Belleville Public Library & Information Center

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

Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, November 10, 2026– 6 PM
The Teen Room at the Belleville Public Library

- 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 has been given.
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- Roll Call

- Executive Session

- Approval of the minutes of October 13, 2026.

- Communications:
  - Friends of the Belleville Public Library Donation.
  - New Jersey Freedom to Read Act

- Committee Reports
  - Building and Grounds
  - Personnel
  - Budget

- Interim Director's Report

- Policy Review
  - Comprehensive Collection Development Policy and Checklist
  - Review of Request for Removal Policy
  - Review of Request for Reconsideration of Library Material Policy
  - Review of Meeting Room Use Policy
  - Review of Quiet and Study Room Use Policy
  - Review of the Interactive Learning Play Area

- Old Business:
  - Children’s Play Room

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- New Business:
    - Braven Health
    - Metropolitan Health Insurance Fund Indemnity and Trust Agreement.
    - Meeting and Study Room Furniture.

- Resolutions:
    - 11-0001 Authorization to pay November bills.
    - 11-0002: Authorization to approve the Library's Meeting Room Policy.
    - 11-0003 Authorization to approve the Library's Quiet & Study Room Policy.
    - 11-0004 Authorization to approve the Collection Development Policy.
    - 11-0005 Authorization to approve the Library Request for Removal Policy.
    - 11-0006 Authorization to approve the Library Request for Removal/Reconsideration of Library Material Form and Procedures.
    - 11-0007 Authorization to approve the Interactive Learning Play Area.
    - 11-0008 Authorization to appoint a Fund Commissioner to the Metropolitan Health Insurance Fund.
    - 11-0009 Authorization to join the Metropolitan Health Insurance Fund.
    - 11-0010 Authorization to enter into the amended Interlocal Services Agreement with Pals Plus.
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- Public Comments

- Adjournment

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MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Belleville Public Library and Information Center
October 13, 2026

The Belleville Public Library and Information Center Board of Trustees met in the Teen Room on October 12 at 6:00 p.m. Jeanne Lombardi, Renato Peralta, Ana Mansilla, Nelson Barrera, Rafael Taboclaon, Ralph Tunis, Dr. Thomas D'Elia, and Marleni Muñiz were present. Dr. Alfonso and Alexandra Leon 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 been published.

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MINUTES:

As presented, Marleni Muñiz moved to accept the September 8, 2026 minutes. Renato Peralta made the motion, Nelson Barrera seconded, and the board approved it by voice vote. Jeanne Lombardi and Dr. Thomas D'Elia abstained.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

COMMUNICATIONS:

The Board unanimously denied Rose Productions Studio's request to host a holiday play during the second week of December because of scheduling and availability constraints.
The library received $20,823.00 from the State of NJ for completing the 2025 NJ Library Survey.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Buildings and Grounds: Nothing to report.
- Personnel: Nothing to report.
- Budget: Nothing to report.

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Library has continued to offer a variety of educational, cultural, and recreational programs for patrons of all ages.

On September 19, Maritza Lohn led an adult pottery sand-plate-making program. Participants decorated their plates with pumpkin themes to celebrate the fall season.

On September 28, we held an adult Tai Chi class.

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On October 8, the second session of our four-part **Sew It: Clothes-Making Workshop** began, continuing this hands-on learning opportunity for participants.

As we moved into October, our programming included **Toothtastic Storytime with a Dentist**, which introduced children to dental health through storytelling. To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, the Library offered a program featuring Guatemalan worry dolls and an empanada-making class. We also held a bilingual story time for children and families.

Our monthly **PJ Storytime** has returned and meets Tuesday evenings in the Conservatory. October's activities included Bingo Night and Pre-K Hooray Storytime.

On October 13, we offered **Healthy Bites: A Taste of Fall**, sponsored by ShopRite, focusing on seasonal foods and healthy eating.

The Library grounds also feature mums, cabbages, pumpkins, and Black-eyed Susans to celebrate the fall season and enhance the Library's appearance.

Our regular programming continues with Anime and Manga, Chess, Teen Guitars Plus, ESL, Steampunk Engineers, and Belle's Crochet Corner.

We remain committed to providing engaging programs that encourage learning, creativity, and community participation.

OLD BUSINESS:
The Director's Office conversion into two study/meeting rooms is complete
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NEW BUSINESS:
The Board asked the Interim Director to send a letter to the Board of Education (BOE) seeking clarification on allowable expenditures under the Early Literacy Grant, including eligible purchases, prior approval requirements, spending deadlines, and reimbursement procedures. The letter will also request copies of the grant award, application, guidelines, and budget documents, along with an accounting of expenditures to date and the remaining balance, to ensure compliance with grant requirements.

RESOLUTIONS:

a) 10-0001: Authorization to pay October 2026 bills. Renato Peralta approved the motion, Ralph Tunis seconded it, and the Board passed it unanimously.
b) 10-0002: Authorization to void check number 1425 from the operating account payable to Action Data Services. Renato Peralta approved the motion, Nelson Barrera seconded it, and the Board passed it unanimously.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:
Ralph Tunis moved to adjourn, Nelson Barrera seconded, and the Board approved by unanimous vote.

Prepared and Submitted by Frances Bacardi

NEXT BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR Tuesday, October 13, at 6:00 PM