Christine Lamparello approved the motion, seconded by Nelson Barrera, and a unanimous roll call from the Board supported it.
- c) 9-0003 Authorization to approve a salary increase for a full-time employee. Nelson Barrera approved the motion, seconded by Jeanne Lombardi, and a unanimous roll call from the Board confirmed its support.
- d) 9-0004 Authorization approving a compensation package for the Interim Library Director. Christine Lamparello approved the motion, seconded by Nelson Barrera, and a unanimous roll call from the Board supported it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

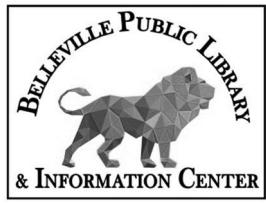
None

ADJOURNMENT:

Christine Lamparello motioned to adjourn, seconded by Nelson Barrera, and approved by the board's unanimous vote.

Prepared and Submitted by Frances Bacardi

NEXT BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR Wednesday, October 8, at 6:00 PM



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