

Middlesex Public Library  
1300 Mountain Avenue  
Middlesex, NJ 08846

Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting on April 13, 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, April 13, 2026. James Benson, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Announcement of Compliance with Open Public Meeting Law

The 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

- X James Benson, President
- X Emily DeScenza, Vice President
- X Melissa Fedosh, Treasurer
- X Susen Edwards, Secretary
- X Barbara Ferris, Member At Large
- Beverly Weber, Member At Large
- X Dina Fornataro, Member At Large
- X Erin Gomez, Representative of the Superintendent of Schools
- X 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 March 9, 2026, was made by Dave Oliver and seconded by Emily DeScenza. All were in favor.

Reports of Officers

President Benson thanked Vice-President DeScenza for running the meetings while he was out of town. Vice-President DeScenza questioned why some electrical outlets in the CR don't have covers

on them. Director George responded that these outlets are an unusual size and had to be special ordered. They will be installed as soon as we get them.

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.

A check for \$2,390 was paid to Zoobean, Inc. for our yearly subscription to Comics Plus and Beanstack. Allyson Toth was paid \$750 for six Ageless Grace chair exercise programs (\$125 per session). Director George was reimbursed \$154 for Omega (database fee for the History Room) and WP Forms (Library website annual fee). Approved Fire Protection was paid \$405.56 to inspect the kitchen hood in the Community Room. Amazon was paid \$6,409.65 for books, supplies, and items not available elsewhere.

In addition to the bills listed, Director George added \$323 for the NJ Dept. of Community Affairs Fire Registration Renewal Fee, \$48.18 to Kayla Ward-Merritt for Oreo Taste Test supplies, and three bills to Stella: \$3,685.28 for our digital content quarterly assessment, \$3,000 for our quarterly assessment for Hoopla, and \$420 for the yearly management of our computer security program.

Dave Oliver moved to accept Resolution 2026-4 authorizing payment of all bills, including the three additional bills listed above. 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 April 2026. Everything is on target for the year.

### Circulation Report

Director George gave the circulation report for March 2026. Overall circulation numbers are significantly higher for the month, especially Juvenile Circulation and ILLs In and Out. Overall circulation was up approximately 30% from 2024. Internet usage was up as well. See the Circulation Report for details.

Community-led, Children's, and Adult/Friends programs were well attended as well.

## Director's Report

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

1. The sprinkler installation is completed. They should soon be running three times per week.
2. The major clean out continues. A bulk pickup was done two weeks ago. Another pickup is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15.
3. A roof leak occurred on March 31. DPW found a tiny hole in a beam in the ceiling and a bubble on the roof. Chris Anderson Roofing came out and patched the hole and bubble. Fortunately, nothing was damaged.
4. An HDMI transmitter has been installed in the Community Room, providing a temporary fix for the AV system.
5. Planning for spring and summer programs continues. A number of new adult, teen, and children's programs are being planned.
6. The Library partnered with OEM for "You Are the Help" seminar.
7. Effective after March 1, 2026, a change in the Open Public Meetings Act has been implemented. Notices will be available on the Legal Notices section on our website. Publishing has been discontinued in print newspapers.
8. The Borough has not yet chosen a tech provider and is paying TK1 on a monthly basis. We have a separate contract with TK1, which we can continue. The yearly contract is \$13,986. TK1 has agreed to keep our fee the same whether or not the Borough renews with them. Susen Edwards moved to continue using TK1. Barbara Ferris seconded the motion. All were in favor. President Benson will draft Resolution 2026-5 for this decision.
9. Kaila Ward-Merritt, Children's Librarian, reported that the spring has started with a number of programs such as Book Character Bingo and a visit from Ana's World of Minis Lambs of Love program. The momentum will continue for National Library Week. Summer Reading is being finalized, and she is gearing up for school visits.
10. Mary Toole, Reference Librarian, reported that the Ageless Grace chair exercise program has been well-received. Beginner Ukulele classes will begin in May. She continues to help patrons accessing and printing tax information but does not help the complete tax returns.

11. Theresa Bond reported that local artist, Jennifer Troulis, is displaying her art in our display case. Our main book display features books related to Autism Awareness Month and Arab American Heritage Month.

### Committee Reports

Susen Edwards asked Board members to voluntarily contribute to the Sunshine Fund. Two Board Members who have recently had surgery will be remembered by the Committee.

There were no other Committee Reports.

### Friends of the Library Report

Friends President Susen Edwards reported that the Friends have two more Spring programs: Donna Sparacio with the John Bianculli Trio on Sunday, April 19, and a program on the Declaration of Independence on April 26.

### Unfinished Business

Director George reported that she has not yet finalized a regular schedule for deep cleaning. She wants to first begin using the mopping Roomba and work out a weekly and monthly cleaning schedule for our custodian. The decluttering process is continuing. Switch plates and outlet covers will continue to be installed in the Community Room.

### New Business

The contract for technical services was discussed in the Director's Report.

### Public Discussion

There was no Public Discussion.

### Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. on a motion made by Dina Fornataro and seconded by Melissa Fedosh. All were in favor.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on Monday, May 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Susen Edwards  
Secretary  
April 14, 2026

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