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**MINUTES OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

ATTENDING

Members:

Ben Baum

Lisa Chen

Marilyn Gonyo

Kelly Roselle (virtual)

Prena Shah

Kelly Strenkowski

Bernadette Yannacci (virtual)

Staff:

Karen Klapperstuck

Lynnette Fucci

Student Representative:

Meghana Mopidevi (virtual)

Guest: Allan Marain

The meeting of the Monroe Township Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Ben Baum.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

It was noted that this meeting was in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20 MEETING

The minutes from the March 17 meeting of the Library Board of Trustees were presented.

Marilyn Gonyo moved to approve the January minutes as presented, and the motion was seconded by Prena Shah. The motion carried with all members in favor.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

REMOTE PICK-UP LOCKERS

Karen reported that site work at the Community Center has been completed. The concrete pad at the Senior Center cracked due to extreme winter weather and will require repair; a timeline for this work is pending. Installation of the lockers will proceed at the Community Center first, with the Senior Center installation to follow once repairs are completed.

FARMERS MARKET

Karen reported that planning is underway for the fifth year of the Library's Farmers Market. Vendors and event details are currently being finalized, with a strong mix of returning and new participants. Additional vendor information will be shared at the May meeting.

SOLAR CARPORTS

Karen reported that she has been in communication with Township Business Administrator Kevin McGowan and DPW Head Greg Slavicek regarding the installation schedule for the solar carports. The intent is to schedule the Library toward the end of the project timeline to allow the Farmers Market season to conclude prior to the start of construction.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ACTIVE THREAT & FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

Lynnette thanked the Board for approving the Library's closure on Friday, May 1, allowing staff to participate in active threat response and fire extinguisher training. She noted that this session supports the Library's ongoing commitment to staff preparedness and public safety.

STUDIO M FLOORING

Lynnette reported that improvements to Studio M, including new flooring and painting, have been completed. These updates have enhanced the space, and further organization is planned to increase accessibility and usability for the public.

AUNT FLOW

Lynnette reported that the Library has purchased menstrual products and dispensers from Aunt Flow to provide free and sustainable products to patrons. She noted that this initiative supports the Library's commitment to equity and inclusion by addressing a basic community need.

PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Lynnette thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend the Public Library Association Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She reported that the conference provided valuable professional development, including sessions led by Bryan Stevenson and Dr. Ruha Benjamin, which offered new perspectives on library services. Additional sessions focused on building inclusive collections for individuals with disabilities and enhancing library safety through strategic partnerships and planning.

FINANCIAL REPORT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL REPORT

Reported on behalf of Mayor Stephen Dalina by Marilyn Gonyo. The Mayor reported that the proposed 2026 Township budget was presented to Council amid rising costs for health insurance, utilities, fuel, pensions & other services. The administration conducted a detailed review to identify efficiencies while maintaining all current municipal services. The budget includes a 4.3-cent increase in the property tax rate, equating to approximately \$12 per month for the average homeowner. Despite financial challenges, the budget emphasizes fiscal responsibility, continued service levels & long-term stability. A public hearing and vote on the budget is scheduled for May 4.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Marilyn shared that, in celebration of National Library Week, the Friends of the Library thoughtfully organized and hosted a breakfast for the library staff, providing a warm and appreciative start to the day in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

Marilyn also reported that the Tea with the Director is set for Tuesday, May 5 for lifetime members.

Marilyn added the spring book sale will be held on May 14-16, 2026. May 14 is the preview day and it is \$5.00 admission. This is one of their major book sales of the year.

LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Karen reported that the Foundation has scheduled the golf fundraiser for Monday, June 8, 2026 at Greenbriar Golf Course. The next golf outing meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 14.

MONROE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Kelly Roselle reported that the Board of Education will hold a meeting on April 27, 2026, at the MTHS Media Center, with the public session beginning at 7:15 PM. This meeting will include final budget approval.

Work on the 'Portrait of a Graduate' initiative is ongoing with continued collaboration between school staff and community stakeholders. Their most recent meeting was held on April 2.

Spring concerts are scheduled to begin on May 12 and will continue through early June. Community members are encouraged to visit school websites for specific dates and times.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Meghana Mopidevi reported that NJSLA testing will take place for all ninth- and eleventh-grade students on April 28 and 29, with an additional testing session for ninth-grade students scheduled for May 18. She also reported that AP testing will be administered from May 4 through May 15.

Meghana noted that Junior Prom will be held on May 15 and Senior Prom on June 5. Students are required to attend a full four-hour school day on these dates to be eligible to attend prom; students absent from school will not be permitted to attend.

Meghana also reported that the Drama Club's fall musical, Winner, received nominations in nine categories at Montclair University's Foxy Awards, with results expected in May. The club's upcoming production of Grease will run from April 17 through April 19.

Finally, she reported that a school blood drive is scheduled for April 16 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**PLAN OF SERVICE**

The Plan of Service previously distributed to Board members at the March meeting was discussed and presented. Marilyn Gonyo noted that formal Board approval was not required since the Board had already approved the Strategic Plan.

NEW BUSINESS**ACTION BILLS**

Prena Shah moved to approve the payment of bills numbered 19676-19720 in the amount of \$616,212.76. Kelly Strenkowski seconded. All were in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting of the Monroe Township Library Board of Trustees is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Lisa Chen moved to adjourn the meeting. Prena Shah seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynnette Fucci