

**Bedford Free Public Library**  
**Library Trustees Agenda**  
**Tuesday, March 10, 2026**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Zoom**

**Join the Zoom Webinar:**

Webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81639242953>

Telephone: 646-931-3860

Webinar ID: 816 3924 2953

**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; Terrence Parker, Select Board Liaison; Dot Bergin, Bedford Citizen; members of the public.

**Call to Order:** Emily Prince called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Padma Choudry arrived shortly thereafter and assumed role as chair prior to discussion of the Secretary's Report.

**Public Comments:** None

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

Rachel Field moved to accept the Secretary's Report from February 10, 2026. Renae Nichols seconded. Motion passed. Vote: 7-0-0.

***Director's Report***

Jaclyn Powers provided the following updates:

- The FY2027 library budget was approved by the Finance Committee.
- The library is no longer operating at a deficit due to the two staff vacancies. It is anticipated that the library will break even.
- The custodial position is still vacant and proving difficult to fill.

Padma Choudry reported that the Eddie Ahn event was well attended and received positive feedback. The library would like to partner with Lif Books on future speaker series.

The Librarians documentary is scheduled for Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 pm. Rebecca Green Neale will facilitate a discussion following the screening. There is an option to view the documentary online, however, those accessing remotely are unable to participate in the discussion.

***Motion to Approve Director's Report:*** Mike Pulizzi moved to approve the Director's Report; Gyasi Burks-Abbott seconded. Motion passed. Vote: 7-0-0.

***Strategic Plan Update***

Jaelyn Powers provided an update on the strategic plan, noting that all data has been reviewed and analyzed. She and Alyssa Staples are in the process of developing the draft strategic plan. They will send the proposed mission and vision statements, strategic plan goals and objectives to the consultant and Board of Trustees for feedback in advance of the April meeting. The goal is for the entire draft to be discussed and approved at the May meeting. This will allow changes to be incorporated and the final version to be approved in June and go into effect July 1, 2026.

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

Padma Choudry provided an update on Article 26 of the Warrant which clarifies that the hiring, firing and supervision of the Library Director (and Superintendent) are excluded from the Town Manager's authority. It was noted that the warrant language incorporated some, but not all, of the Trustee's proposed changes. Appreciation was expressed for Select Board member, Terrence Parker, the liaison to the Trustees, who advocated in support of excluding the Library Director from the Town Manager's purview.

There was extensive discussion over whether to support Article 26 of the warrant. It was noted that in the event Article 26 does not pass, the Town Manager has hiring, firing and supervisory authority over the Library Director and Superintendent. The Trustees discussed strategies for publicizing the issue and their position in advance of town meeting. After thoughtful deliberation, the Trustees reached a consensus to support Article 26 of the Town Warrant.

### ***Adjournment***

As it was the final meeting before the March 14 election, the Board expressed appreciation for Renae Nichols and Mike Pulizzi's service and commitment to the library. Renae Nichols moved to adjourn; Mike Pulizzi seconded. Motion passed. Vote: 6-0-0. Elizabeth Hacala left the meeting prior to adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 7:00 pm.