

MEETING OF TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 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, AUGUST 27, 2024 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 23, 2024 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ms. Susan Murcko, Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mr. Kurt Thoens, Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ms. Amanda R. Blaney**	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ms. Malani Cademartori, School Superintendent Designee *	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Mr. Damien DeBenedetto	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mr. Jason Freeman, Mayor's Designee*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ms. Raakhee Mirchandani**	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mr. Jack Silbert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**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 July 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: As a board member for the Urban Libraries Council, Ms. Pu attended the ULC quarterly board meeting that was held at Edmonton Public Library in Alberta, Canada. A year ago, Hoboken Public Library became the first book sanctuary in New Jersey. One year later, there are 33 library systems in New Jersey and 4 municipalities that are book sanctuaries. Ms. Pu was invited to join EBSCO's National Public Library Leadership Advisory Board. The board convenes thought leaders with the goal of improving and advising public libraries in current and future endeavors. The NJLA public policy committee has narrowed their legislative priorities for the coming year, which will focus on passing the Freedom to Read bill and planning for permanent library infrastructure funding. On August 5, a reporter from NJ Spotlight News visited the library and shadowed Library Social Worker Emily Dalton as she showcased and discussed the social work services provided by the Library. Ms. Dalton and Ms. Pu were interviewed, and this article was published and promoted on social media on August 9. On Friday, September 6th, the library will be closed to the public for Staff Development Day. The library hosted 118 attendees for Olympic Watch Parties across a 2 week period. Community Engagement Manager Ally Blumenfeld has been working to populate the Communico calendar with upcoming programs in preparation for the transition from LibCal. Supplemental staff training for the Attend and Reserve Modules provided by Communico continues this month. The app is on track to go live early next month. Library Festival preparations are being finalized and banners advertising the festival have been installed on Washington Street. A local Girl Scout troop leader has written the library into a grant to support a plant propagation station project. This grant project will be incorporated into the library's planned Seed Library. This month, the library worked to strengthen and diversify its relationship with Stevens Institute, including working with Humanities Department to host a Book Talk at HPL in October, working with the library to table at their Library Open House in September, and working with multiple student organizations to provide opportunities for volunteering at the library in August and September. The Youth Services team organized a scavenger hunt around the city as an exciting and interactive way to end the Summer Reading Program. Youth Services

Manager Vanessa Soto and Senior Librarian Assistant Brenda Ramos, with the help of Library Assistant Mads Sanden and Sacha Chavez, hosted a Teen Advisory Board takeover of the MakerSpace.

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

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

—Mr. Thoens: Reported for the Finance Committee: Mr. Thoens described the financial matters before the Board for approval: 1) in Part A operating budget, to pay library operating expenses with checks no. 11914-11994 totaling \$101,282,44; to pay via PayPal \$1,195 to 501 Videos LLC, \$317.03 to Digi-Key Corporation, \$122.62 to PB Teen, and \$111.00 to Canva; and in Part B, to pay expenses for library materials with checks no.11995-11998 totaling \$21,117.95. Also before the Board is a resolution to void check #11698 and a resolution Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for Branding Design Services. Mr. Thoens asked if there were any questions concerning financial matters. There being none, payment of Part A bills and the resolution to void checks was added to the consent agenda.

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

—Dr. Abernathy: Seconded.

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

Attendance	Yes	No	Recused	Abstain
Ms. Blaney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. DeBenedetto	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Freeman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Thoens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Mirchandani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Murcko	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Silbert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Abernathy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

—Ms. Murcko: Reported for the Personnel and Policy Committee: The most recent scheduled bargaining session was canceled, as CWA did not have the full counter-proposal prepared. They should have the counter-proposal prepared by the September meeting.

1. President’s Report

—Dr. Abernathy: Assemblyman John Allen visited the library to create a video of all the facilities for which he secured state funding.

2. Friends & Foundation

—Ms. Blaney: The Friends & Foundation did not meet in August. Their new book club is scheduled to start on September 18.

3. Old Business

—Dr. Abernathy called for any old business. There was none.

4. New Business

—Dr. Abernathy called for any new business. There was none.

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Accept the minutes of the July 23, 2024 Board meeting
- b. Approve the payment of Part A bills
- c. Approve the resolution to void checks
- d. Approve the resolution Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract for Branding Design Services.

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

—Mr. Freeman: Seconded.

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

Attendance	Yes	No	Recused	Abstain
Ms. Blaney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. DeBenedetto	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Freeman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Thoens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ms. Mirchandani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ms. Murcko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Silbert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Abernathy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. Trustee Comments

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

—Mr. Freeman: Moved to adjourn.

—Dr. Abernathy: Seconded.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:53pm.