

MEETING OF TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 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, NOVEMBER 26, 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 Assistant Director Andrew Luck, Library Attorney Douglas S. Zucker Esq., Recording Secretary Karla Aybar Reyes, and members of the public.

3. Acceptance of Minutes

—Dr. Abernathy: Asked if the Trustees had any corrections or comments regarding the minutes of the Board meeting of October 22, 2024. There being none, the minutes were 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: The Freedom to Read Bill was voted out of the full senate and has been sent to Governor Murphy's desk awaiting his signature. Ms. Pu attended the senate hearing and vote in Trenton, NJ on October 28. In her capacity as a ULC Board of Director, Ms. Pu attended the ULC annual Forum, where she moderated a panel which broke attendance records. Hoboken Public Library received a Preservation New Jersey award for restoration of the third floor in a ceremony held at Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson on November 21, 2024. Special Collections Manager, James Cox and Business Manager, Carolyn Hartwick attended the ceremony. Chief of Staff, Karla Aybar Reyes attended the annual BCCLS Friends Scholarship Brunch on October 22. The library hosted Library Board of Trustee Raakhee Mirchandi's book launch for *Mama's Roti* and *Kamala Raised Her Hand*. Ms. Pu attended St. Mary's Advocates fundraiser, Social Fabric: A Thrifted Fashion Show on November 7. Ms. Pu and Mr. Cox attended Connect the Waterfront, Fund for a Better Waterfront's annual fundraiser on November 14. Ms. Aybar Reyes and Ms. Hartwick attended as volunteers. Ms. Aybar Reyes and Mr. Cox attended the Hoboken Historical Museum Gala on November 16. In her capacity as co-chair of New Jersey Library Association's Public Policy Committee, Ms. Pu attended the annual League of Municipalities Conference. She met with vendors, legislatures, policymakers, and lobbyists to discuss library-related issues. On November 14, 31 BCCLS Directors attended a panel on Human Resources for Public Libraries, led by Library HR Manager, Faith Fitzsimmons and moderated by Ms. Pu. Hoboken Library Staff held a staff outing at Play! Hoboken. On November 12, Ms. Pu was a panelist for PLA's Hot Takes Webinar on safety and security in libraries, along with San Jose Public Library and Scenic Regional Library (Missouri). Ms. Pu was invited as guest speaker for the NJ Library Trustee Institute, sponsored by the NJ State Library, to talk about shared services between libraries and municipalities. The Library opened an online merch store selling limited edition, branded totes, hats, and hoodies. Four mystery authors from the Mystery Writers of America New York Chapter held a panel at the Library about how to start writing a series and keep it going. In advance of the election, the Library

organized a series of tabling events outside the Main Library and at the Midtown Farmers Market, with the goal of increasing civic engagement as well as library visibility. Community Engagement Manager Ally Blumenfeld worked with Leah Mulartrick of the Hoboken Business Alliance to host a series of art workshops at the Library in celebration of Public Art Month. The Library's senior programs- Chair Yoga, Mahjongg Club, and Tai Chi, have been receiving positive feedback. Ms. Blumenfeld and School Outreach Librarian Valerie Coughlin tabled at the City of Hoboken's second Job Fair. Youth Services has partnered with organization Project Coin, a teen-led initiative that centers around providing students with engaging resources to learn more about business, personal finance, and civic engagement. Work on the Communico app continues. In response to recent challenges to many public government and library websites, the Library has added the Userway Accessibility Website Widget to our website to achieve handicap compliance status. Mr. Cox presented his research for the Connecting Communities Digital Initiative grant to the Library of Congress on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

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

—Ms Pu: Reported for the Buildings and Grounds Committee: The ZH1 Restoration repair work has been completed. They patched and repaired the roof of all visible cracks and damages, the towers were repointed to seal joints, ivy was removed from the Annex 1 backyard, the windows were recaulked, and the brick mortar joints were assessed for leaks. The water intrusion issues and the bubbling of the interior walls will be addressed. The Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting will be rescheduled and first floor renovation planning will resume.

—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.12138-12208 totaling \$107,340.66; to pay via PayPal \$83.40 to Doodle AG, \$220.00 for Fund for a Better Waterfront, \$441.00 for Userway Inc., \$2,808.29 to Vistaprint, and \$22.00 to Wordpress; in Part B, to pay expenses for library materials with checks no.12209-12212 totaling \$15,931.37. Also before the Board is a resolution to reserve funds for capital improvements and a resolution to void check #11924. Mr. Thoens asked if there were any questions concerning financial matters. There being none, payment of Part A bills and the resolutions were added to the consent agenda.

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

—Dr. Abernathy: Seconded.

—Adopted by roll call vote as follows: YEAS: 8 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"/>
Ms. Cademartori	<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"/>
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"/>
Mr. Thoens	<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. Pu: Noted that a draft of the full audit is included in the board packet for the Board to review.

—Ms. Murcko: Reported for the Personnel and Policy Committee: Ms. Pu received the full economic proposal from the union and met today with Library Counsel Douglass S. Zucker, Board of Trustees president Jerome Abernathy, and HR Manager Faith Fitzsimmons to discuss the proposal. The Committee was briefed on staff departures and promotions. They also reviewed the privacy policy and made no significant changes. The final policy is included in this month's board packet.

7. President's Report

—Dr. Abernathy: There was no president's report.

8. Friends & Foundation

—Ms. Blaney: The Friends & Foundation postponed their November 15 fundraiser. They will launch their annual appeal on Giving Tuesday.

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 amended minutes of the October 22, 2024 Board meeting
- b. Approve payment of Part A bills
- c. Approve the Resolution to Void Checks
- d. Approve the Resolution to Reserve Funds
- e. Approve the Privacy Policy

—Ms. Murcko: Moved the Board to approve the meeting consent agenda.

—Mr. Silbert: Seconded.

—Adopted by roll call vote as follows: YEAS: 9 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"/>
Ms. Cademartori	<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"/>
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"/>
Mr. Thoens	<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"/>

12. Trustee Comments

—Dr. Abernathy: Invited any comments by the Trustees.

—Mr. Zucker: Thanked the Library and Board for their support after the passing of his mother.

—Dr. Abernathy: Expressed his condolences for the loss of Mr. DeBenedetto’s father.

—Ms. Mirchandani: Thanked the Library for hosting her book launch.

—Ms. Mirchandani: Moved to adjourn.

—Dr. Abernathy: Seconded.

—Adopted by voice vote as follows: YEAS: 9 NAYS: 0 RECUSED: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

The meeting adjourned at 7:11pm.