



## **Free Library of Northampton Township**

### **Library Board Meeting**

**February 12, 2026**

**Board Members Present:** Larry Blumenthal (President), Eleanora Rosso (Vice President), Jessica Freundel (Treasurer), Janet Braker (Secretary), Charles Beem, Spyros Stavrakas

**Staff Present:** Wayne Lahr (Library Director)

**Citizens Present:** Paula Gasper (Supervisor Liaison)

#### **Call to Order**

President called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

#### **Reading of Library Mission and Vision Statement**

Charles Beem read the Mission and Vision Statements.

#### **Approval of January Minutes**

The Board approved the January 2026 Minutes unanimously.

#### **Library Director Report**

The Director distributed his monthly report in advance of the meeting. Discussion items:

- There was a large reduction in the number of library card holders from last year and Wayne will seek to understand if there is any difference in how this was calculated last year and in addition to non-renewals what other factors may be included.
- Re: book purchasing bids from vendors. There has been progress in getting a new book vendor and approval for their submitted bid from the Bucks County Free Library board is expected. A contract will be negotiated and shared with District libraries. This will entail training for staff and possible changes from current processes may be involved. Details will be more available as a contract is finalized.
- The Director hosted the February Northampton Township Business & Professional Association networking breakfast at our library with 35 members of this group in attendance. This an increase in attendance over our first year as host in 2025.
- The initial run through the 2025 PA Annual [Library] Report is complete. The Director will use a formal checklist to ensure all the sections have been completed properly before submitting it to the District Consultant for review.
- 6 of our 7 board members attended a recent Board Orientation meeting, provided virtually by our District Consultant, Adam Gilbert-Cole, on the various layers of the library system in Bucks

County and Pennsylvania. Brief discussion ensued on the role (or not) of Advisory boards regarding fundraising. More information will be forthcoming as the Director seeks answers to our questions that were raised about our fundraising options as Advisory Board members.

- Painting of the children's section and other locations in the library is being discussed by the Director and Public Services in order to help to make the branding more visual to library users.
- Additional changes for the children's area are also being discussed with the Youth Services Librarian.
- New Board member, Spyros Stavrakas, has agreed to represent the Library Board on the 2026 District Advisory Council. DAC representatives attend 3 Bucks County Library District meetings throughout the year, either virtually or in person.
- The Director reviewed the library's year end P&L statement with the Board prior to its submission with the Annual Report.
- The Director shared the final piece of public-facing library collateral to be recreated with the new branding guidelines, the tri-fold brochure distributed to all new library card holders.

### **Discussion - 2026 Library Goals & A Plan for the Strategic Plan update**

- Building Renovation: There are no updates on these plans. Next steps will entail presenting OPN's final report to the Supervisors after the Director speaks with the Township Managers on how to proceed.
- Library Board By-Law review: We expect modifications will be minor but language may need to be updated to reflect current titles and a review of standing committees since none currently exist. We also hope to consider ideas from the professional development presentations our board members have recently attended to conform to best practices. The Director will re-distribute the current By-Laws so we are all looking at the same document. Everyone is encouraged to submit possible updates to Beem and the Director no later than March 24 for inclusion at the April Board meeting.
- Strategic Plan review: We discussed how to proceed with a review of each of the four SP Priorities at successive meetings. We decided to review each priority individually and invite any staff members that were involved in those specific committee work/meetings. The plan for the next few months is as follows:

#### **Thursday, March 12**

Priority 1: Build a Culture of Learning

Chair: Charles Beem

Staff: Wayne, Amy, Michelle, Susan, Kristi, Denise B., Megan, Jean

#### **Thursday, April 16**

Priority 2: Community Partnerships

No committee meetings held – discussion and ideas on how to best move forward here  
*(also reviewing updates for By-Laws in this meeting)*

#### **Thursday, May 14**

Priority 3: Effective Communications

Chair: Jessica Freundel

Board: Larry; Staff: Wayne, Jean, Michelle, Amy, Kathleen

**Thursday, June 11**

Priority 4: Contemporary Facilities

Chair: Eleanora Rosso

Board: Janet, Chip; Staff: Wayne, Amy, Denise B, Megan, Jean, Susan

**Public Comment**

None

**For the Good of the Order / Miscellaneous**

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet L. Braker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Janet Braker (Secretary)

Date: 2/12/2026