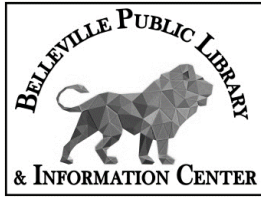


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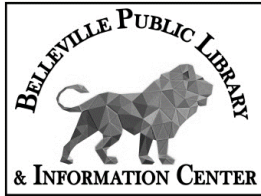
Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, March 10, 2026– 6 PM
The Teen Room at the Belleville Public Library & Information Center

- 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 February 10, 2026
- Communications:
- Committee Reports
 - Building and Grounds
 - Personnel: -
 - Budget:
- Interim Director's Report
- Old Business:
 - Monies owed to the Township of Belleville for the first quarter of 2025
- New Business:
 - Neurodivergent Flag Raising
- Resolutions:
 - 03-0001 Authorization to pay March 2026 bills
- Public Comments
- Adjournment



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MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES Belleville Public Library and Information Center February 10, 2026

The Belleville Public Library and Information Center Board of Trustees held its monthly meeting in the Teen Room on February 10, at 6:00 p.m. Present: Marleni Muñiz, Renato Peralta, Nelson Barrera, Ralph Tunis, Alexandra Leon, and Ana Mansilla. Mayor Michael Melham and Dr. Alfonso were absent. Frances Bacardi and Victoria Lucido, Attorney at Law, attended.

Marleni Muñiz opened the meeting and announced that the Open Public Meetings Act had published.

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MINUTES:

As presented, Marleni Muñiz moved to accept the minutes from January 7, 2025. Renato Peralta made the motion, Nelson Barrera seconded, and the board approved it by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

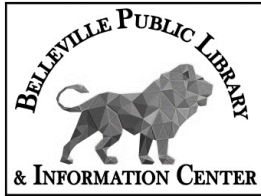
The Board entered at 6:01 PM for personnel matters. Renato Peralta made the motion, which Ralph Tunis seconded, and the Board approved by voice vote.

The Board returns to the regular session at 6:02 PM. Ralph Tunis made the motion, seconded by Renato Peralta, which was approved by a voice vote of the Board.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Committees were established and members appointed as listed below:

- **Buildings and Grounds**
Marleni Muñiz
Ana Mansilla
Nelson Barrera
- **Personnel:**
Mayor Michael Melham
Marleni Muñiz
Alexandra Leon
- Budget:
Mayor Michael Melham
Marleni Muñiz
Renato Peralta



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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings and Grounds:

On Monday, February 9th, a valve located outside the boiler room froze, causing a pipe to burst. The boiler room flooded, with water extending into the hallway and the Children's Room.

The situation was treated as an emergency. Contemporary Glass was engaged to remediate the water damage and remove debris.

During cleanup, it was discovered that the sump pump was missing, preventing the remaining water from being pumped out.

It was determined that a new sump pump would be installed. In addition, concrete will be poured over the existing floor and pitched toward the sump pump to improve drainage and prevent future flooding.

Personnel:

Lois Pasanda has announced her retirement, effective June 1st.

Budget:

Budget: On January 30, 2026, the New Jersey Tax Court released the result of Tax Court appeals in the form of amended equalized valuation figures. The Township of Belleville's equalized valuation was affected by these amendments, and therefore, the 1/3 mill amount given to the library has been amended:

2026 Amended 1/3 Mill: \$1,754,360

2026 Original 1/3Mill: \$1,767,500

Difference: -\$13,140.00

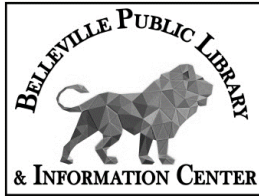
Interim Director's Report

The Belleville Board of Education has been awarded a \$48,000 literacy grant, earmarked for the Library, to support early literacy services for children ages **0–2**. Of this amount, the first \$24,000 must be spent on literacy-related giveaways for families. The remaining funds will be used to purchase games, books, toys, and physical room improvements to enhance early learning experiences.

As part of this initiative, the Library will renovate the second-floor platform to safely accommodate the new toys and furnishings. These improvements will create a more functional and secure play and learning environment for young children and caregivers.

January programming was active and well attended. Events included Family Bingo Night and a preschool field trip, which introduced young learners to library services and resources. PJ Storytime returned this month, and Storybook Stars Storytime featured favorite, well-known characters paired with a themed craft activity.

STEM programming continued with Eco Explorers: Owl Pellet Dissection, led by a naturalist from the Essex County Environmental Center, providing children with a hands-on science



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experience. Additional programs included Puzzle Palooza and, for teens, free SAT preparation workshops offered over three afternoons.

In recognition of Black History Month, the Library hosted a screening of the film *Hidden Figures*. Upcoming programming will also include Caribbean pottery, continuing the Library's

OLD BUSINESS

The dead-sound panel installation is scheduled for the second or third week of March.

NEW BUSINESS:

Previously, an outdoor elevator on Academy Street provided access to the second floor. The elevator was removed and has not been replaced. A question was raised about whether the library is required to replace the elevator or install a ramp to remain ADA-compliant. After a lengthy discussion that yielded a range of opinions, Nelson Barrera suggested that Victoria Lucido research the matter and report back to the Board with a legal determination. The Board agreed with this recommendation and deferred further discussion until the legal opinion is presented at the next board meeting.

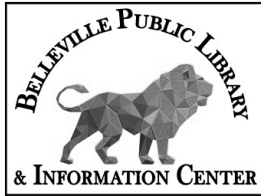
With the implementation of LightPath, the library was required to purchase its non-cancellable lease for \$11,440.38.

RESOLUTIONS:

- a) 02-0001: Authorization to pay February 2026 bills. Renato Peralta approved the motion, seconded by Ana Mansilla, and it passed unanimously by the Board.
- b) 02-0002 Authorization to revise the Belleville Public Library employee manual regarding vacation leave for part-time employees. The motion was approved by Renato Peralta, seconded by Ralph Tunis, and supported by a unanimous roll call from the Board.
- c) 02-0003 Authorization to approve an hourly rate increase for a part-time employee. The motion was approved by Ralph Tunis, seconded by Ana Mansilla, and supported by a unanimous roll call from the Board.
- d) 02-0004 Authorization to amend the Belleville Public Library Board of Trustees Bylaws. The motion was approved by Nelson Barrera, seconded by Ana Mansilla, and supported by a unanimous roll call from the Board.
- e) 02-0005 Authorization to award emergency flood remediation services to Contemporary Glass. The motion was approved by Ana Mansilla, seconded by Renato Peralta, and supported by a unanimous roll call from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None



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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 Tuesday, March 10, at 6:00 PM