

May 19, 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 6:00pm.

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 April 21, 2026 meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

The report was received.

Mr. Leinaweaver thanked library counsel Kristin Hayes for attending and at 6:02pm the board entered closed session. Closed session ended at 6:25pm.

Director's Report

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

* The director noted that counsel is reviewing the library's internet policy, which will be discussed at a future meeting.

*Mr. Leinaweaver reported that \$900.00 was recently returned from the state. The sum is from pension monies of part time staff whose pensions never vested since

they were employed for less than a year, the required time for vesting of these DCRP (Defined Contribution Retirement Program) funds.

*The director passed around a copy of the 2026 NJ Library Trustees Guide and will send same to all board members. Mr. Leinaweaver commented that the board fulfills the state requirement for trustee continuing education by its annual retreat and other activities.

* All new employees are shown by either the director or assistant director where all emergency exits are located.

*As part of the library's continuing public outreach, on May 2 the bookmobile was present along with other community organizations at the Lafayette Learning Center's Community Day,

*The play reading and daytime movies programs continue to be popular.

*Staff Day is on May 29, and the director and assistant director are putting together a varied program.

*The YA librarian Nancy Ort has been putting on a number of new and varied programs for preteens and teens, including a recent "book tasting" event, where participants read short samples of numerous books.

Building and Grounds Report

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

*The courtyard study project is on track to begin in early June.

*On a return roof inspection by Fania the workmen had some new ideas to possibly try in the future if leaks continue. They could employ a large cover over all the seams to see if that is effective. The metal roof on the tower is in good shape, and patching for winter damage on the larger roof is planned.

Committees

*Budget- N/R

*Education Liaison –Ms. Piascik reported that she had received positive feedback from teachers at a recent district meeting about their students' experiences visiting the library. Ms. Piascik will plan next year's visits to allow the first-grade classes to begin visiting earlier to facilitate more even scheduling.

*Foundation- Mr. Brooks observed that at an upcoming meeting the Foundation will consider his recommendation that it increase its donation for the study room projects to \$350,000.

*Insurance- N/R

**Personnel-See new business.

*Nominations – The board is waiting for a Town nomination.

*Branding and Marketing- Work on the fall Book Festival, where the library is a principal speaking venue, continues.

*Facility and Grounds- The director stated he had a kick-off meeting for the courtyard and study room projects and they will start soon. Materials for the study room projects are being ordered.

The courtyard and tower outside projects are being planned to start before the hot weather sets in for summer.

The approximately two week closure of the library for the extensive carpet project is planned for the end of August/Labor Day weekend. Library personnel will be out of the building for only about two or three days, and after that they will assist patrons from inside the closed library with holds, orders, and parking lot pick up of materials.

Mr. Leinaweaver gave the estimates he'd received for the different new roofs on the library's sections: The 1908 wing would cost between \$85,000 and \$90,000; the 1930s wing roof would cost between \$55,000 and \$60,000.

New Business:

* All agreed with Mr. Brooks's recommendation that a recent newspaper article about local Morristown/Township high school essay contest winners should be copied and placed in the library.

* The director recommended hiring Yadier Medrano Hernandez as a summer page working 12-16 hours a week @16.50/hr. A motion passed approving this hire.

Old Business:

*The financial advisor for employee benefits Christopher Hasselgren has requested that the board consider approving a 403b pension benefit for employees. After discussion the director stated he would ask Mr. Hasselgreen to attend a future board meeting to present the matter and answer questions.

*The director is waiting for Chase Bank's response to his request to increase the library's monthly borrowing limit.

*The job descriptions of the director and assistant director were discussed for consideration of moving tasks among employees. Mr. Leinaweaver suggested that, as the costs and provider of staff health benefits were currently in flux, the board

might wish to wait for some clarity on the health provider issue before considering, for example, moving any part time staff to full time. However, the director noted that he and the assistant director were already separating some tasks to avoid overlap of duties. And Ms. Becza advised that the library has new program software to help in program publicity, although she still oversees all final hard and digital copy.

*The board will review health care costs and employee contributions at a future meeting.

*The director stated he continues to research circulation desk display screens.

*The issue of revising special staff awards will be considered by the personnel committee, who will make a recommendation to the board.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Ard, Secretary