



## Free Library of Northampton Township

### Library Board Meeting

March 12, 2026

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

**Staff Present:** Wayne Lahr (Library Director), Amy Wardle (Asst. Director), Kristi Chase (Archivist/Ref Librarian)

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

#### Call to Order

President called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

#### Reading of Library Mission and Vision Statement

Jessica Freundel read the Mission and Vision Statements.

#### Approval of January Minutes

The Board approved the February 2026 Minutes unanimously.

#### Library Director Report

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

- Larry, Charles, and Spyros attended the annual PaLA-sponsored Friends and Trustees Institute at the Doylestown District Center library on March 7. A report by each is summarized as follows:
  - One of the sessions addressed the need for having a succession plan for future board members and defining our roles for each officer position. Board discussion confirmed if there were characteristics we desired in a future trustee position we should convey it to the library director and our Supervisor Liaison as we do not directly determine trustees. It was also mentioned that officers' roles could be refined in the by-laws, which we will discuss during our April meeting.
  - Larry suggested we get some of the materials that were distributed as resources, especially items from the PA Office of Commonwealth Libraries Library Board Orientation manual, released in the fall of 2025.
  - Charles had taken extensive notes and one of the ideas to be considered was whether or not the Library Board creates an annual report of our work each year.
  - A session focused on AI but left members with a feeling that it wasn't specific enough to suit our needs as library users.

- Another session focused on legal issues related to employment practices which an HR Dept. might handle. Charles thought it was a great session on risk exposure. It's important to have foundational information on a range of issues.
- Our intern, Natalie will be undertaking a study-abroad program in Japan from mid-May for 10 weeks. The director will work to get additional help for the Youth Services Librarian for the busy summer season.
- It was noted while talking about community needs that there will be a PA CareerLink Bucks County Workforce on Wheels bus coming to our library on April 16 from 1 – 5 PM. They will help with resumes, job searches and learning more about the types of jobs available to seekers.

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

**Thursday, March 12**

Priority 1: Build a Culture of Learning

Chair: Charles Beem, present

Staff: Wayne, Amy, Kristi – all present

The director provided a document outlining the various objectives of Priority One and reviewed what has been accomplished from September 2023 - March 2026. Charles complimented the process that has been developed to cull the collection.

- Objective A: A review of this objective resulted in a conversation about acquiring physical items such as backpacks, binoculars, fishing poles [or other such irregular items] which would be used to create a new collection, popularly called the *Library of Things* at many libraries. Charles wanted to ensure thought was provided to not just *what* the specific items may be but *what* it will require from the staff. This is a topic that will see further action such as creating a list of the most popular items currently available and discussing with the staff “what library of things” we want to house and have available for lending.
- Objective B: We did not have the Youth Services staff with us and were unable to answer all of the questions raised during the meeting but suggestions were made and a query about how much the Book Club bags were utilized. Answer will be provided at a future meeting.
  - Questions were raised about programs for older teens. SAT-prep training and classes are expensive and may be something that is not accessible to all students. Some of the challenges are finding a qualified instructor in an unregulated marketplace. A workshop *Untangling the College Admissions Web* was postponed twice due to weather and is scheduled again for Monday, April 6.
  - Another suggestion was having a youth volunteer write Tic Tok social media posts on a specific day while they are in the library. The intention is to engage more teens. Jessica and her daughter discussed a few ideas that were brought forth to be explored.
- Objective C: Our adult programming is strong. Bucks County Community College has some good programs through their on-campus office for Career Development which were highlighted while we were talking about the Workforce on Wheels bus. We feel that job readiness programming needs continued and intentional development.
- Objective D: The staff has an annual staff in-service day but are also encouraged to take training and professional development courses to suit their own interests and growth.

It was felt by all Board members this discussion was worthwhile in understanding the progress that has been made to date and the areas still needing to be addressed. Future discussion topics and dates are:

**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 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Braker (Secretary)

Date: 3/12/2026