

January 6, 2026 Bayonne Library Board of Trustees Minutes.

7:04 pm: Vice President Pelote called the meeting to order and read the “Open Public Meetings Act” announcement once a quorum of Trustees was present.

Attendance:

Present: Vincent Pelote, Donna Russo, Anthony Kuffa, Ryan Blake, and Caroline Ulivella.

Absent: Maribeth Doria (excused) and Jennifer Vecchiarelli (excused).

Also Present: Melody Scagnelli-Townley, Library Director, Douglas S. Zucker, Esq., Board Attorney, Dave Hanson, BCCLS Executive Director, Mimi Hui, BCCLS Executive Board President, and Adele Puccio, BCCLS Executive Board Past President.

Agenda item: Special Discussion: Bergen County Cooperative Library System (BCCLS) Consortium 2027 Membership discussion. Dave Hanson, the BCCLS Executive Director, and Mimi Hui, the BCCLS Executive Board President, gave a lengthy presentation about the BCCLS consortium, the benefits of membership, and some pricing figures specific to Bayonne’s potential membership. They also answered questions from the Trustees. Adele Puccio, the immediate Past President for the BCCLS’ Executive Board, is also a Bayonne resident and was employed at the Bayonne Public Library during the time that Bayonne was originally part of BCCLS. She was able to provide additional context to the Trustees about the situation surrounding the Bayonne Public Library’s original membership and exit from the organization. The Trustees agreed to discuss membership in more detail at the February 2026 Trustees meeting. Treasurer Blake requested a breakdown of expenses that could be saved by joining BCCLS to assist with making a decision at the February 2026 Trustees meeting.

Agenda item: December 2025 minutes. Approval of minutes moved by Vice President Pelote, seconded by Trustee Kuffa, passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Agenda item: Consideration of December Claims List. Approval of the Claims List was moved by Treasurer Blake, seconded by Trustee Ulivella, passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Agenda item: Director’s Report.

Director Scagnelli-Townley provided 2025 statistics for events & programming, library cards, circulation, and hoopla (eContent) use. All statistics show an incredibly enthusiastic uptake by the community of new programming and resources.

She gave details about the upcoming plans with hiring a new Night Maintenance / Boiler Operator. She reminded everyone of the Library’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day closure and gave updates about the month’s class visit schedule.

The Director provided updates about the past month's programs. She also provided information about upcoming programming including a new "semester" of ESL classes, a bimonthly yoga classes for tweens and older, new anime nights for tweens and teens, a bimonthly new parent support group, a create-your-own vision board program for tweens and teens, a book binding program, a new monthly lunch-and-learn meeting for homeschooling families, and a new "exploration station" hands-on messy play program for ages 0-5.

She provided some professional development updates including her attendance at New Jersey Library Association's monthly Public Policy Committee meeting.

A copy of the Director's Report for January 2026 will be maintained on file with these minutes.

Agenda item: Community Center Digital Connection Grant Update. Director Scagnelli-Townley summarized the progress thus far on the CCDC grant. She discussed the disconnection and removal of the solar panels and the removal of the roof gravel. She discussed her submission of a monthly expenditure report for November 2025.

Agenda item: Consideration of Resolution 2026-01 "RESOLUTION TO RESERVE FUNDS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS". After Director Scagnelli-Townley read the resolution text aloud, resolution approval was moved by Treasurer Blake, seconded by Vice President Pelote, passed by unanimous roll call vote without any discussion.

Agenda item: Consideration of Resolution 2026-02 "RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INVENTORY POLICY". After Director Scagnelli-Townley read the resolution text aloud, resolution approval was moved by Trustee Ulivella, seconded by Vice President Pelote, passed by unanimous roll call vote without any discussion.

Agenda item: Consideration of Resolution 2026-03 "RESOLUTION APPROVING RETROACTIVE SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR SIMON TAYLOR". After Director Scagnelli-Townley read the resolution text aloud, resolution approval was moved by Vice President Pelote, seconded by Treasurer Blake, passed by unanimous roll call vote without any discussion.

Agenda item: Consideration of Resolution 2025-04 "RESOLUTION APPOINTING ATTORNEY AS COUNSEL TO THE BAYONNE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES". After Director Scagnelli-Townley read the resolution text aloud, a concern was raised by Trustee Russo that the language of the proposed resolution was potentially problematic since Attorney Zucker's former law firm was mentioned in the original appointment resolution and if there was an accompanying contract, that contract would need to be examined and modified or otherwise addressed as well. Trustee Russo requested that Director Scagnelli-Townley and Attorney Zucker check records to confirm whether a contract exists and what it provides, which might impact the Board's approach to this resolution. She also requested that this resolution be tabled pending the resolution of these questions. The Trustees agreed to wait until it could be

determined whether a contract exists and the issues resolved and, if reasonable, that a special meeting be called for the following week where a new resolution with updated wording could be presented.

Agenda item: Public Comments. Bayonne resident Donna Holovach said that she was very interested in Bayonne joining BCCLS and believed it would be beneficial. She also said the programs in December 2025 had been very good and looked forward to attending this month's book binding workshop.

Meeting adjournment was moved by Vice President Pelote, seconded by Treasurer Blake, passed by unanimous voice vote at 8:56 pm.