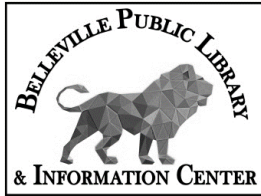


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Library Board of Trustees
Wednesday, February 11, 2026– 6 PM
The Teen Room at the Belleville Public Library & Information Center

- 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
- Executive Session
- Approval of the minutes of January 7, 2026
- Communications:
 - Committee Members
 - Township of Belleville Labor Cost Spreadsheet 1/1/2025-4/30/2025.
- Committee Reports
 - Building and Grounds
Flooding of the boiler, children's room, and hallway.
 - Personnel
Lois Pasanda – Retirement.
 - Budget
2026 Amended equalized valuation figures
- Interim Director's Report
- Old Business:
 - Dead Sound Paneling Installation.
- New Business:
 - ADA Compliant Elevator.
 - Leaf Buyout.



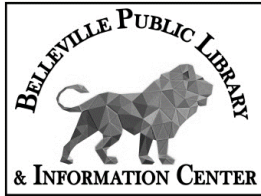
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- Resolutions:
 - 02-0001 Authorization to pay February 2026 bills
 - 02-0002 Authorization to revise the Belleville Public Library employee manual regarding vacation leave for part-time employees.
 - 02-0003 Authorization approving an hourly rate increase for a part-time employee.
 - 02-0004 Authorization to amend the Belleville Public Library Board of Trustees Bylaws.
 - 02-0005 Authorization to award an emergency contract for flood remediation services to Contemporary Glass Services.

- Public Comments

- Adjournment



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MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Belleville Public Library and Information Center

January 7, 2026

The Belleville Public Library and Information Center Board of Trustees held its monthly meeting in the Teen Room on January 7th, at 6:00 p.m. Present: Mayor Michael Melham, Renato Peralta, Christine Lamparello, Nelson Barrera, Marleni Muñiz, Dr. Eric Alfonso, Alexandra Leon, and Ana Mansilla. Ralph Tunis was absent. Frances Bacardi and Douglas Zucker, Attorney at Law, attended.

Frances Bacardi opened the meeting and announced that the Open Public Meetings Act had published.

Election of Office:

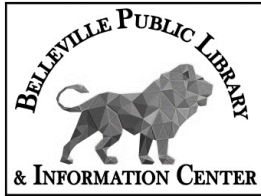
- President: Nomination of Marleni Muñiz by Renato Peralta and seconded by Mayor Michael Melham. Marleni Muñiz won the nomination and election by unanimous votes.
- Vice President Nomination of Renato Peralta by Mayor Michael Melham and seconded by Renato Peralta won the nomination and election by unanimous votes.
- Secretary Nomination of Frances Bacardi by Renato Peralta and seconded by Mayor Michael Melham. Frances Bacardi won the nomination and election by unanimous votes.

MINUTES:

As presented, Frances Bacardi moved to accept the minutes from December 10, 2025. Renato Peralta made the motion, Nelson Barrera seconded, and the board approved it by voice vote. Dr. Alfonso, Christine Lamparello, Alexandra Leon, and Ana Mansilla abstained. Ralph Tunis was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

COMMUNICATIONS:



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The Library received a \$500 donation from the Friends of the Library and a \$100 donation from patron Nadira Fant

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings and Grounds:
Nothing to report.

Personnel:
Executive Session.

Budget:
Nothing to report.

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

With the holiday season now concluded, the Library is pleased to report that its annual Christmas Extravaganza was a significant success. Approximately 200 patrons, along with their children, attended the event, which featured the popular stuffing-a-moose activity. This year's celebration followed a Country Christmas theme. While waiting for their turn, children and families were invited to write letters to Santa in the Children's Room and decorate stockings in the Teen Room. After completing these activities, families proceeded upstairs to have photographs taken against country-themed backdrops and to visit Santa. These activities created a festive and engaging experience throughout the Library.

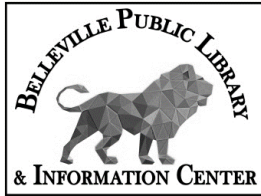
Over the course of the year, the Library hosted 69 special events, in addition to its regular recurring programming, reflecting strong community engagement and continued programmatic growth.

As 2026 begins, the Library is off to a strong start. In the Children's Room, Dr. Mariam Khan presented a Toothtastic storytime. She read *Bears Loose Tooth*, a story that teaches healthy eating habits to support dental health. For teens and adults, Eddie Khaytman has returned to present *Demystifying AI*, continuing a popular and timely educational series.

Finally, the library welcomes two new trustees to the Board: Alexandra Leon and Ana Mansilla. The library is confident you will find the time you spend on the board rewarding.

OLD BUSINESS

Facilities updates included completing lighting upgrades in the Carnegie and stack rooms and successfully installing and operating the HVAC system for the children's room.



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Discussion of the staff room renovation focused on cost, scope, and prioritization. The original furniture quote for the project was approximately \$26,000. Two additional furniture quotes were obtained under state contract requirements, totaling roughly \$6,590 and \$9,000, respectively, with final costs dependent on exact dimensions. It was emphasized that the overall project cost of \$120,000 is primarily driven by prevailing wage and state contract requirements, not by furniture alone. Available capital funds were reported to exceed \$1 million when combining current balances and expected transfers. The rationale for the renovation was to improve staff working conditions, morale, and retention. Several trustees raised concerns about project prioritization, total costs, and whether funds might be better allocated to a public park on Academy Street. The Board reached a consensus to table any decision pending further review. after visiting the staff room.

Trustees also revisited a long-standing proposal to renovate the courtyard on Academy Street. The discussion focused on issues including ADA compliance, uneven grading, drainage, structural retaining walls, and emergency egress from the second floor. It was noted that any park renovation would require the involvement of a landscape architect and an engineer and would likely represent a significant capital investment. No action was taken, and the discussion was informational only.

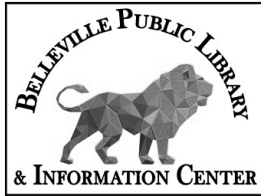
In other business, trustees were reminded that detailed renovation plans for the staff room, cost breakdowns, and photographs are included in the meeting packet. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without formal resolutions regarding either the staff room renovation or the exterior courtyard project.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Mayor stated that the Library will advertise for a new Library Director and that the sitting Interim Director must formally post the position. Renato Peralta advised that the Board President is responsible for notifying Civil Service and submitting the job description. Although the Mayor suggested the Interim Director complete this task, it was noted that this responsibility rests solely with the Board.

RESOLUTIONS:

- a) 01-0001: Authorization to pay January 2026 bills. The motion was approved by Nelson Barrera, seconded by Mayor Melham, and backed by a unanimous roll call from the Board.
- b) 01-0002 Authorization to approve and award contract for staff room renovations. This resolution, awarding the contract for the staff room renovations, was placed on the table. The motion was approved by Mayor Melham, seconded by Renato Peralta, and supported by a unanimous roll call from the Board.
- c) 01-0003 Authorization to appoint Victoria Lucido, Esq. as Library Board Attorney for January 8, 2026 through December 31, 2026. The Board adopted a motion to amend the



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January 7th resolution, revising the contract term, correcting the library name in paragraph three from Bayonne to Belleville, and establishing her hourly rate at the next board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Luis Muñiz, 23 Lloyd Place, Belleville, commented that the teen room looks incredible and that the library is doing an excellent job for the community.

ADJOURNMENT:

Nelson Barrera motioned to adjourn, seconded by Renato Peralta, and approved by the Board's unanimous vote.

Prepared and Submitted by Frances Bacardi

NEXT BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR Wednesday, February 10, at 6:00 PM