Belleville Public Library & Information Center

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

Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, October 13, 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 of this meeting has been given.
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- Roll Call

- Executive Session

- Approval of the minutes of September 8, 2026.

- Communications:
  - Rose Productions
  - Per Capita State Library Aid

- Committee Reports
  - Building and Grounds
  - Personnel:
  - Budget:

- Interim Director's Report

- Old Business:
  - Meeting Rooms

- New Business:
  - Children’s Play Room

- Resolutions:
  - 10-0001 Authorization to pay October bills.
  - 10-0002 Authorization to void check number 1425 from the operating account payable to Action Data Services.

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- Public Comments
- Adjournment

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MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Belleville Public Library and Information Center
September 8, 2026

Appointment: Jeanne Lombardi, Alternate for Mayor Frank Velez

The Belleville Public Library and Information Center Board of Trustees met in the Teen Room on September 8 at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Frank Velez, Renato Peralta, Ana Mansilla, Nelson Barrera, Rafael Taboclaon, and Ralph Tunis were present. Dr. Alfonso, Marleni Muñiz, and Alexandra Leon were absent. Frances Bacardi and Victoria Lucido, Attorney at Law, attended.

Renato Peralta opened the meeting and announced that the Open Public Meetings Act had been published.
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MINUTES:
As presented, Renato Peralta moved to accept the minutes from June 9, 2026. Nelson Barrera made the motion, Ralph Tunis seconded, and the board approved it by voice vote. Mayor Frank Velez abstained.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

COMMUNICATIONS:
The library received a $100.00 donation in memory of Jelsia Cortese.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
- **Buildings and Grounds:**
- **Personnel:**
- **Budget:**

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT
The library had a productive and successful summer, offering a comprehensive schedule of programs and events for children, adults, and families. Community participation was strong, with many programs reaching full capacity. Summer programming included educational presentations, live performances, crafts, family activities, and the annual Summer Reading Program, providing a wide range of opportunities for the community to engage with the library.

Summer Reading 2026

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The **Summer Reading Program Kickoff** was held on **June 20**, with this year's theme, **"Unearth a Story."** Participants could take part in the summer reading program and enter for a chance to win grand prizes.

Summer Reading participation increased significantly from the previous year. In 2025, 267 people registered, compared with 382 in 2026, an increase of approximately **43%**.

June Programs and Events

On **June 16**, the library offered a Father's Day craft program during which participants painted garden stones for Dad.

On **June 17**, **Little Listeners** began in both English and Spanish. In collaboration with the **Belleville Board of Education**, the library gave all registrants a special gift containing early childhood literacy materials.

To recognize **Juneteenth**, the library hosted an evening performance by musicians from **Montclair's Jazz House Kids**.

On **June 25**, the library hosted a viewing of the **Ecuador vs. Germany World Cup soccer game**. Attendees were entered into a raffle to win a **Panini FIFA World Cup Soccer Sticker Stadium Box**. Pretzels and chips were also provided.

On **June 27**, the library held a community celebration to mark **America's 250th birthday**. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, the event featured live music by the **Navesink Band**, ice cream, popcorn, patriotic photography backdrops, and a special craft activity. The event was designed for families and patrons of all ages. The library was decorated for the occasion with American flags displayed on the exterior columns and red, white, and blue outdoor lighting.

The library also welcomed historian **Joel Farkas**, who presented **"George Washington, New Jersey & the American Revolution."** The presentation addressed the country's founding and New Jersey's contributions to the American Revolution, and it honored America's 250th birthday.

On **June 30**, the library offered **Dinosaur Painting** for children and adults.

Great Monday Nights

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July marked the return of the library's **Great Monday Nights** programming series. The programs included:

- **July 6:** *Dinosaur Rock Fossil Adventure*
- **July 13:** *Anthony Salazar's One Man Illusion Show*
- **July 20:** *Sew It! Quilting Workshop*, during which participants created patriotic quilted potholders
- **July 27:** *Summer Nights*, featuring rock-wall climbing, children's bumper cars, and the *Toys in the Box 3D Printing Workshop*

All programs in the series reached full capacity.

August Programs

In August, the library held a **Backpack Giveaway**, providing personalized backpacks to the first 48 patrons who registered.

On **August 11**, the library hosted "Unearth a Storytime," which complemented this year's Summer Reading Program dinosaur theme. The program included a dinosaur-themed storytime and craft activity.

On **August 12**, the library offered **"Not a Box Storytime."** Following the story, children explored the many possibilities of what a simple box could become. Each child could color and decorate a box to take home.

In addition to these special events, the library continued its regular programs throughout the summer. The library also expanded its offerings by adding the **9/11 Memorial & Museum pass** and **Library Chef**, a new digital program available to patrons.

The library was closed from **August 26 through August 28** to conduct its annual inventory.

The summer season featured strong participation and a full programming schedule. As the library transitions into the fall, staff are planning additional programs and events to continue serving the community's interests and needs. We look forward to another productive and successful season at the Belleville Public Library.

OLD BUSINESS:

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The Director's Office conversion has begun. The office will be divided into two sections: one will serve as a quiet study room for patrons, and the other will be used as a meeting room. Both rooms will be available by reservation only.

NEW BUSINESS:

Due to limited funding, the Library has canceled the Citizenship classes for the remainder of 2026. The Library hopes that funding will be restored so that the classes can resume in January 2027.

RESOLUTIONS:

a) 09-0001: Authorization to pay July, August, and September 2026 bills. Ralph Tunis approved the motion, Nelson Barrera seconded it, and the Board passed it unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Takeo Sugihara, Teen Librarian, thanked the board for their support of the library

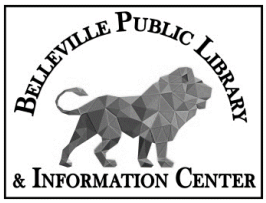
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ADJOURNMENT:

Raph 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



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