

**Bedford Free Public Library**  
**Library Trustees Agenda**  
**Tuesday, April 14, 2026**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Zoom / In-person**

**In attendance:** Gyasi Burks-Abbott, Padma Choudry, Rachel Field, Alison Jimerson, Brandon Hall, Elizabeth Hacala, Emily Prince (minutes)

**Other attendees:** Jaclyn Powers, Library Director; Alyssa Staples, Assistant Director;

**Call to Order:** Padma Choudry called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**Public Comments:** None

***Secretary's Report from March 10, 2026***

Alison Jimerson moved to accept the Secretary's Report from March 10, 2026. Brandon Hall seconded. Motion passed. Vote: 7-0-0.

***Director's Report***

Jaclyn Powers highlighted the following items in the April Director's Report.

- The Library received very positive feedback from Lexington residents who came to Bedford while the Lexington library was closed for renovation.
- Jaclyn Powers recently attended a Commission on Disabilities meeting and is collaborating with Erin Doerr in Facilities on a municipal ADA grant to enhance website accessibility. The grant will be submitted in May 2026; Bedford will be notified whether they receive it in November 2026.
- The elevator repair is underway. Ron Scaltreto, Director of Facilities is overseeing the project. The piston repair will take up to five weeks. There is an environmental removal process that will require the library's closure; however, the timeline is not currently known.
- Friends of Bedford Free Public Library Spring sale occurred April 9, 2026 – April 12, 2026. Attendance seemed lower than prior sales, as there were a lot of leftover books. Jaclyn Powers noted that a Memorandum of Understanding between BFPL and the Friends of BFPL should be established to clarify expectations, roles and responsibilities of library staff and the Friends.
- The custodial department is fully staffed. Ronnie McGee, Maintenance Supervisor, started on April 13, 2026. He has an Occupational Safety and Health Administration background.
- Susan Voet, part-time Children's Librarian, is retiring at the end of the month. The position is posted, and interviews are underway. The library will be fully staffed once this position is hired.

Elizabeth Hacala moved to approve the April Director's Report; Rachel Field seconded. Motion passed. Vote: 7-0-0.

***Strategic Plan Update***

Jaelyn Powers provided an overview of the evolution of the Mission and Vision of the FY2027 Strategic Plan. The Mission and Vision should be broad and endure over time. She provided three iterations of the Mission and Vision and explained the rationale for revisions. Specifically, she explained the distinction between the discovering and learning. Libraries offer tools, genres, formats, etc. to be discovered by patrons. Learning occurs through using the resources to expand one's knowledge. The Mission and Vision underscores that there should be no expectations – the library should be available to everyone to come and sit without purpose.

In June, the Board will review and vote on the final draft of the Strategic Plan.

Alison Jimerson moved to approve version three of the Mission and Vision. Brandon Hall seconded. Motion passed. Vote: 7-0-0.

### ***Update Regarding Proposed Changes to Charter & Bylaws***

Padma Choudry thanked the Trustees for attending and advocating in favor of Article 26 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. She provided an overview of the Article 26 discussion. The Select Board Chair introduced an amendment on the floor removing the hiring, firing and supervision of the Library Director from the Board of Trustee's authority. The floor amendment was overwhelmingly rejected, and Article 26 was resoundingly approved.

There was consensus among the Board that a Trustee should sit on the Charter & Bylaw Review Committee when the next review occurs.

### **Remaining 2026 and calendar 2027 holiday schedules**

The Board reviewed and voted on the FY2026 and FY2027 holiday calendar.

Elizabeth Hacala moved to approve the calendar as presented; Gyasi Burks-Abbott seconded. Motion passed. Vote: 7-0-0.

### ***Adjournment***

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, to discuss the FY2026 Year-End Evaluation of the Library Director. A second meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, which will include Board reorganization on the agenda.

Rachel Field moved to adjourn; Alison Jimerson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm. Motion passed. Vote: 7-0-0.