

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 26, 2024
Recorded meeting

President Nick Ciampa called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Nick stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the **Open Public Meetings Act**.

Roll Call:

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|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Kevin McNeil | <i>excused</i> | Nicholas Ciampa | <i>present</i> | Nabil Choueiri (NBC) | <i>present</i> |
| Iris Kislin | <i>excused</i> | Mayor Kramer | <i>present</i> | Amy Arsiwala | <i>present</i> |
| Tianna Gresham | <i>present</i> | Agnes Kulu-Banya | <i>present</i> | | |
| January Adams | <i>present</i> | | | | |

Nick opened the meeting to public comments I.

There being no comments, the meeting was closed to public comments.

NBC motioned to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2024 meeting. Tianna seconded. Agnes abstained, but all others were in favor.

President's Report:

Nick read a resignation letter from board member Iris Kislin, who is resigning due to her inability to fulfill her position. Members were sad to hear this news and recommended that Iris receive a plaque commemorating her many years of service to the board. Amy will send information to January regarding this plan.

Director's Report:

January presented the financial reports of the **Director's report** for the month of April. The financial reports were filed for audit.

January highlighted various aspects of the narrative section of her monthly report. She noted that:

- The new ILS has been in service for over one month. Patrons and staff are adjusting relatively well.
- The Gallery roof project is now in phase II. Problems with incorrectly placed tarps have continued, resulting in rainwater, (sometimes of a significant amount), leaking into the Gallery. All Action has been repeatedly admonished for its failure to secure the work area properly.
- The Adult Services Department held 37 adult programs that 367 people attended.
- The Youth Services Department held 27 programs that 597 people attended.
- All three Summer Reading programs started on June 24 and will end on August 18.
- Thirteen school classes visited the Franklin Park branch from May 13 to June 13.
- The Young Adult Librarian and the Franklin Park branch manager created and launched a teen sewing class during this period.

Correspondence and communications:

- “The Taylor Swift Factor,” by Shannon Maughan, *Publishers Weekly*, p. 16, May 13, 2024.
- “Advocacy Impacts Louisiana Legislation,” by April Witteveen, *Library Journal*, p.16, June 2024.
- “The Case against Book Bans,” by Andrew Albanese, *Publishers Weekly*, p. 8, May 13, 2024.

Old Business:

Mayor Kramer stated that he wanted the board to move forward on installing one EV charging station at the Franklin Park branch. Nick will gather information on the necessary actions.

New Business:

Nick stated that he was in favor of updating the library’s staff vacation benefit to 26 days after 20 or more years of service. He added that Franklin Township and the Somerset County Library System offer more days than FTPL’s current vacation maximum benefit of 22 days after 7 years. Specifically, SCLS offers 26 vacation days at the start of employment. The township’s maximum is 25 days after 20 years of employment.

Agnes motioned to table this proposal until the next meeting. Tianna seconded and all were in favor. Nick will gather more information for the August meeting.

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the open Public Meetings Act, (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b) (1-9), Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the Public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin Township Public Library Board of Trustees is of the opinion that such circumstances do exist,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Franklin Township Public Library Board of Trustees in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matters:
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - a) Personnel
 - b) Litigation
3. The Franklin Township Public Library Board of Trustees may take official action on those items discussed in Executive Session upon completion of the Executive Session.
4. The minutes of the discussions shall be made available to the public as soon as the matters under discussion are no longer of a confidential or sensitive nature.
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The aforesaid resolution was moved by NBC and seconded by Tianna. All were in favor and the board adjourned into Executive Session at 6:08 p.m.

The board returned from Executive Session at 6:21 p.m. at which time NBC motioned to increase the director’s salary to \$153,200 annually. Amy seconded

Roll Call Vote:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|----------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| Nicholas Ciampa | yes | Nabil Choueiri (NBC) | yes | Agnes Kulu-Banya | yes |
| Tianna | yes | Amy | yes | | |

January thanked the board for its support.

Nick opened the meeting for public comments II

There being no comments, the meeting was closed to public comments.

The next meeting will be August 28, 2024 via Zoom.

NBC motioned to adjourn, Agnes seconded, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:24...

January Adams
Director of Library Services