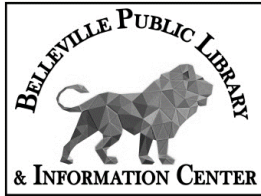


Belleville Public Library & Information Center

221 Washington Avenue
Belleville, NJ 07109
973-450-3434
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Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, September 8, 2026– 6 PM
The Teen Room at the Belleville Public Library & Information Center

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- 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 June 9, 2026
 - Communications:
 - The Library received a \$100.00 donation in memory of Jelsia Cortese.
 - Committee Reports
 - Building and Grounds
 - Personnel:
 - Budget:
 - Interim Director's Report
 - Old Business:
 - Conversion of the Director's Office.
 - New Business:
 - Cancellation of Citizenship Classes.
 - Resolutions:
 - 09-0001 Authorization to pay July, August, and September 2026 bills.
 - Public Comments
 - Adjournment



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MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Belleville Public Library and Information Center

June 9, 2026

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

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

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MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of the May 12, 2026 meeting. It was noted that the attendance record was incorrect. Alexandra Leon was listed as present and voting to approve the minutes; however, the trustee was absent. In addition, the date of the previous Board meeting was incorrectly recorded as March 10, 2026. The correct date of the previous Board meeting was May 12, 2026.

A motion was made by Renato Peralta and seconded by Ana Mansilla to amend the May 12, 2026 minutes to correct the attendance record and meeting date and to approve the minutes as Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board entered into executive session at 6:01 PM for personnel matters. Marleni Muñiz made the motion, Renato Peralta seconded it, and the Board approved it by voice vote.

The Board returned to the regular session at 6:06 PM. Renato Peralta's motion, seconded by Ralph Tunis, was approved by a voice vote of the Board.

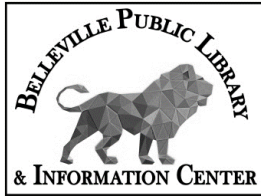
COMMUNICATIONS:

Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Buildings and Grounds:**

The Board questioned the status of the Academy Street Park project. The Board was informed that the Library has not yet received the proposed plans or a cost estimate from Township Engineer Thomas Hertz.



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- **Personnel:**

Executive session.

- **Budget:**

The Board was informed that the Library has not yet received its second-quarter appropriation payment from the Township. The Interim Library Director reported that Township officials advised that the check was mailed on June 1, 2026; however, the Library has not yet received it.

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As summer rapidly approaches, our ESL and Citizenship classes have concluded for the season and will resume in September.

For adults, the Library partnered with Clara Maass Hospital to provide free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings in the Conservatory.

Our Children's Department hosted a pottery painting program for children ages 3–12. Participants painted their own piggy banks and returned later to pick them up after they had been professionally glazed and fired.

The BPL Adult Chess Club continues to gain momentum, with attendance steadily increasing each month. We are encouraged by the growing interest in this program.

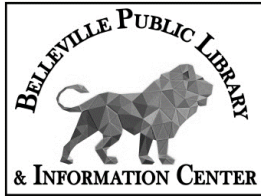
PJ Storytime held its final session before its summer hiatus and will return in the fall. This popular all-ages program features stories, singing, dancing, and a related craft activity.

PJ Storytime also introduced a new monthly Coloring Club. Designed for participants of varying ages and abilities, the club offers a relaxing and creative environment that encourages social interaction and artistic expression.

On May 22, Belleville School students visited the Library for a field trip. On Saturday, June 6th, during the "Buzzing About Bees" program, children learned about the importance of bees and the vital role they play in our environment. Participants could view a live beehive, learn about honey production, and enjoy a honey sample.

As this is our final Board meeting until September, I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the exciting programs and events planned for the summer months.

Little Listeners is a special Storytime in both English and Spanish. There will be guest appearances from characters from the movie Trolls. When the event concludes, all the children



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will receive a special gift filled with early childhood literacy items. This is made possible by a grant from the Belleville Board of Education.

Our summer schedule includes a Parchment Craft program, a Father's Day Craft, and Little Listeners Storytime, all offered in both English and Spanish. To celebrate Juneteenth, on June 18th, Jazz House Kids will present a special musical performance.

The Library will host its annual Summer Reading Kickoff on Saturday, June 20. This year's theme is dinosaurs, and readers of all ages are encouraged to participate in the Summer Reading Program. Throughout the summer, participants can earn prizes, and we will present special awards to our top readers. Continuing this theme, on June 30th, we will offer dinosaur silhouette painting for ages 3 and up.

On June 27, the Library will celebrate America's 250th birthday with a festive event honoring this historic milestone. The building will be adorned in red, white, and blue, creating a patriotic atmosphere for visitors of all ages.

Patrons will enjoy classic American treats, including popcorn, ice cream, Hostess® cherry and apple pies, and cotton candy till supplies last. The celebration will also feature a family activity, historic-themed photo backdrops where children and families can capture memorable keepsakes, and live patriotic music performed by the Navesink Brass Band.

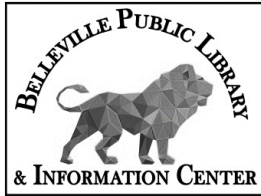
Additional summer events include an Ecuador vs. Germany Watch Party, "Let's Chalk About It," and a presentation by local historian Joel Farkas, who will discuss George Washington, New Jersey, and the American Revolution.

Back by popular demand are the four great Summer Monday Nights at the Library programs. This year's lineup includes Dinosaur Rock Fossil Adventure, Anthony Salazar's One-Man Illusion Show, a Sew-It Quilt Workshop, a rock-climbing experience, and Toys in the Box 3D workshop.

Movie lovers can also enjoy a special screening of *The Empire Strikes Back*.

The Library will be closed for inventory during the last three days of August: 26th, 27th, and 28th.t.

The Library continues to provide educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities for residents of all ages. We look forward to a busy, successful summer and wish everyone a safe, enjoyable season. We look forward to seeing everyone again in September.



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OLD BUSINESS:

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

The LED lighting installation is complete in the Circulation Department, Children's Room, and Computer Room.

Plans for renovating the Children's Playroom are expected to begin this summer. An Early Literacy Grant awarded by the Board of Education will fund part of the project.

The Board discussed transitioning from printed board binders to iPads to distribute meeting agendas, minutes, and supporting documentation. Following the discussion, the Board voted down the proposal unanimously.

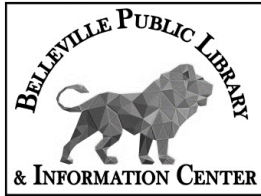
RESOLUTIONS:

- a) 06-0001: Authorization to pay June 2026 bills. Nelson Barrera approved the motion, seconded by Renato Peralta, and the Board passed it unanimously.
- b) 06-0002: Authorization for the Interim Library Director to pay bills in July and August while the Board is on summer hiatus. Ralph Tunis approved the motion, seconded by Alexandra Leon, and the Board passed it unanimously.
- c) 06-0003: Authorization to increase the hourly wage of a part-time employee, effective July 1, 2026. Nelson Barrera approved the motion, seconded by Marleni Muñiz, and the Board passed it unanimously.
- d) 06-0004: Authorization to increase the hourly wage of part-time employees, effective September 1, 2026. Mayor Michael Melham approved the motion, seconded by Renato Peralta, and the Board passed it unanimously.
- e) 06-0005: Authorization approving a salary increase for the Interim Library Director. Ralph Tunis approved the motion, seconded by Renato Peralta, and the Board passed it unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Board President Marleni Muñiz, on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Library, thanked Mayor Michael Melham for his eight years of service to the Library Board. She thanked Mayor Melham for his dedication, support, and contributions to the Library throughout his tenure.

ADJOURNMENT:



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Marleni Muñiz moved to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Michael Melham, and approved by the Board's unanimous vote.

Prepared and Submitted by Frances Bacardi

NEXT BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR Tuesday, September 8, at 6:00 PM