

MEETING OF TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HOBOKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, HELD IN THE LARGE PROGRAM ROOM OF THE HOBOKEN PUBLIC LIBRARY, 500 PARK AVENUE, IN HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 AT 6:30 PM.

-----Meeting Excerpt-----

1. Call to Order

Board President Abernathy called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm and certified that pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act, notice of the meeting had been given in the annual meeting notice, which was adopted at the July 25, 2023 meeting of the Library Board and such notice was provided in the Jersey Journal and the Star Ledger, was posted at the Library website and at the Hoboken City Hall, and filed with the Hoboken City Clerk. The meeting notice was amended at the outset of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency to provide the internet and telephone conference number and access code in advance of the scheduled meetings.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken:

Attendance	Present	Absent	Notes
Dr. Jerome Abernathy, President	X		
Ms. Susan Murcko, Secretary	X		
Mr. Kurt Thoens, Treasurer	X		
Ms. Amanda R. Blaney**	X		
Ms. Malani Cademartori, School Superintendent Designee *	X		
Mr. DeBenedetto	X		
Ms. Raakhee Mirchandani**	X		Left at 6:56 pm
Mr. Jack Silbert		X	Excused absence

**Ex officio* under NJ state law

**Present via remote connection

Also in attendance were: Library Director Jennie Pu, Library Attorney Douglas S. Zucker Esq., Recording Secretary Karla Aybar Reyes, and members of the library staff and public.

3. Acceptance of Minutes

—Dr. Abernathy: Asked if the trustees had any corrections or comments regarding the minutes of the board meeting of August 22, 2023. There being none, approval of the minutes was added to the consent agenda.

4. Public Comments

—Dr. Abernathy: Invited comments from the public. There were no comments.

5. Director's Report

—Ms. Pu: Ms. Pu highlighted items of note: Following the lead of the Library Board, the Hoboken City Council voted for Hoboken to become the first book sanctuary city in New Jersey. The library held a successful Staff Development Day on September 8. Long-time staff members were recognized for their commitment and contributions to the library. Ms. Pu was interviewed by Hoboken Girl. The article highlighted the work being done at the library. The library applied for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The library hosted a successful National Voter Registration Day drive which was covered in an article by TAPintoHoboken. The library has launched newly rebranded library cards. Ms. Pu attended an ALA meet and greet with ALA president Emily Drabinski. Ms. Pu and IT Manager Phil Mendez visited the New York Public Library to learn about their new Wireless from Home program. The Makerspace had its soft opening and will have its grand opening at the October 14 library festival. The Special Collections Department applied for a \$70,000 grant from the Library of Congress. The Collections Development Department has launched a webpage for highlighting and recommending new books. Assistant Director Andrew Luck is keeping library staff and the community updated regarding a possible library closure due to a water main replacement project on Park Avenue. The library is working to ensure that book locker stats are accurate. The Summer Lunches program has concluded; Assistant Director Andrew Luck will be in touch with the city about how to improve attendance. The library has an extensive lineup of Hispanic Heritage Month events and a 'zine planned for Italian Heritage Month. The Social Services team met with the city about developing a municipal ID program at the library. Collection Development Manager Nicole Marconi attended Book OPs, the central processing hub for Brooklyn Public Library and New York Public Library.

—Ms. Murcko: Asked for an update on the status of the library of things.

—Ms. Pu: Responded that the project is in development and that the library has an initial inventory of items.

—Mr. Thoens: Asked about the logistics of the Wireless from Home program.

—Mr. Mendez: Explained that the library would serve as a community hotspot.

—Ms. Murcko: Expressed that a program like this would be useful at the Hoboken Housing Authority.

—Mr. Mendez: Is looking into how to expand access points to common areas.

6. Committee Reports, Including Finance Committee and Payment of Bills

—Ms. Pu: Reported for the Buildings and Grounds Committee: Michael Chapka spoke to Clarke Caton Hintz (CCH) about the final closeout documents. The library is waiting on three documents to be completed, then they can submit for reimbursement from the Historic Trust.

—Mr. Thoens: Reported for the Finance Committee: Mr. Thoens described the financial matters before the board for approval: 1) to pay from the Capital Improvement Construction Account at Bayonne Community Bank (BCB) checks no. 431-433 totaling \$9,426.91; 2.) in Part A, to pay library operating expenses with checks no. 11141-11195 totaling \$554,856.08, and to pay via TD Bank \$610 to Amazon; and in Part B, to pay expenses for library materials with checks no. 11196-11199 totaling \$14,116.57. Also before the trustees is a resolution to void checks no. 10845, 10856, 10931, and 11111. He asked if there were any questions concerning the bills to be paid or the resolution. There being none, approval of the Part A and BCB bills and the resolution were added to the consent agenda.

—Dr. Abernathy: Moved the board to approve payment of the Part B bills for library materials.

—Mr. Freeman: Seconded.

—Adopted by roll call vote as follows: YEAS: 7 NAYS: 0 RECUSED: 1 ABSTAIN: 0

Trustee	Yes	No	Recused	Abstain
Ms. Blaney	X			
Ms. Cademartori	X			

Mr. DeBenedetto	X			
Mr. Freeman	X			
Ms. Mirchandani	X			
Ms. Murcko			X	
Mr. Thoens	X			
Dr. Abernathy	X			

—Ms. Murcko: Reported for the Personnel and Policy Committee: Before the board is a resolution adopting a filming and photography policy.

—Mr. Freeman: Asked whether this policy would be directed toward people wanting to use the space for commercial use.

—Ms. Pu: Stated that that would have to be determined by the board.

—Ms. Cademartori: Asked what the consequences would be for violating the policy.

—Mr. Zucker: Responded that this policy will be treated like any other policy. If someone is violating others' right to use the library, that's the basis on which it will be enforced.

—Mr. Abernathy: Asked if the board would want to modify the policy to allow for commercial photography, with the library's permission.

—Mr. Zucker: Asked if the library charges for room rentals.

—Ms. Pu: Explained that historically, the library has not charged for room rentals, as there was no space and it was under renovation.

—Mr. Zucker: Stated that the law regarding room rentals in libraries is unclear.

—Dr. Abernathy: The filming and photography policy was added to the consent agenda.

7. New Business

—Dr. Abernathy: Presented a resolution reappointing Douglas S. Zucker, Esq. as library counsel. He asked whether there were any comments. There being none, the resolution was added to the consent agenda.

8. Hoboken Public Library Friends & Foundation Report

—Ms. Blaney: The Friends & Foundation has been teaming up with the library at events. They will table with the library at the upcoming Arts and Music Festival.

9. President’s Report

—Dr. Abernathy: Reminded the board that the 3rd floor ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on October 14 at 11:00 am.

10. Old Business

—Dr. Abernathy: Called for any old business. There was none.

11. Consent Agenda

—Ms. Cademartori: Moved the board to approve the meeting consent agenda.

- a. Excuse the absence of Mr. Silbert.
- b. Accept the minutes of the August 22, 2023 meeting.
- c. Approve payment of Part A bills for library operations.
- d. Approve payment of BCB Capital Improvement bills.
- e. Approve resolution to void checks.
- f. Approve filming and photography policy.
- g. Approve resolution reappointing Douglas S. Zucker of Weiner Law Group as library counsel.

—Ms. Murcko: Seconded.

—Adopted by roll call vote as follows; YEAS: 6 NAYS: 0 RECUSED: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

Trustee	Yes	No	Recused	Abstain
Ms. Blaney	X			
Ms. Cademartori	X			
Mr. DeBenedetto	X			
Mr. Freeman	X			
Ms. Murcko	X			

Mr. Thoens	X			
Dr. Abernathy	X			

12. Trustee Comments

—Dr. Abernathy: Invited any comments by the trustees. There were none.

—Mr. Freeman: Moved to adjourn.

—Ms Murcko: Seconded.

—Adopted by voice vote as follows: YEAS:7 NAYS:0 RECUSED: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:09pm.