

**February 17, 2026**  
**Joint Free Public Library**  
**Of Morristown and Morris Township**  
**Board of Trustees**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township was called to order at 6:04pm.

Representing Morristown were: Patricia Ard, Secretary; and Lisa Price

Representing Morris Township were: Don Kiel, President; Geoff Brooks, Treasurer; and George Quillan

Also present were: Deanna Quinones, alternate for Mayor Dougherty; Anne Piascik, alternate for Superintendent Mucci; Beth Quirk-Hendry, alternate for Mayor Guariglia; Chad Leinaweaver, Director; and Mary Lynn Becza, Assistant Director

Pursuant to a resolution of the Board and to RS 10:4-10, "Open Public Meetings Act," the president announced that adequate notice of the meeting had been provided by posting notices of the meeting in the library, and providing same to the Clerks of Morristown and Morris Township as well as to the Morris County Daily Record and The Star Ledger, all more than forty-eight hours prior to the meeting.

**Minutes**

The January 20, 2026 organization meeting minutes were approved with minor revisions. The January 20, 2026 regular monthly meeting minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

The report was received.

**Director's Report**

The following are the major points presented by Mr. Leinaweaver:

\*The director informed the board that an exhibit by several photographers titled "Morristown in Focus" will opening on February 26, 2026 in the Kirby Gallery.

The Kirby Foundation will be sponsoring a different, seven panel exhibit in the Media Center on the Declaration of Independence. The exhibit has been developed by the Gilder-Lehrman Institute on American History. The exhibit will be on display this coming summer, and will subsequently move to other public institutions.

\*Mr. Leinaweaver showed images of the numerous areas in the library where masonry work has refurbished flaking, water damaged, and peeling paint and stucco, including bathrooms, storage closets, and the second floor balcony.

\*The bookmobile is making visits to community spots, including the Cradles to Crayons preschool on the Green.

\*The bookmobile was damaged by the recent snow and ice storm, including damage from freezing moisture. It is being repaired at the Newark, NJ facility.

\*The director spoke with a new staff member with health insurance knowledge about the possibility of moving the library personnel to another insurer.

\*The extreme cold weather has kept some patrons away from some nighttime library programs.

\*The library's internet policy is being reviewed by library counsel for first amendment issues regarding dealing with adult content.

\*The NJLA annual conference is being held this week and a number of library staff are attending. The director and Ms. Piascik noted that the NJ School Library Foundation has partnered with NJLA to have their library conferences together.

### **Building and Grounds Report**

The following are the major points presented by Ms. Becza:

\*See the director's report above for information on the bookmobile and ongoing masonry work.

\*Fania Roofing will be doing some roof repairs due to the extreme winter weather.

\*The hinge broke on the interior door coming from the parking lot entrance and a new door is being fabricated by the same company that made the current one.

\*The elevator was briefly out of service for repairs but is now in working order. The repair service recommended the library keep the current elevator working as long as possible, rather than replacing it.

\*Some leaks have occurred in the library due to the recent large snowfall, and are being repaired.

### **Committees**

\*Budget- N/R

\*Education Liaison –N/R

\*Foundation- N/R

\*Nominations – N/R

\*Insurance- The library is required to indemnify the county for any unlikely problems that might arise due to the masonry work done from the county grant

received. The indemnification document is being revised due to feedback from the library.

\*Facility and Grounds- N/R

\*Branding and Marketing- The library's logo is being placed on some microfiber cloths that are being purchased.

### **New Business:**

\*The eight bids received for the four renovation projects were opened publicly on February 10, 2026. The bids were of greatly varying amounts. The director will review them with library architect Bob Russell and library counsel before presenting the board with the chosen bidder at the March meeting. Mr. Russell is reviewing the bidders' references.

\*The following agenda for the March 7, 2026 board retreat was discussed and established: 1)The recent tours of five non-MAIN libraries by the director and assistant director for space and programming ideas; 2)Review of future projects that require substantial funding; 3) Reviewing staff positions that might be moved from part time to full time based on library needs; 4) The director's long and short term goals; 5) The best distribution of responsibilities among staff for building maintenance.

\*Annual sandwich dues of \$60.00 were collected.

### **Old Business:**

\*The meeting room policy was briefly discussed again and approved.

\*The collection policy and agreement form were reviewed again. The director and board discussed the Freedom to Read Act which was passed by the State, but the New Jersey State Library is asking us to include parts of that Act in our (not yet passed) collection development policy.

The board will put together a committee by the end of 2026 that would review any book challenges, as per the Freedom to Read Act.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia Ard, Secretary