

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CRESSKILL PUBLIC LIBRARY
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Beryl Skog on Monday, July 20, 2026. The meeting was properly noticed according to the Open Public Meeting Act.

THOSE ATTENDING

Present: Trustee members Mrs. Beryl Skog (1), Mrs. Bobbi Bauer (3), Mr. Andrew Bolson (3), Mrs. Elizabeth Cleary, Mr. Saverio Costa (1), Mr. Les Kaplan (1) and Mrs. Julie Kim (1).

Also present: Mrs. Laura Chumas, Library Director

Absent: Trustee member Ms. Jessica Parsons (2)

MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting on June 15, 2026, were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Kaplan and seconded by Mrs. Cleary to approve the minutes as submitted.

Roll Call: Yes – Trustee members Skog, Bauer, Bolson, Cleary, Costa, Kaplan and Kim.

No – None

Absent – Trustee member Parsons

Abstain – None

Motion adopted.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Board reviewed the Treasurer’s Report and the Expense Spreadsheet presented by Mrs. Chumas for the month of July. The 30 bills totaling \$72,965.50 were reviewed. Mrs. Chumas noted that the budget looks great and they may be able to move some funds into the capital account in September. This will be added to the agenda for the September meeting. Mr. Kaplan asked about an interest-bearing account and Mrs. Chumas advised that it was not available for business accounts.

A motion was made by Mrs. Cleary and seconded by Mr. Bolson to file the Treasurer’s Reports for audit and pay the bills on the bill lists.

Roll Call: Yes – Trustee members Skog, Bauer, Bolson, Cleary, Costa, Kaplan and Kim.

No – None

Absent – Trustee member Parsons

Abstain – None

Motion adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

Landscaping Project

Mrs. Chumas advised that the proposal from H2M Architects and Engineers is significantly lower than the proposal from LAN Associates. LAN designs and specifies underground sprinklers which are not included in the proposal from H2M. Mrs. Chumas spoke with H2M's references and sent the proposal to the library's attorney for review. Mrs. Bauer asked for a copy of the proposal so the board could review it and approval it at the September meeting. The resolution has been tabled pending answers to Mrs. Chumas's 2 questions and contract review by H2M's attorney.

HVAC System

Mrs. Chumas noted that the air conditioning works well except for the programming room and the back room. The vendor, JMC Service, has been responsive and will be coming back tomorrow. The work is not under warranty, but she expects it to be done at no cost to the library.

Resolution 2026-01 – Bylaws

Resolution 2026-01 – Resolution to Amend the Bylaws so that members can vote remotely by electronic communication. This was previously tabled at the last meeting since everyone on the Board was not present to vote. Not all members were present at this meeting, but Mrs. Chumas noted that the Bylaws may be amended, without prior notice, by a majority vote of all members of the Board provided written notice of the proposed amendment shall have been mailed to all members at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which such action is proposed to be taken. Mrs. Chumas will follow these instructions prior to the September meeting.

Resolution 2026-07 – Policies & Procedure Manual

Mrs. Chumas reviewed the Policies & Procedures Manual and noted that 2 corrections are needed: remove the reference to stairwell on page 7 and add that an AED is available on page 28. Staff are not expected to give aid. There was a difference of opinion regarding first aid and Mrs. Chumas will discuss this further at her safety meeting on Wednesday.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Chumas presented her Library Director's Report for the month of July to the Board. Some of the issues in her report were previously discussed during the meeting.

Library Attendance and Circulation

Mrs. Chumas said the attendance and circulation numbers look good. There were 80 attendees for the summer reading kickoff event and over 100 children signed up for the summer reading program which is a record. The Cresskill Pool Manager requested story time at the pool. The staffer who would likely do this is sensitive to light so Mrs. Cleary asked if another staffer could do it and Mrs. Chumas offered to do it. She will also ask for a staffer volunteer. Mrs. Chumas reminded everyone to read the revised Policies &

Procedures Manual, especially the Privacy Statement. She noted that children must be at least 11 years old to be left unattended at the library and per the Code of Conduct, only service dogs per ADA are permitted in the library. There is a difference between service dogs and support animals.

ESL Program

The ESL training workshops are all online. There are 40 people on the waiting list. Going forward there will be 1 tutor per 2-3 students which is what most libraries do.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Craft Fair and Art Show, held on June 6, raised about \$2,500. The town-wide garage sale will take place in October.

TRUSTEE EDUCATION UPDATE

Ms. Darlene Swistock, BCCLS Office and liaison to the BCCLS Trustee Development Committee gave a quick update on the status of CE requirements. The NJ State Library had changed the CE requirements from 7 hours per library board per year to 2 hours per trustee per year, but it was not communicated until the spring and there was a lot of confusion about what counted for CE credit and when the change would take effect. As a result, the new CE requirements will now take effect in 2027. She also explained that BCCLS Trustee Development Committee and the BCCLS office supports trustees through formal professional development events, informal trustee roundtables (opportunities for trustees to talk with their peers in a confidential setting, both forums earn CE credit), the trustee mentorship program and the Trustee Talk quarterly newsletter. She gave Mrs. Chumas a folder filled with BCCLS resources that was given to trustees who attended a trustee regional listening session with Dave Hanson in the spring.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held at 7:00 PM on Monday, September 21, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Bolson and seconded by Mr. Kaplan to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM.

All in favor. None opposed. Motion adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Swistock
Acting Recording Secretary