

**MEETING OF TUESDAY, May 28, 2024**

**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, May 28, 2024 AT 6:30 PM.**

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

**1. Call to Order**

Board President Abernathy called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Star Ledger, was posted to 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**

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. Damien DeBenedetto**	X		
Mr. Jason Freeman, Mayor's Designee*	X		
Ms. Raakhee Mirchandani**	X		
Mr. Jack Silbert	X		

\**Ex officio* under NJ state law

\*\*Present via remote connection

Also in attendance were: Library Director Jennie Pu, Library Attorney Douglas S. Zucker Esq., Assistant Library Director Andrew Luck, and Recording Secretary Karla Aybar Reyes.

### **3. Acceptance of Minutes**

—Dr. Abernathy: Asked if the Trustees had any corrections or comments regarding the minutes of the Board meeting of April 23, 2024. 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 none.

### **5. Director's Report**

—Ms. Pu: Highlighted items of note: Ms. Pu was named by *Library Journal* as a 2024 National Mover & Shaker, the only New Jerseyan named among a group of 50 leaders across the country. She attended the sold out Hoboken Public Education Fund Gala and the Freedom to Learn rally sponsored by the African American Policy Council. The new uptown locker was unveiled outside the Hoboken Historical Museum. In attendance at the ribbon cutting ceremony were Library Board of Trustees President Jerome Abernathy, Mayor Ravi Bhalla, Hoboken Historical Museum Director Bob Foster, Councilwoman Tiffanie Fisher, and BCCLS Executive Director Dave Hanson. Ms. Pu was invited to speak to the leadership team at Anne Arundel County Public Library. CEO Skip Auld took her on a tour of five of their libraries. She delivered a keynote address in conversation with the president of the Public Library Association, Sonia Alcántara-Antoine, CEO of Baltimore County Public Library. The library hosted the Hoboken Historic Preservation Commission's information presentation to homeowners on its third floor. The library was awarded two PR Xchange Awards from Core, a division of the American Library Association, in two categories. Members of the HPL staff will present the winning designs at the 2024 ALA Conference in San Diego next month. Demand is starting to pick up for the new uptown book locker at the Hoboken Historical Museum. The ShemarooMe Streaming Service has been added to the digital offerings portfolio. Patrons can watch Indian TV, movies, and music videos available in five Indian languages. The library hosted programs highlighting AAPI Month and Jewish American Heritage Month. As part of the CCDI grant, the library celebrated Puerto Rican Emancipation Day in partnership with the HHA. The new Tai Chi program at the Multiservice Center has been highly successful, with over 40 participants each week. Social Worker Emily Dalton and Community Engagement Manager Ally Blumenfeld tabled at the City of Hoboken's Job Fair at the Multiservice Center, interacting with almost 100 job seekers. The library has been called upon to provide resources and support for several libraries in NJ and across the country due to the visibility of its work. Programming Assistant Natalie Castillo graduated from Rutgers University with a Master of Information degree. Teen Advisory Board member Eva Gacek-Huang was the winner of the YA Library Card entry for HPL's Library Card design contest. In an ongoing effort of strengthening bonds and providing

services to the residents of Hoboken, high speed wireless internet has been installed in the Senior Recreation Hall at the Multi Service Center. Ms. Pu will present on book sanctuaries at the NJLA conference.

Ms. Murcko and Mr. Zucker: Pointed out discrepancies in the statistical report. Ms. Pu and Mr. Luck will look into those inaccuracies.

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

—Ms Pu: There are no Buildings and Grounds Committee updates this month.

—Dr. Abernathy: Reported for the Finance Committee: Dr. Abernathy described the financial matters before the Board for approval: 1) in Part A operating budget, to pay library operating expenses with checks no.11698-11775 totaling \$95,605.38; to pay via PayPal \$99.66 to Namecheap, Inc.; and in Part B, to pay expenses for library materials with checks no. 11776-11779 totaling \$16,525.69. Dr. Abernathy asked if there were any questions concerning the financial matters. There being none, payment of Part A bills was added to the consent agenda.

—Mr. Freeman: Moved the Board to approve payment of the Part B bills for library materials.

—Ms. Blaney: Seconded.

—Adopted by roll call vote as follow: 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. Silbert	X			
Dr. Abernathy	X			

—Ms. Murcko: Reported for the Personnel and Policy Committee: The CWA union is ready to start negotiations. They will let us know which two employees will attend to represent the union. The board reviewed the suspension policy, which will be put to a vote in June.

**7. President’s Report**

—Dr. Abernathy: Will be participating in a panel on sanctuary libraries at NJLA. He and Ms. Pu will conduct a training webinar on sanctuary libraries. In the fall, we will start planning activities for a future referendum.

**8. Friends & Foundation**

—Ms. Blaney: Thanked everyone for their support of the Hudson Gives campaign. The Friends & Foundation tabled with the library at the Arts & Music Festival. Ms. Pu met with the Friends & Foundation co-presidents to discuss financial matters. Kurt Hadelor, Maway Public Library director, will present to the Friends & Foundation board on the referendum process.

**9. Old Business**

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

**10. New Business**

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

**11. Consent Agenda**

- a. Accept the minutes of the April 23, 2024 board meeting
- b. Excuse the absence of Mr. Thoens
- c. Approve payment of Part A bills

—Dr. Abernathy: Moved the Board to approve the meeting consent agenda.

—Ms. Murcko: Seconded.

—Adopted by roll call vote as follows: YEAS: 8 NAYS: 0 RECUSED: 0 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. Silbert	X			
Dr. Abernathy	X			

**12. Trustee Comments**

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

—Mr. Freeman: Moved to adjourn.

—All: Seconded.

—Adopted by voice vote as follows: YEAS:8 NAYS:0 RECUSED: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.