**ENGLEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**May 19, 2025**

Call to Order 7:33 pm

**Roll Call**

| **Trustees** | **Present** | **Absent** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Nina Nanasi, President | X |  |
| Debra Trachtenberg, Vice President |  | X |
| Devry Pazant, Treasurer | X (7:40) |  |
| Howard Haughton, Secretary |  | X |
| Mark Schwartz | X |  |
| Karen Maas | X |  |
| Flor Ramirez |  | X |
| Stacey Rosenzweig | X |  |
| Gina Edone, School Superintendent’s Alternate | X |  |

**Minutes**

Mrs. Maas made a motion to approve the Minutes from the January Board of Trustee Meetings, seconded by Dr. Rosenzweig. Mrs. Nanasi, Abstained. Approved.

**Reports**

**Treasurer’s Report**

Dr. Rosenzweig made a motion to approve theTreasurer’s Reports and the bill list for January, seconded by Mrs. Nanasi. Approved.

**Directors Report**

Ms. Senedzuk shared; April came and went quickly as we prepared for the renovations. Programming has been pared down and is moving to alternate and virtual spaces. Reminders of the renovations have been shared with the community and we appreciate their patience as we embark on this exciting transition into our reimagined library.

Kate spoke with Carole Rauscher from the Chamber of Commerce and regretfully had to decline an apprentice this summer due to the renovations. We are looking forward to hosting a student again in Summer of 2026.

A site visit from the State of New Jersey, for our CPF grant, is slated for Tuesday, June 16, 2025 at 10:30 AM.

On Tuesday, June 10, 2025 the Library will be a polling place in the primary. We have confirmation from our contractor that the Mackay room will be able to be used on election day.

We received notice that a trust from the estate of Marilyn Umlas Wachtel has been dedicated to the Englewood Public Library in the amount of $25,000. We are honored to receive these funds.

Friends of the library had their annual book sale, they raised over $9,000, and will have a follow up “bag sale” on May 18 to further clear out their

Spoke with the elevator maintenance company about replacing the floor in the elevator post renovation. The linoleum tile floor has not been updated in many years, a refresh will compliment our renovations.

The fire lanes and parking stall lines have been repainted. There are a few portions that are left due to the change in the weather. They will be coming back to complete the project. A special thank you to Miles and Caesar for their excellent work.

Limbach had site visits to assess the current boiler system for our upgrades.Follow up visits are scheduled and date for work to be done pending. Reiner came to repair the damaged compressor, as it is not part of upgrades from Limbach and the PSE&G grant.

In preparation for the upcoming April book releases, Selim refreshed the new book section by removing older titles to make space for the latest arrivals. I also installed new mobile displays in the new section. Sleim also ensured that all monthly circulation reports and statistics were submitted on time. These updates have contributed to a noticeable increase in checkouts, with a particularly strong uptick in museum pass circulation as well.

On April 17, 2025, Kriste deRuiter and Selim Likovic attended the webinar Booklist: Memorable Manga. Later in the month, on April 24, the library hosted its adult book club, where members discussed

Dava Shastri’s Last Day by Kirthana Ramisetti. The Friends of the Library held their annual book sale from April 25 to April 27. That same day, April 25, Kriste deRuiter participated in the “Penguin Book Buzz” meeting at the Hoboken Library. On April 29, she also attended the webinar Canva 201: Design Tips & Tricks to Create Eye-Catching Materials.

Our first Kid Librarian of the Month made his debut in April. Seven year old Ethan was very excited to be chosen and eagerly picked the books for his display. A child with a variety of interests and a love for non-fiction, he had quite a wide ranging selection of materials which proved popular with other kids and got borrowed fairly quickly. Ethan came in with his dad one day so that he could show him his display and bio sheet.

We held our first Minecraft Day which turned out to be a big success. Children took turns playingMinecraft Dungeons, and also enjoyed making pixel art swords and characters. Many of the children went on to do the Minecraft scavenger hunt which was taking place in the CR thatweek. The latter made for a very lively and noisy Friday afternoon as we had lots of kids running around trying to spot the hidden images before closing time. It was one of our most successful hunts with around 50 people participating over the course of the week.

Students from the Dwight-Englewood School hosted a STEM workshop for students in Grades2 through 6. They chose a bridge building theme and helped kids make structures with wooden sticks and different types of candy. At the end of the program the structures were tested by placing items of differing weights on them. As a bonus, kids got to eat their candy.

Planning for summer continued. Flyers and reading logs were made, weekly badges were designed, and numerous supplies (charms, beads, decorations etc.) were ordered. Books seemed to fly off our shelves this month, particularly the new ones. Despite receiving a few boxes from Baker & Taylor and getting those books out promptly, our display spaces were soon quite empty. Popular series books also could not be kept on the shelf. By David Marks Accounts, they are especially favorites of our Sunday patrons.

Michelle attended the webinar Mental Illness Short Course: High-Risk andLow-Risk Situations, by Ryan Dowd and shared what was learned with the rest of the staff.

**Committee Reports**

**Buildings and Grounds**

Dr. Rosenzweig shared; We received a start date from Vanco of May 13th. With 150 days of construction (no weekends or holidays) this would get us at least to Dec. 9th. The construction will start with the bathrooms on the lower level.

We have already started notifying the public through emails and our website. The Children’s area will not be closed during this time as far as we know right now. We are still in talks with the city manager about repairing the roof and figuring out a way to prevent further flooding.

We received a message from the CPF Grant manager that there is an additional $3M in funds that they intend to distribute proportionally to all the grantees who are able and willing to accept the additional grant funds. GREAT NEWS! We are planning to respond YES to accepting the funds which should be around an additional $230,000. We are allowed to allocate it to construction and furniture so we are working that out now. We should find out next month exactly what we will receive.

On May 13th we had a meeting with the Whalen group to review design plans and start to finalize the scope of work for them.

Our contract with Reiner ended on 4/30/25. We reached out to 3 additional HVAC companies who came and checked our system and gave the quotes for maintaining our system.The Buildings and Grounds Committee recommends that we stay with Reiner for the year through the renovations. They know our system and will be able to hopefully maintain it better with the new boilers and (hopefully) new chiller. If we are unhappy, we can chart the issues and seek a new HVAC provider next year.

**Personnel**

None.

**School Report**

Mrs. Edone is pleased to share highlights from the Englewood Public School District's recent community engagement initiatives and provide an overview of the district-wide implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) during April and May 2025. Thank you very much for the beautiful chairs they are in our Media Center!

Parent University – May 13, 2025 On May 13, 2025, EPSD hosted Parent University at Dr. John Grieco Elementary School, an evening dedicated to student success, family engagement, and community connection. The event featured:

Dinner & Keynote on i-Ready Math: From 4:45–6:00 PM, attendees enjoyed a complimentary dinner sponsored by the Englewood Teachers Association, followed by a keynote presentation introducing the new i-Ready Math program launching in September 2025.

Community Hub Tables: Between 6:00–6:30 PM, families explored tables offering valuable local resources.

Engaging Workshops: Two workshop sessions (6:40–7:15 PM and 7:20–7:55 PM) provided insights into supporting children's learning journeys.

Child Care & Giveaways: Child care was available for EPSD students, and attendees participated in raffles and received giveaways.The evening was filled with excitement, collaboration, and community spirit as families, educators, and local partners came together to support student success.

Algebra Project Family Math Night – May 6, 2025 EPSD hosted the Algebra Project Family Math Night on May 6, 2025, bringing together families, students, and educators for an evening of fun, learning, and interactive math games. Highlights included:

Interactive Math Games: Participants engaged in various math games and problem-solving activities.The Stacking Game: A highlight of the evening, where teams showcased their problem-solving skills and teamwork to build the tallest and most stable structures.The event fostered a love for mathematics and strengthened community bonds.

NJSLA Implementation District-WideThe Englewood Public School District continues its commitment to academic excellence through the implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA). Key aspects of the district-wide implementation include:(Englewood Public School District)

Curriculum Alignment: The district's Curriculum & Instruction department ensures that teaching strategies and materials are aligned with NJSLA standards to promote student success.(Englewood Public School District)

Data Analysis and Performance Monitoring: EPSD regularly reviews NJSLA performance data to identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement. These analyses inform instructional practices and resource allocation.

Family Engagement: Recognizing the importance of family involvement, the district hosts informational sessions to educate parents and guardians about NJSLA assessments, helping them support their children's academic progress.

For more detailed information on NJSLA implementation and related resources, please visit the EPSD Curriculum & Instruction page.(Englewood Public School District)

Community Engagement Highlights Boots & Bling Line Dancing Block Party (May 1): Winton White Stadium hosted a vibrant evening of music, movement, and community spirit.

Morning Drop-Off Meet & Greets (May 5 & 7): Superintendent Dr. Marnie Hazelton connected with families at D.A. Quarles Early Childhood Center and Dr. Leroy McCloud Elementary School.

We appreciate the Englewood Public Library's continued support in promoting educational initiatives and look forward to future collaborations that benefit our community.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

Mrs. Maas made a motion to approve the awarding of the annual HVAC contract to Reiner, seconded by Mr. Pazant. Approved.

**Adjournment**

At 8:28 pm, Mr. Pazant made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Rosenzweig. Approved.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 16, 2025, 7:30pm, Directors Office