Rutherford Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes for May 19, 2026 Meeting 7:00PM

Open Meeting Held: Library Auditorium
Optional Zoom Meeting ID 842 9475 4177 & Password 974544

1. Roll Call

Trustees Present	Ms. Marisa Ackermann Ms. Wendy Armacost Ms. Stephanie Kivich Ms. Monica Rodriguez Mr. Charles Ryan Ms. Krista Vellis Mr. Palmer Yale
Absent	Ms. Kim Bogosian Mr. Jimmy Rizzo
Staff Present	Ms. Gretchen Corsillo
Others Present	Mr. Ian Doris, Attorney Ms. Christie Del Rey-Cone, Council Liaison
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Ms. Kivich

2. Provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act

Ms. Vellis read the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

3. President's Report

A. Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda for tonight's meeting
Moved: Armacost Seconded: Vellis
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rodriguez, Ryan, Vellis, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

B. Approval of the minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 21, 2026, open meeting
Moved: Yale Seconded: Ackermann
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Rodriguez, Ryan, Yale
Against:
Abstain: Kivich, Vellis

4. Hearing of the citizens

a. Presentation by Darlene Swistock, BCCLS Member Services & Education Manager

Darlene discussed the committees that support the membership. They have a liaison that supports trustee development. She thanked the trustees for their commitment to BCCLS and the library. BCCLS has professional development programs to help get CE credits - many programs and presenters on various topics such as budgeting, fundraising, DEI, cultivation of prospective trustees, capital planning, advocating for your library, overcoming difficult situations, etc. There is a trustee mentoring program – if you have less than 5 years on, you can have a trustee with more than 5 years to help mentor you. They are looking for volunteers to sign up for that too. Trustees can ask to be added to the trustee email list.

Darlene discussed the value of being in BCCLS: ILS shared resources, IT/tech department, 5 mil items in shared collections, delivery services sometimes same day. 10,000 items moved per day! Catalog searches average 80K per day. Professional development events and committee meetings. 3,700 participants in those events. Average library saves 2 million dollars by being in BCCLS. Darlene left some flyers with infographics. ILS team does a value report and a cyber security report on there. She also left the BCCLS strategic plan.

5. Correspondence – None

6. Director's Report

Ms. Corsillo reported:

- Facilities – A/C is working. We had a glass room problem yesterday but it was rectified quickly. Glass room was painted and looks great. The Friends have agreed to fund the new hybrid display with the remaining Ida Borroto bequest.
    - The architect's drawings for the mezzanine walkway project were included in the packet. We will now determine how to proceed with the construction.
    - A local artist wants to do a mural in the Children's Room. It's beautiful. Proposal is a line art style. Pictures of kids reading books and children's characters with little things that relate to Rutherford. We will paint the walls at the same time, if possible. It will be done in the last two weeks of August when it's quieter. She has done murals in two other libraries.
- Summer reading program has started
- The new programming policy will be discussed under new business. Increased numbers of no-shows have required a new "three strikes" policy.
- Personnel – Rhoda Portugal's last day will be June 30th.
    - We will convert the NJLA organizational membership to an enhanced institutional membership this summer
- The Friends had their book sale, and they made about the same as they did last April, which was great. They are getting better donations because we are taking them more frequently
- Ebook legislation is looking for more support among other states.
- Young Adult circulation is up 20% - Ms. Armacost mentioned how great that is with our new young adult area and programing focus. Also, physical adult circulation is up too.

7. Committee Reports

A. Finance

1. Payment of May bills

Motion: To approve payment of bills enclosed in packet, with additions
Moved: Armacost Seconded: Rodriguez
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Bogosian, Kivich, Rodriguez, Ryan, Vellis, Yale
Against:
Abstain:

B. Buildings/Grounds – Mezzanine – we will have a committee meeting to talk about direction for the project. It's steel on both sides, which is great but expensive. Is the Library or Foundation paying? Ms. Bogosian has a copy of the plans. Connor Fox from the building dept is looking at them as well because he has a construction background. We have spent a lot of capital funds on HVAC, etc. We are definitely moving forward; we just need to determine how to pay for it.

C. Foundation – Ms. Armacost reported - Gala was a success. Don't have final numbers yet. Honorees were fantastic.

D. By-Laws – No report.

E. Strategic Planning – No report.

F. Nominating – No report.

G. Personnel – No report.

H. Mayor/Alternate – Ms. Del Rey-Cone thought the gala was a huge success. It's not too late to ask for donations from attendees. In regard to the architectural work, let her know if she can help. The cameras on the roof were taken care of.

I. Superintendent/Alternate – Testing is ending – field days, art shows. One more survey of parents is going out. Communication, social media, screen time educating parents and profile of a Rutherford Graduate.

J. Legal – Ian looked at the new programming policy and had a few suggestions. They are reflected in the version included in the board packet.

8. Old Business

- None

9. Closed Session

WHEREAS, the "Open Public Meetings Act" requires that a public body adopt a resolution at an open meeting before going into closed session to discuss a matter which excludes the public as permitted under Section 7b;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Library Board of Trustees will hold a closed meeting on Tuesday, May 19 at 7:41 PM in person and via Zoom to discuss personnel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the outcome of this discussion will be disclosed to the public when there is no further need for confidentiality.

10. New Business

- Promotion of Jordan Antonacci to the role of Librarian I

  Motion: To promote Jordan Antonacci to the role of Librarian I, effective June 1, 2026 and upon successful completion of her MLIS, at an annual salary of $66,383.00.
  Moved: Vellis Seconded: Ackermann
  For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rodriguez, Ryan, Vellis, Yale
  Against:
  Abstain:

- Approval of full-time status and pay increase for Mamata Prabhu

  Motion: To promote Library Associate Mamata Prabhu to full-time status, effective June 1, 2026, at an hourly rate of $17.67.
  Moved: Armacost Seconded: Vellis
  For: Ackermann, Armacost, Rodriguez, Ryan, Yale
  Against:
  Abstain:

- Approval of new hire - Mia Guzzo

  Motion: To hire Mia Guzzo for the part-time role of Library Associate at a rate of $16.43/hour.
  Moved: Vellis Seconded: Yale
  For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rodriguez, Ryan, Vellis, Yale
  Against:
  Abstain:

- Approval of new hire - Fabiola Reyes Matanzo

  Motion: To hire Fabiola Reyes Matanzo for the part-time role of Library Associate at a rate of $16.43/hour.
  Moved: Yale Seconded: Vellis
  For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rodriguez, Ryan, Vellis, Yale
  Against:
  Abstain:

- Approval of Program Policy

  Motion: To approve the Program Policy as presented in the packet.
  Moved: Rodriguez Seconded: Armacost
  For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rodriguez, Ryan, Vellis, Yale
  Against:
  Abstain:

11. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.
Moved: Armacost Seconded: Vellis
For: Ackermann, Armacost, Kivich, Rodriguez, Ryan, Vellis, Yale

Against:
Abstain:

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cori Verdino

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 7:00 PM