

## **March 3, 2026 Bayonne Library Board of Trustees Minutes.**

**7:01 pm:** President Doria called the meeting to order and read the “Open Public Meetings Act” announcement once a quorum of Trustees was present.

**Agenda item: Swearing in of a new Board member.** Attorney Zucker administered the oath for newly appointed Library Board member, Kerry Weinstein.

### **Attendance:**

**Present:** Maribeth Doria, Vincent Pelote, Donna Russo, Anthony Kufita, Caroline Ulivella, Ryan Blake, and Kerry Weinstein.

**Absent:** None.

**Also Present:** Melody Scagnelli-Townley, Library Director and Douglas S. Zucker, Esq., Board Attorney.

**Agenda item: February 2026 minutes.** Approval of minutes moved by Vice President Pelote, seconded by President Doria, passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**Agenda item: Consideration of March 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 highlights from the past month’s programs. She also provided information about upcoming programming including the Women’s History Month Self Care Soiree, a new grant partnership with the Bayonne Board of Education where attendees receive free books to help build their home libraries, a Bayonne Historical Society talk by Bayonnite and watercolor artist Patty Spuma, Wellness Van screenings as part of a new partnership with Hackensack Meridian Health, a “Tiny Treasures” art workshop with Magical Monkey Makery, and a SNAP Enrollment meeting sponsored by the Hudson County Department of Health and Human Services.

She provided some professional development updates including her participation in the American Library Association virtual winter conference, attendance at the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) Annual conference, and an NJLA Construction Working group meeting.

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

**Agenda item: Consideration of Resolution 2026-07 “RESOLUTION APPROVING ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR LIBRARY SERVICES WITH TIME CLOCK PLUS”.** After Director Scagnelli-Townley read the resolution text aloud, Trustee Russo indicated concerns about the cost of the contract and asked some clarifying questions about the product. Resolution approval was moved by Vice President Pelote and seconded by Trustee Ulivella. The resolution did not pass because the roll call vote resulted in four “no” votes (Maribeth, Donna, Kerry, and Ryan) and three “yes” votes (Vincent, Caroline, and Anthony).

**Agenda item: Community Center Digital Connection Grant Update.** Director Scagnelli-Townley summarized the progress thus far on the CCDC grant. She discussed the beginnings of interior work, including removal of some first floor ceiling areas in order to run piping for the new bathroom and a structural engineering probe to determine the source of a crack in the back corner of the building. She discussed her submission of a monthly expenditure report for January 2026 and the success of a recent in-person grant compliance audit meeting with a third party auditor and the NJ State Library.

**Agenda item: Consideration of Resolution 2026-10 “RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF CERTAIN INVOICES TO SETTEMBRINO ARCHITECTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES”.** 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 2026-11 “RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH PRAVCO INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES”.** After Director Scagnelli-Townley read the resolution text aloud, resolution approval was moved by Trustee Kuffa, seconded by President Doria, passed by unanimous roll call vote without any discussion.

**Agenda item: Consideration of Resolution 2026-12 “RESOLUTION APPROVING NJLA CONFERENCE REIMBURSEMENT”.** After Director Scagnelli-Townley read the resolution text aloud, resolution approval was moved by President Doria, seconded by Vice President Pelote, passed by unanimous roll call vote without any discussion.

**Agenda item: Consideration of Resolution 2026-13 “RESOLUTION APPROVING REVISED COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE POLICY”.** After Director Scagnelli-Townley read the resolution text aloud, resolution approval was moved by Treasurer Blake, seconded by Trustee Russo, passed by unanimous roll call vote without any discussion.

**Agenda item: Public Comments.** There were no public comments.

**Agenda item: Executive Session to discuss matters related to contract negotiations.** The Board moved to executive session at 7:47 pm, moved by Trustee Russo, seconded by President Doria.

Board moved out of executive session at 8:19 pm moved by Treasurer Blake, seconded by Vice President Pelote.

**Agenda item: Consideration of Resolution 2025-09 “RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE NEGOTIATION OF A CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BERGEN COUNTY COOPERATIVE LIBRARY SYSTEM”.** Following discussion of this issue in executive session, Director Scagnelli-Townley read the resolution text aloud, and resolution approval was moved by Trustee Ulivella seconded by

Treasurer Blake. The resolution passed with four “yes” votes (Vincent, Caroline, Ryan, and Kerry), two “no” votes (Donna and Anthony), and one abstention (Maribeth).

**Meeting adjournment was moved by Treasurer Blake, seconded by Trustee Kufta, passed by unanimous voice vote at 8:22 pm.**