



Free Library of Northampton Township

Library Board Meeting

April 16, 2026

Board Members Present: Larry Blumenthal (President), Eleanora Rosso (Vice President), Jessica Freundel (Treasurer), Janet Braker (Secretary), Chip Heim, 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 6:30 PM.

Reading of Library Mission and Vision Statement

Wayne Lahr read the Mission and Vision Statements.

Approval of March Minutes

The Board approved the March 2026 Minutes unanimously.

Library Director Report

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

- The Director provided a brief update regarding the District's negotiations with Ingram and a hope training will begin for staff tasked with ordering books shortly after the Summer Reading program has concluded in August.
- He also shared his experiences and highlights from attending the 2026 PLA Conference in Minneapolis, MN from 3/31 to 4/4/26, discussing a few of the sessions he attended and the dinner/social time shared with 5 other Bucks County library staff also in attendance. He also shared presentation materials from 3 Youth Services sessions had already been distributed to YS staff at FLNT.
 - Other information shared was from visits with OPN Architect's Minneapolis office and staff; a library app-creating company, Solus; visiting with other companies offering products of interest (Pressreader and Data Axel);
 - Based on former experiences with a similar product, he also had an in-depth conversation with the owner of Growing Libraries, a marketing/promotional company which is able to provide detailed demographic specifics about households in Northampton Township. The goal would be to use this information for targeted marketing of specific library programming to specific households via postcards or door-

hangers or.... This led to a discussion about privacy issues and marketing differences for non-profits vs. profit businesses. The Director will schedule a virtual live demo with Growing Libraries for interested Board members to attend.

- Stavrakas (District Advisory Council Board rep for FLNT) and the Director attended the first 2026 DAC meeting where the 2026-27 District Budget draft was approved along with the District's 5-year Plan. (Copies of this will be made available to the FLNT Board members once it's been finalized and published.) Stavrakas found the meeting interesting for how many different entities and grants are involved in the funding of the libraries.
- Staff In-Service Day programming is being worked on for the Fall and the library's 2nd quarterly staff meeting took place on 4/15.
- National Library Week is April 19-25, 2026 and the township Board of Supervisors will be recognizing the library at its April 22 meeting @ 7 PM. Board members are invited to attend with the Director.
- The Friends of the FLNT have agreed to cover 50% of the costs related to computer replacement for the Fall 2026. This is the year where 16 computers are replaced (every five years) and those costs are abnormally high for this year of the cycle. Appreciation of the funding decision was expressed by the Board.
- NT Parks & Rec's Sun and Fun Fest, Friday, May 5 from 5 – 9 PM; library will participate and Blumenthal, Rosso, and Beem have volunteered to help at the library's tent.

Discussion - Strategic Plan, Priority #2 – Community Partnerships

Thursday, April 16

Priority 2: Community Partnerships

No committee meetings held – discussion and ideas on how to best move forward here

The director provided a document outlining the various objectives of Priority Two and reviewed what has been accomplished from September 2023 - March 2026.

Discussion of the summary document revolved around:

- A question re: possibly engaging more of the room reservation groups as community partners;
- An effort to reach out to CRSD to form a meaningful partnership with their school libraries & librarians;
- Bucks County Area Agency for Aging already holds some "office hours" in the building on Wednesday mornings; suggestion to reach out to BC Opportunity Council to see if there are other social service providers or resources which we might be able to make more readily available for county residents;
- The Board encourages the Director to continue making inroads to natural partnerships as he's been doing over the last couple of years.

The Board decided they may need to spend more time considering what type of partnerships and purposes we need before moving forward with a specific plan and purpose.

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, May 14

Priority 4: Contemporary Facilities

Chair: Eleanora Rosso

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

Thursday, June 11

Priority 3: Effective Communications

Chair: Jessica Freundel

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

Discussion - Library Board By-Laws Revisions

We reviewed the document prepared by Charles Beem and Wayne Lahr and discussed the editing notes in red, blue and yellow that were listed in the document. The Board made decisions for each listed Article accordingly.

Robust discussion revolved around:

- Whether or not the Vice Chair should have specific duties or roles and, if so, what might be appropriate;
- Ad hoc committees vs. Standing committees; Board agreed having Ad hoc committees clearly provides more flexibility to take specific needed actions over time;
- Governance Committee – agreed we should move forward with it as a Standing Committee; chairing this committee was also discussed as being assigned as a duty to the Vice Chair officer position;
- Additional committees needed for Strategic Plan implementation will be Ad hoc committees moving forward;

At the May 14 meeting, the updated print version of the By-Laws will be reviewed briefly for final approval and a vote to formally recommend the Township BOS adopt the new document. Appreciation was expressed to both Beem and the Director for analyzing the Board input and creating a document with recommendations for the updated version.

Public Comment

None

For the Good of the Order / Miscellaneous

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Braker (Secretary)

Date: 4/16/2026