

Bedford Free Public Library
Library Trustees Minutes
Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 7:00 PM

In attendance: Gyasi Burks-Abbott, Padma Choudry, Rachel Field, Renae Nichols, Elizabeth Hacala, Mike Pulizzi, Emily Prince (minutes)

Other attendees: Jaclyn Powers, Library Director; Alyssa Staples, Assistant Director, Dot Bergin, Bedford Citizen; members of the public.

Call to Order: Padma Choudry called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. All members of the Board were in attendance.

Public Comments: None

Secretary's Report from January 20, 2026

Rachel Field moved to accept the Secretary's Report from January 20, 2026 as submitted. Elizabeth Hacala seconded. Motion passed. Vote: 6-0-0.

Director's Report

Hiring Update: Jaclyn Powers provided a hiring update. Ran Cronin accepted the Head of Tech Services position and will be starting in mid-March.

No applications have been received for the custodial position, which is a non-union position that is not eligible for overtime. Many candidates rely on the overtime compensation. The hiring process is taking longer than hoped. There is a part-time reference librarian position, which has gotten lots of interest. Jaclyn is still trying to find the right person for the role.

Statistics: There was a discussion of how to best display the circulation and programming statistics. Jaclyn will modify the presentation of the data to reflect the year over year month comparison.

FY2027 Budget: The FY2026 library budget has been submitted to the Finance Committee and Select Board. While not yet formally approved, there are no concerns with the budget.

The Librarians Screening: Jaclyn is organizing a screening of *The Librarians*. The cost will be paid for by the Friends of Bedford Library. Screening logistics such as timing and having a moderated discussion were discussed. There was consensus that a moderator who is unaffiliated with the library would be ideal.

Motion to Approve Director's Report: Renae Nichols moved to approve the Director's Report; Mike Pulizzi seconded. Motion passed. Vote: 6-0-0.

Strategic Plan Update

Jaclyn provided an update on the strategic plan, which has been her primary focus this month. She noted that the focus groups have concluded, which marks the end of the data

collection phase. While there was not a specific non-user focus group, several non-users participated. There was a very small teen focus group.

Jaelyn is currently analyzing the data and will have a draft plan in April for the Board of Trustees to review. The Board will vote on the final version in June. The strategic plan should be finalized and approved in June so it can go into effect July 1, 2026.

Update Regarding Proposed Changes to Charter & Bylaws

Terrence Parker noted that the draft charter amendment was under the Select Board's review. The Select Board has not yet voted on the FY2026 Annual Town Meeting warrant. The Trustees discussed that the current charter amendment. It was noted that the current draft does not include proposed changes discussed at the February 9, 2026, Select Board meeting and the February 2, 2026, Board of Health meeting. Several proposed amendments were made at the February 2 and February 9 meetings that the Trustees would like to be included in the charter amendment.

Padma Choudry noted that the Trustees would like Anderson Krieger to provide an explanation of their conflicting opinion between 2019 and 2025.

It was agreed that Padma Choudry will provide draft language on behalf of the Library Trustees to the Town Manager and Select Board.

Elizabeth Hacala requested to pause the Charter & Bylaw Amendment discussion and move on to the policies. The Trustees discussed the two policies on the agenda and then returned to the Charter & Bylaw Amendment discussion.

The Select Board will be voting on the warrant on Monday, February 23, 2026. The Trustees reviewed the proposed amendment language and discussed changes they would like incorporated. Rachel Field moved that Chair Padma Choudry and Vice Chair Emily Prince submit a revised draft to Town Manager, Matt Hanson, and Select Board Chair, Paul Mortenson, that reflects the changes agreed upon by the Board of Trustees; Mike Pulizzi seconded. Motion passed. Vote: 6-0-0.

Posting/Distributing Materials Policy

Jaelyn Powers incorporated the recommended changes arising from the prior discussion and presented to the Board. Several clarifications were offered. Elizabeth Hacala moved to approve the Posting/Distributing Materials policy as amended. Mike Pulizzi seconded. Motion passed. Vote: 6-0-0.

Security Camera Policy

The Board reviewed the Security Camera Policy and offered several minor changes and points of clarification. Gyasi Burks-Abbott moved to approve the Security Camera Policy as amended. Renae Nichols seconded. Motion passed. Vote: 6-0-0.

Adjournment

Elizabeth Hacala moved to adjourn; Emily Prince seconded. Motion passed. Vote: 6-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 7:00 pm.