

Middlesex Public Library  
1300 Mountain Avenue  
Middlesex, NJ 08846

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting on March 9, 2026

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Middlesex Library Board of Trustees was held in the Community Room of the Library on Monday, March 9, 2026. Emily DeScenza, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Announcement of Compliance with Open Public Meeting Law

The Vice President read the announcement of the meeting in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law. (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6) stating that notice of the meeting has been published in the *Courier News*, *Home News* and the *Star Ledger* and has been posted on the Library's public bulletin board.

Roll Call of Members

X – Represents member present at meeting

James Benson, President  
X Emily DeScenza, Vice President  
X Melissa Fedosh, Treasurer  
X Susen Edwards, Secretary  
X Barbara Ferris, Member At Large  
X Beverly Weber, Member At Large  
X Dina Fornataro, Member At Large  
Erin Gomez, Representative of the Superintendent of Schools  
Dave Oliver, Representative of the Mayor  
X Christine George, Library Director

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting(s)

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous Board meeting held on February 9, 2026, was made by Beverly Weber and seconded by Susen Edwards. All were in favor.

Reports of Officers

Vice President Emily DeScenza reported that Dave Oliver will be honored as a Pillar of the Community at tomorrow evening's Mayor and Council meeting.

There were no other Reports of Officers.

### Financial Report/Payment of Bills

Bills that arose since the last Board meeting and current payments for this month and last were reviewed and approved.

Director George noted that the four February 2026 bills were approved at our January Board meeting. The check for \$36,312.70 to All Risk Inc. is to cover repairs to the Library from flood damage. A check from JIF has been deposited to cover this amount. The Library is responsible for approximately \$1,000 above and beyond the JIF reimbursement. This will be paid from our Contingency account.

A check was written to Ana's World of Minis LLC for the upcoming visit from baby lambs. 4Imprint was paid \$671.85 for chip clips, which is this year's reading incentive prize.

Demco was paid \$264.95 for book covers.

Central Jersey Security Cameras was paid \$450.81 to cover the yearly contract for our security system.

Director George noted that we are still purchasing large print books from Cengage Learning. This month's bill was \$104.13. We are still purchasing the bulk of our books from Amazon.

There were no unusual expenses for the month.

Dina Fornataro moved to accept Resolution 2026-3 authorizing payment of all bills. Melissa Fedosh seconded the motion. All were in favor. The following resolution was passed:

“WHEREAS THE ATTACHED BILLS AND CLAIMS AGAINST THE Free Public Library of the Borough of Middlesex have been examined and audited by the Treasurer of the Library, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Free Public Library of the Borough of Middlesex and the Trustees thereof that the attached bills and claims are hereby approved for payment.”

The Board also received a Monthly Budget Report for March 2026. Director George mentioned that we are paying some of our summer program expenses ahead of time. Everything is on target for the year.

### Circulation Report

Director George gave the circulation report for February 2026. Overall circulation numbers are high for the month compared to past years, especially considering the shorter month and snow closures. See the Circulation Report for details.

Our ILLs Loaned and ILLs in numbers are close in number. Hoopla is up significantly for the month.

Despite the short month, Children's programs were well attended as were Adult/Friends programs.

Director George noted that attendance at Thursday afternoon movies and passive programs is doing well.

### Director's Report

Director George presented the monthly report for March on the operation of the Library. See Director's Report for details.

1. Installation began today for the sprinkler system project from the Borough.
2. The major clean out continues. The next step is the Maker Space. Three large cabinets are on order for the space.
3. An HDMI transmitter has been ordered to use in the Community Room. We are still waiting to see if the Borough renews their contract with TK1 before the AV system can be repaired.
4. We will continue to order books from Amazon.
5. We are looking into subscribing to Comics Plus! Beanstack! Comics Plus! will allow patrons to check out as many titles as they want with no waiting for popular items. Beanstack! helps track reading challenges.
6. Ukulele classes and seated exercises have been added to spring adult programming.
7. Blind Date with a Book was very successful with 61 participants. We are looking into more passive programs for all age groups.
8. Kaila Ward-Merritt, Children's Librarian, reported that February was a highly successful month for children's programming. Teen volunteers help create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for the younger children. She also noted that the department is actively progressing on this year's weeding projects.
9. Mary Toole, Reference Librarian, reported that patrons come to Reference with a wide variety of questions, and ask for books in many subject areas. She also feels patrons are adjusting to the lack of availability of paper forms from the IRS.
10. Theresa Bond thanked Susen and Bob Edwards for providing a display of items about Margaret Bourke White, Middlesex's famous resident. Thirty-nine people registered for a Zoom Valentine

card making program. March's display is "Books by and About Women." She continues to share events and news on social media.

### Committee Reports

Beverly Weber asked if anyone was in need of a cheer basket. A staff member has lost a relative and a sympathy card will be sent.

There were no other Committee Reports.

### Friends of the Library Report

Friends President Susen Edwards reported that the Friends have received official notice that they have been approved for a \$4,000 grant from the County. The money will go toward a series of "Oldies" concerts.

Susen also noted that forty patrons attended yesterday's program on New Jersey's inventions and innovations. A Neil Young tribute will be held on Sunday, March 22.

### Unfinished Business

Director George reported that the Library cleanup is still in process. A bulk pickup will hopefully happen next week.

### New Business

There was no New Business.

### Public Discussion

Council Representative Joe DeScenza reported that the Borough is currently working on the budget. Sadly, costs are going up on nearly everything.

### Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m. on a motion made by Dina Fornataro and seconded by Barbara Ferris. All were in favor.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on Monday, April 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Susen Edwards  
Secretary  
March 10, 2026

**NOTE: These minutes will be available to the public for inspection and/or copying once they are approved at a subsequent Board meeting.**