

**BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**

May 18, 2026

A regular meeting of the Bedford Public Library Board of Trustees was held on May 18, 2026 in the Richmond Room. In attendance were Lee Joyce (Chair), Lauren Saidel-Baker (Treasurer), Angela Baldi (Trustee), Kevin Brown (Alternate Trustee), Miriam Johnson (Director), and Caitlin Loving (Assistant Director). The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m. Peter Barbuto, Facilities Manager, was present from 3:34 p.m. to 3:57 p.m. Catherine Rombeau (Alternate Trustee) was present from 3:34 p.m. to 4:26 p.m.

Facilities Update with Peter Barbuto—The old security gate upstairs will be removed and carpet replaced in that area in the next few weeks; painting Miriam Johnson’s office and removing counter will be done this summer; they fixed the septic vent pipe; trim work will be done on the outside of the building this summer; HVAC has been serviced; generator will be serviced. Miriam Johnson asked what the life of the generator is and Peter Barbuto said it should hopefully last another 10-15 years. The fire alarm system will be tested on May 29th; a heat pump in the children’s room office needs to be repaired; the carpet will be cleaned this summer; possibly painting in the children’s room later this year. Lee Joyce brought up the potential project of renovating the public bathrooms. Peter Barbuto mentioned the option of redoing the floor in the public bathrooms and painting the bathrooms as a temporary improvement.

Approval of Minutes—April 20, 2026 Regular meeting of Library Board of Trustees.

Motion: Lauren Saidel-Baker made a motion to approve the April 20, 2026 regular meeting minutes; Angela Baldi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report— The Treasurer’s report was reviewed and accepted.

Acceptance of Gifts: Miscellaneous donations -- \$84.00; Miscellaneous for seed library -- \$31.00; Bedford Women’s Club for books -- \$489.00

Motion: Lauren Saidel-Baker made a motion to accept all donations; Angela Baldi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Director’s Report — See attached.

Old Business:

Public Restroom Project—Lee Joyce recommended taking a look at the recently updated floors of the bathrooms at Town Hall as part of the consideration for replacing the library’s public bathroom floors. Catherine Rombeau recommended bringing the issue of the bathrooms needing renovation to the Town Council so that they are aware of it.

Landscaping Project—Lauren Saidel-Baker said that the landscaping company will most likely be able to start in late August or early September.

New Business:

Strategic Planning—Miriam Johnson emailed information from the last time the library embarked on a strategic plan. She will request copies of the Strategic Planning for Libraries book for each trustee.

Policy Review: Bulletin Board Policy, Gallery Exhibit Policy, Library Display Policy, Library Program Policy, Request for Reconsideration of Program, Exhibit, or Display—

Motion: Angela Baldi made a motion to accept the changes to the Bulletin Board Policy; Lauren Saidel-Baker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Angela Baldi made a motion to accept the changes to the Library Display Policy; Lauren Saidel-Baker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Angela Baldi made a motion to re-affirm the Gallery Exhibit Policy, Library Program Policy, and Request for Reconsideration of Program, Exhibit, or Display; Lauren Saidel-Baker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Library Swag for sale—The Friends of the Library have asked if they can sell library swag. There was a brief discussion of the rights to the illustrations and logos. Miriam Johnson will clarify with the Friends.

Staff Summer Reading Program \$140—Miriam Johnson requested \$140.00 for gift cards for staff summer reading prizes.

Motion: Angela Baldi made a motion to approve spending \$140.00 for gift cards for the staff summer reading prizes; Lauren Saidel-Baker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meetings will be held on Monday, June 8, 2026 at 3:30 p.m.; Monday, July 13, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.; Monday, August 17, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.; Monday, September 14, 2026 at 3:30 p.m.; and Monday, October 19, 2026 at 3:30 p.m.; all in the Richmond Room. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam Johnson
Library Director

Caitlin Loving
Assistant Director