

East Brunswick Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
June 16, 2026

Attendees:

Dr. Kenneth Freedman	Karen Parry, Library Director
Joseph Palombit	Maria Carmelo, Executive Administrative Assistant
Patricia Palumbo	Debbie LeSeur, Outgoing President, Friends of the Library
Dr. Bernard Rosenthal	Margaret Pemberton, Co-President, Friends of the Library
Colleen Talbot	Lisa Pincus Clark, Co-President, Friends of the Library
	Muyassarkhan Abdurasulova, Teen Representative

Ms. Palumbo called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. A roll call was made and a quorum was present. Ms. Palumbo stated that the meeting was advertised and the Open Public Meetings Act requirements were met.

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of March 17, 2026:

Dr. Freedman made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2026 meeting. Mr. Palombit seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Freedman, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo and Dr. Rosenthal. Voting no: None. Abstaining: Ms. Talbot.

Minutes of March 27, 2026 Emergency Meeting:

Ms. Talbot made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2026 emergency meeting. Ms. Palumbo seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Freedman, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Talbot and Dr. Rosenthal. Voting no: None. Abstaining: Mr. Palombit.

Minutes of April 24, 2026 Special Meeting:

Ms. Talbot made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2026 special meeting. Ms. Palumbo seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Freedman, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: Dr. Rosenthal.

Public Participation:

Muya Abdurasulova presented the April and May Teen Reports. In April there were 29 volunteers that completed 51 hours of service. May had 20 volunteers with 27 hours, despite the three-week closure. Volunteers were given extra virtual opportunities so they could get some last-minute hours before community service packets were due to the school. Teen programs in April and May include Young Writers Group and an affordable college workshop. Librarian

Dana attended two outreach events aimed at teens, both with the theme of mental health: the 4-H Mental Health Fair and the Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide Be S-Well Summit. At the end of May, the current TAG Executive Board members met to choose new Executive Board members based on the students' applications.

Ms. LeSeur introduced new Friends of the Library Co-Presidents, Margaret Pemberton and Lisa Pincus Clark to the Library Board. Ms. LeSeur has been the Friends President for the past 5 years and the Friends have elected a new board effective July 1, 2026. The Friends will be selling treats at the library's "Stories Out Loud" Pride event on June 27th at the library. The in-house Bling Sale has raised about \$10,000.00 since the Bling cabinet went up in the library building. Upcoming Friends events include Bunco at the VFW on August 14th, the week-long Book Sale in October and a Bling Sale in January.

Ms. Talbot presented the Township Report. Mayor Cohen would like to thank Ms. Parry and library staff for all of their work in acknowledging different cultures with programs including Sikh Awareness and Jewish Heritage, all of which were well attended.

There was no School District Report.

There were no Public Comments.

Financial Report:

Ms. Parry presented the Financial Report. The Township will be presenting a Resolution to award a contract to Settembrino Architects for architectural design services for the library's outdoor patio project at the June 22nd Town Council Meeting.

Ms. Talbot made a motion to approve the June 17, 2026 Bill List. Dr. Rosenthal seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Freedman, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Talbot and Dr. Rosenthal. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

Director's Report:

Ms. Parry presented the Director's Report. The library's Pride event "Stories Out Loud" is coming up on Saturday, June 27th. Multiple departments are coming together to provide LGBTQ+ health resources and giveaways funded by the Friends. The three-week HVAC System Upgrade shutdown went flawlessly with not one complaint. Full time staff worked remotely for the entirety of the closure, with the reference desk being covered, circulation staff placing holds on materials to be picked up at nearby libraries and passport services at the municipal building. Over 22 programs were held virtually and at remote locations, including the Community Art Center and Cozy Cup. EB Social Circle, an adult reading club for men with cognitive and social disabilities and the Next Chapter Book Club met remotely during the library closure. The library purchased a subscription to Mirador Magazine, a large print, adaptive text magazine meant to engage readers with dementia and cognitive issues. There has been a lot of interest in South Asian mental health and there is a need in the community to shine light on the subject. The Indian Cultural Society of East Brunswick partnered with the library on May 30th

with their program “The Unspoken”. The program included dance and theatre as well as a panel discussion. 897 people attended the Jewish Heritage event at the library on May 31st. The event included several displays, exhibits and children’s activities. The library hosted Lecture-in-Song program “The Other Jewish Songwriters” with pianist/narrator Fred Miller in the meeting rooms the same day. The library’s website is now in compliance with Title II of the ADA Act, providing digital accessibility throughout the site. The accessibility menu link is located on the bottom left hand corner of every page. The Summer Reading program has kicked off for adults and children as well as staff! Ms. Parry is excited to announce that the Magic Table is set to launch in September and looks forward to providing a demonstration to the Library Board of Trustees.

Dr. Freedman made a motion to approve the April and May 2026 Director’s Report. Ms. Talbot seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Freedman, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Talbot and Dr. Rosenthal. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

New Business:

Resolution #10,909

Adopt the 2026 Library Budget

WHEREAS, as approved by the City Council on April 27, 2026, the 2026 East Brunswick Township municipal appropriation for the East Brunswick Public Library is \$3,950,000.00; and

WHEREAS, additional estimated revenues include a total of \$340,000.00;

WHEREAS, \$390,378.42 from prior year fund balances will also be allocated to the 2026 budget, and

WHEREAS, additional estimated State Aid in the amount of \$26,920.00 will be allocated to the 2026 budget,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the East Brunswick Public Library Board of Trustees adopts the 2026 Library Budget in the amount of \$4,707,298.42.

Dr. Rosenthal made a motion to approve Resolution #10,909 – Adopt the 2026 Library Budget. Mr. Palombit seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Freedman, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Talbot and Dr. Rosenthal. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

Resolution #10,910

**RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES
FOR LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS – OUTDOOR PATIO**

WHEREAS, the Township of East Brunswick advertised for proposals for the Library Improvements at East Brunswick; and

WHEREAS, three (3) proposals were received for architectural design services; and

WHEREAS, the proposals were reviewed by an East Brunswick team consisting of Department of Public Works Director, Planning & Engineering Director, and Manager of Engineering; and

WHEREAS, the team has recommended the contract be awarded to Settembrino Architects in the amount of \$13,950.00; and

WHEREAS, the total of \$13,950.00 for architectural services will be paid by the East Brunswick Public Library Foundation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the East Brunswick Library Board of Trustees that it hereby awards this contract for architectural design services, in the amount of \$13,950.00 as set forth above and subject to all specifications and contract documents.

Ms. Talbot made a motion to approve Resolution #10,910 – Award Contract for Architectural Design Services for Library Improvements – Outdoor Patio. Mr. Palombit seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Freedman, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Talbot and Dr. Rosenthal. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

Resolution #10,911

Acceptance of the 2025 Audit of Library Accounts

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:5-4 requires that the Board of Trustees appoint a registered municipal accountant to audit the Library's financial records; and

WHEREAS, PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP performed the audit for the year ending December 31, 2025 and submitted the report on May 18, 2026.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the East Brunswick Public Library Board of Trustees accepts the audit report from PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP.

Ms. Talbot made a motion to approve Resolution #10,911 – Acceptance of the 2025 Audit of Library Accounts. Dr. Rosenthal seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Freedman, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Talbot and Dr. Rosenthal. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

Resolution #10,912

Awarding a Contract for Installation of Cameras

WHEREAS, the East Brunswick Public Library Board of Trustees authorizes the installation of security cameras inside outside the library building; and

WHEREAS, LTW, LLC will provide professional technician and engineering services to install and configure 26 Genetec interior and exterior security cameras for the library; and

WHEREAS, the project will cost \$45,254.41; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the East Brunswick Public Library Board of Trustees awards the contract for the installation of the security cameras to LTW, LLC.

Ms. Palumbo made a motion to approve Resolution #10,912 – Awarding a Contract for Installation of Cameras. Ms. Talbot seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Freedman, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Talbot and Dr. Rosenthal. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

Closed Session:

Ms. Talbot made a motion to enter closed session at 8:23 pm. Dr. Freedman seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Freedman, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo, Ms. Talbot and Dr. Rosenthal. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

The Board returned to open session at 8:43 pm.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Ms. Talbot made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 pm. Dr. Rosenthal seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Ms. Lisa Gurevich, Secretary