HOBOKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HOBOKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, HELD VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 AT 6:30 PM.

—----------Meeting Excerpt—----------

1. **Call to Order**

Board President Jason Freeman 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 28, 2026 meeting of the Library Board and such notice was provided in the Star Ledger and Bergen Record, was posted to the Library website, and filed with the Hoboken City Clerk.

2. **Roll Call**

Attendance	Present	Absent	Notes
Mr. Jason Freeman, President	☑	☐	
Ms. Susan Murcko, Secretary	☐	☑	Excused
Mr. Kurt Thoens, Treasurer	☑	☐	
Mr. Damian De Benedetto	☐	☑	Excused
Ms. Amanda R. Blaney	☑	☐	
Ms. Kathleen Heaney, Mayor's Representative	☑	☐	
Ms. Jordan Hernandez	☑	☐	
Ms. Raakhee Mirchandani	☑	☐	
Ms. Leslie Norwood, School Superintendent Designee	☑	☐	

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

3. **Acceptance of Minutes**

—Mr. Freeman: Asked if the Trustees had any corrections or comments regarding the minutes of the Board meeting of August 25, 2026. There being none, the minutes were added to the consent agenda.

4. **Public Comments**

—Mr. Freeman: Invited comments from the public. There were none.

5. **Director's Report**

—Ms. Pu: Highlighted items of note: Ms. Pu thanked Mr. Cox and library leadership and staff for their efforts in moving the collection and continuing to provide service during the temporary closure of the Main Library. She reported that we are on schedule with the renovation. The collection has been temporarily relocated and some of the collection is offsite in storage. The necessary permits have been obtained and the Library is checking in with the contractors daily. Demolition is nearly complete and abatement just wrapped and went smoothly. We do not anticipate a change to the October 5 reopening date. Operations have been moved to offsite locations to accommodate the closure of the Main Library. The Learning Center is operating as a computer lab Monday through Saturday, 10AM-5PM. The Grand Street Branch hours have expanded to 6PM Monday through Thursday. Youth Services are hosting events throughout the city. Access Services is filling the lockers at the Main Library and Hoboken Historical Museum and working with customers to get their materials as quickly as possible, sometimes through curbside pickup. Mr. Riley and Ms. Aybar Reyes tabled at Stevens University's open house, where they signed students up for library cards. Overdrive will soon require the use of a pin for Libby access for both eLibraryNJ and eBCCLS. Customers who have forgotten their pin can update it via the BCCLS website or at the Library. Mr. Mendez is providing operational guidance to the Manager of Computer Services at Louisville Free Public Library regarding battery kiosk management, device cable strategies, public charging stations, and lifecycle replacement data. The Social Work department received funding from the Hoboken Library Friends and Foundation for a pilot transit initiative. NJ Transit Bus and Lightrail tickets will be provided at no cost to Hoboken Public Library customers for trips to the Social Service office, DMV or Career Center in Jersey City. Transit tickets can also be used for medical appointments and other important transit needs.

—Mr. Freeman: Thanked Library staff for their hard work preparing for the closure and making sure that Library services continue to run smoothly during this time.

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

—There was no Buildings and Grounds Committee report.

—Mr. Thoens: Reported for the Finance Committee: Mr. Thoens described the financial matters before the Board for approval: 1) in Part A, to pay 2026 library operating expenses with checks no.13701-13760 totaling $95,554.51; 2) in Part B, to pay 2026 library operating expenses with checks no.13761-13766 totaling $25,512.54; 3) and to pay $208,149.04 from the Capital Reserve Budget. There is also a resolution to void check no. 13473 for $750.00. Mr. Thoens asked if there were any questions concerning the bills to be paid or the resolution. There being none, approval of Part A bills, Part B bills, BCB bills, and the resolution to void checks was added to the consent agenda.

7. Personnel and Policy Committee

—There was no Personnel and Policy Committee report.

8. President's Report

—Mr. Freeman: Reported that an email will be sent to Board members regarding committee assignments. A new ad hoc Marketing and Branding Committee has been formed. Its members include committee chair Ms. Hernandez and committee members Ms. Heaney and Ms. Mirchandani.

9. Friends & Foundation

—Mr. Freeman: Reported that he, Ms. Pu, and Ms. Blaney will be meeting with the Friends & Foundation leadership on October 9 to discuss budget requests.

—Ms. Mirchandani: Thanked Ms. Blaney and the rest of the Friends & Foundation for working with her to host a story time at the River City Fair.

10. Old Business

—Called for any old business. There was none.

11. New Business

—Called for any new business. There was none.

12. Consent Agenda

a. Excuse the absence of Mr. DeBenedetto and Ms. Murcko.
b. Approve the minutes of the August 25, 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting
c. Approve payment of Part A bills
d. Approve payment of Part B bills
e. Approve payment of BCB bills
f. Approve the resolution to void checks

—Ms. Norwood: Moved the Board to approve the consent agenda.

—Ms. Blaney: Seconded.

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

Trustee	Yes	No	Recused	Abstain
Ms. Blaney	☑	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Freeman	☑	☐	☐	☐
Ms. Hernandez	☑	☐	☐	☐
Ms. Heaney	☑	☐	☐	☐
Ms. Mirchandani	☑	☐	☐	☐
Ms. Norwood	☑	☐	☐	☐
Mr. Thoens	☑	☐	☐	☐

13. Trustee Comments

—Mr. Freeman: Invited any comments by the Trustees. There were none.

—Ms. Norwood: Moved to adjourn.

—Ms. Blaney: Seconded.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.