

Denville Public Library
121 Diamond Spring Road
Denville, NJ 07834

The Board of Trustees of the Denville Public Library met in regular session on Thursday, October 9, 2025, in the Denville Public Library Meeting Room. The President, Mr. Duarte, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Mr. Duarte announced that the notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey for this meeting have been satisfied. Annual notice of the meetings of this Board, containing the time, date and location of this meeting is posted on the outside door of the Public Library and on the bulletin board at Town Hall. The annual notice was transmitted to two newspapers and filed with the Clerk of the Township of Denville.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL: Present: Carlos Duarte, President
Nancy Gerhardt, Treasurer
Tara Baumann, Secretary
Tom Andes, Mayor
Linda Breder, Superintendent Alternate

Also Present: Siobhan Koch, Library Director
Anne Puppò, Manager of Administrative Services
Staff
Public

Absent: Seth Johnson, Vice President
Kevin Williams
Mark Venis, Council Liaison

MINUTES: A motion was made by Mayor Andes, seconded by Ms. Baumann, and carried to approve the minutes from September 11, 2025, and order them filed. A voice vote indicated all present in favor with no opposition expressed and Ms. Breder and Ms. Gerhardt abstaining.

TREASURER'S REPORT: A motion was made by Ms. Gerhardt, seconded by Ms. Breder, and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report for the period ending September 30, 2025 and approve payment of bills on the Bill Lists dated September 30, 2025 and October 9, 2025.

Duarte-Y ; Johnson-Absent ; Gerhardt-Y ; Baumann-Y ; Williams-Absent ; Andes-Y ; Breder-Y

CORRESPONDENCE:

- No correspondence.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Siobhan reviewed highlights from her October 9, 2025 Director's Report.
 - The director attended numerous meetings in September.

- Baker and Taylor update – Received word on 9/30 that the acquisition of B&T by ReaderLink fell through. Received word on 10/6 that B&T has let go of slightly over 500 employees and that they will shutter the business as of 12/31/25. They were our main source for purchasing books. No word yet on orders that we placed that still haven't come in which is hundreds of titles. We are currently working on finding other options for purchasing books.
- Once circulation assistant is still on leave and the children's assistant has returned from leave.
- Andy Smethurst resigned from the Temporary Circulation Assistant Position as of 10/4/25.
- PT Adult Services and Temporary Circulation Position have been posted.
- The Library will be closed on 10/17 for Staff Training. The training will be with Officer Sandman and Sgt Duda covering Situational Awareness/Active Shooter Training, Douglas Zucker covering Harrassment and Patron Privacy, Julie Totten from the Harms Reduction Program providing Narcan training and Marissa Martinelli from Main hosting Main Trivia. We will then have time for debriefing and staff discussions at the end of the day. Lunch will be provided.
- September 4 – Encore came to look at the Fire System and see why we kept getting alerts that there was trouble. They sent a quote to the town for the part that needs replacing and John has confirmed the PO has been made and the part is on order.
- September 9 – Sign installed.
- September 19 – John Ciardi is working on getting a book bin just for the library discards. It would be placed next to the Historical Society's shed.
- September 26 – Issue with the changing room table in the woman's room where it will not stay closed. It seems to be hydraulic and it's no longer holding. John has put in the request with Melissa for a new changing table that is as similar as he could find to the one that we have.
- October 1 – Beautification planted new plants/flowers around the sign.
- September 9 – Alerted that the Library website is showing a lot of failed attempts to login. They recommended adding WordFence so that there is a two factor authentication. We have installed this for our website now.
- Main moved the TBS station from the delivery desk computer to the reference desk computer. We did have one issue after this but otherwise it seems to be working much better. We had been having constant issues of needing to turn the computer off and on and losing print jobs.
- Take and Make Crafts – 771 kits distributed.
- Fall storytimes have started.
- Sunday Funday – Build a Moose and Crafts – Ages 4-10 – 9/14 – 48 attendess
- Saturday – Duck Decorating Party! – Museum Patio – 9/20 – 76 attendees
- Storytimes, craft kits, outreach and adult programming (virtual and in person) continue.
- The new Adult French Conversation Group has been well attended.
- Spice Club – 9/25 – 32 pickups
- September 9 – Received the \$500 check from Main for ALA expenses.
- Programs - Disaster Smart: How to Prepare for Natural Disasters presented by Wesley Sharples, OEM Coordinator for Denville, are scheduled for 10/22 and 10/29.

MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORTS (Statistical Report & Reference/Digital Resources Statistics Report):

- Statistical Report
 - No questions or comments.

- Reference & Digital Resources Statistics
 - No questions or comments.

OLD BUSINESS

- Building Update
 - Was discussed in the Director's Report.

PUBLIC

Rich Gawel, 5 Hilltop Trail, Denville, NJ, 07834:

Praised the Library especially for the Banned Books Display. Raised a question about the reconsideration Policy

The Director explained the reconsideration policy.

Trisha Jarrach, 5 Hilltop Trail, Denville, NJ, 07834:

Raised a concern over the display sign being taken down in the Teen section.

Maryellen Liddy, Denville Library Youth Services Supervisor:

Raised a concern over the display sign being taken down in the Teen section and the reconsideration policy not being followed.

Patrick Bieger, 169 Morris Ave, Denville, NJ, 07834:

Raised a concern over why the reconsideration policy was not followed.

Ariel Hahn-Rhinesmith, Denville Library Circulation Assistant:

Raised a concern on the display sign being removed in the Teen section.

Kaden DeRitter, Denville Library Page:

Raised a concern over the display sign being removed in the Teen section.

Alex Fagundez, 5 Cherokee Trail, Denville, NJ, 07834:

Raised a concern over the display sign being removed in the Teen section.

Mare Dowson, 5 Cherokee Trail, Denville, NJ, 07834:

Raised a concern over the display sign being removed in the Teen section.

Carlos Duarte, Board President, closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mayor Andes:

Responded to the concerns, explaining that he made a mistake, Maryellen called him on it, and he corrected his actions.

Carlos Duarte, Library Board of Trustees President:

Responded to the concerns by apologizing for his part in it.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Proposed 2026 Holidays and BOT Meeting Dates
 - The dates were discussed but can not be voted on until the Union Contract is finalized.
- Main Board of Director's Letter to Denville Board of Trustees and Main Annual Report
 - The consortium continues to increase in size.
 - The benefits of being a member of the consortium are detailed in the annual report.
- Library Front Lawn
 - The Mayor and John Ciardi are working with the Beautification Committee on ideas.
 - Possibly a Boy Scout project.
- Change to TruView Practice and Pricing
 - TruView to implement AI-based document authentication tool (TCAT) as standard practice when collecting employment or education documentation.
 - TCAT is \$10 per document authentication but will be incurred only 20% or less of the time since 80% of verifications are achieved through primary sources first.
 - Would need to opt out by November 1, 2025 if not interested.
 - All board members were in agreement to add TCAT.
- MCST Proposal
 - MCST would like to partner with the Library.
 - They are looking to have the Library come to them two Fridays a month to collaborate with the students in the Education and Learning Academy.
 - The Library will handle the registration and marketing while the students will conduct the programs with our supervision.

A voice vote indicated all present in favor as long as JIF approved with no opposition expressed

- Unemployment Claim
 - Unemployment claim was explained and clarified.
- 2024 Audit
 - The 2024 audit will be discussed and voted on at the next board meeting, November 13, 2025.
- Resignation - Andrew Smethurst 10/4/25

A motion was made by Ms. Gerhardt, seconded by Ms. Baumann, and carried to approve the resignation of Andrew Smethurst as of October 4, 2025.

Duarte-Y ; Johnson-Absent ; Gerhardt-Y ; Baumann-Y ; Williams-Absent ; Andes-Y ; Breder-Y

- EANJ (Employers Association of New Jersey)
 - Discussed EANJ services and benefits.

- Chef Nico's TikTok was discussed. He will be participating in the Trunk or Treat and can advertise his TikTok page.
- One of our current displays is Banned Books.

CLOSED SESSION:

- A motion was made by Ms. Gerhardt, seconded by Ms. Baumann, and carried to go into Closed Session to discuss union negotiations and a legal matter at 8:16 pm. A voice vote indicated all present in favor.
 - Union negotiations discussed.
 - Legal matter discussion.
- A motion was made by Ms. Gerhardt, seconded by Ms. Baumann, and carried to go out of Closed Session at 9:43 pm. A voice vote indicated all present in favor.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION:

- No action needed.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Ms. Gerhardt, seconded by Ms. Baumann, to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 pm. A voice vote indicated all present in favor with no opposition expressed.

Ms. Baumann, Secretary