

# Berks County Public Libraries Board of Directors Hybrid Meeting Minutes

**Date:** February 18, 2026

**Time:** 7:00PM

**Location:** Large Conference Room and virtual (Zoom). System Headquarters.

## Attendees

### **Board Members Present:**

Dr. Debbie Noel - President; Arleny Pimentel – Secretary; Mary Ellen Wells – Treasurer; Jason Brudereck; Ryan Breisch; Robb Walters

### **Board Members Present Online:**

Helen Flynn - Vice President

### **Board Members Absent:**

### **System Staff Present:**

Stephanie Williams, Library System Administrator; Jeff Smilko, Technology Coordinator

### **District Staff Present:**

Becky Wanamaker, District Consultant

### **Advisory Committee Members Present In Person:**

- Betsy Reifsnyder, Bernville Community Library
- Ruth Perkins, Friends of BCPL

### **Advisory Committee Members Present Online Via Zoom:**

- Jason E. Wenrich, Bernville Community Library
- Mike Najarian, Bethel-Tulpehocken Library
- Ashley Hoffman, Boone Area Library
- Nicole Sapna, Boone Area Library
- Rachel Stewart, Boone Area Library
- Tina Delorey Brown, Boyertown Community Library

- Melissa Hartman, Brandywine Community Library
- Mariel Jordan, Exeter Community Library
- Julie Marburger, Exeter Community Library
- Alexa Cooney, Fleetwood Area Public Library
- Dorothy Brobst, Hamburg Public Library
- Chelsea Williams, Hamburg Public Library
- Janet Yost, Kutztown Community Library
- Jacqueline Sharayko, Kutztown Community Library
- Kristine Bonfitto, Mifflin Community Library
- Gabriele Ulmer, Muhlenberg Community Library
- Karen Schreiber, Muhlenberg Community Library
- Bernadette Berrios, Reading Public Library
- Jerry Richter, Reading Public Library
- Ken Bright, Robeson Community Library
- Christie Brown, System Headquarters
- Chris Thomas, Schuylkill Valley Community Library
- Keith Martin, Schuylkill Valley Community Library
- Ben Robitzer, Sinking Spring Public Library
- Elizabeth Beilhart, Spring Township Library Association
- Tanner Cosgrave, Village Library of Morgantown
- Sarah Evans, Wernersville Public Library

## Call to Order

Dr. Deborah Noel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Board members introduced themselves by answering the question: “What was one book you read as a child that influenced your reading today?”

Jason Brudereck presented the 2026 BCPL Board Officers:

President- Dr. Deborah Noel

Vice President- Helen Flynn

Secretary- Arleny Pimentel

Treasurer- Mary Ellen Wells

Helen Flynn moved that the Board approve the 2026 BCPL Board Officers as presented. Ryan Walters seconded. The Board Officers were unanimously approved.

## Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Noel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Public Comment

In-person comments: There were no in-person comments.

Virtual comments: There were no virtual comments.

## Approval of Minutes

Jason Brudereck moved that the Board approve the minutes from November 19, 2025. Mary Ellen Wells seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

## Treasurer's Report

Mary Ellen Wells noted the following in her report:

### **2025 End of Year Report:**

In our department's budget, you'll see accounts highlighted in yellow that were part of the 3% budget diet request we received from County leadership. All of the remaining \$59,625.44 in departmental funds at the end of 2025 were returned to the County's general fund.

In the County Coordination Aid budget, it appears we overspent by \$1,256.78; however an invoice was coded incorrectly. A journal entry will be completed by the Controller's Office to make the necessary corrections to show we fully expended our 2025 County Coordination Aid funds as expected.

### **February 2026 Budget:**

Our department's budget is progressing as expected through the first quarter of this year. In the 2026 County Coordination Aid budget, you will see we received an increase for a total of \$371,462 in funds this year. This budget is also progressing as expected through the first quarter of this year.

Arleny Pimentel moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Jason Brudereck seconded. The report was approved by unanimous vote.

## Correspondence

We received the following correspondence:

We received correspondence on January 27, 2026 from Mike Reilly, State Aid Administrator of the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, that the Office of Commonwealth Libraries will be implementing a change to the State Aid Library Subsidy Application (SALSA).

Member libraries of a Federated System will now apply through their system administration and no longer apply for state aid individually. Federated System Administrations will be the only entity completing the application portion of the SALSA. This will be the first step in transitioning to

the new application process for systems. A virtual training will be provided on March 10, 2026 for System Administrations to highlight these changes:

- Submitting financial documents for the administration/overall system
- Submitting a waiver(s) for the entire system if any member library or system standard is not met:
  - During the transition, both the administration and member libraries will submit waiver applications. This will allow systems to see what member libraries are lacking and how to incorporate that into the system's application, if necessary.
  - Within the next 2 years, member libraries will no longer be responsible for submitting a waiver application. Following that time period, waiver applications will be the sole responsibility of the system.
  - The review of the waiver applications will take this transition into account. We will work with systems to develop responses in a similar way that we did when the waiver application was revamped.

## Administrator's Report

Stephanie Williams, Library System Administrator, highlighted the following items from the administrator's report:

- Collections for the Berks Book Bonanza will resume in the spring. More information is available at <https://www.berksbookbonanza.org/>
  - March 9 — June 13
  - Mondays/Tuesdays — 9:00am-12:00pm and Wednesdays — 5:00pm-7:00pm
  - NO MONDAY HOLIDAYS
  - Saturday, March 14 — 9:00am-12:00pm
  - Saturday, April 11 — 9:00am-12:00pm
  - Saturday, May 9 — 9:00am-12:00pm
  - Saturday, June 13 — 9:00am-12:00pm
- 2025 Ingram Processing Refund checks were sent to member libraries in late January. Due to increased processing costs associated with Ingram's Standing Order Plan account, Bibliographic Services discontinued use of the account in August 2025. As a result, member libraries received an Ingram Processing Refund check reflecting the cost savings from no longer utilizing this account with this vendor.

## Committee Reorganization

The Board committee members are as follows:

Nominations Committee: Jason Brudereck, Chair; Helen Flynn; Mary Ellen

Advocacy Committee: Arleny, Chair; Ryan Breisch; Robb Walters

Finance Committee: Mary Ellen Wells, Chair; Jason Brudereck; Dr. Noel

## Old Business:

### *Fleetwood Area Public Library- Compliance Plan:*

Stephanie received documentation from Logan Oxenreider, Library Director, showing 2 courses were completed as expected in December 2025. His next course will be underway in the spring semester.

### *Robesonia Community Library- Compliance Plan:*

Board Chair, Leslie Pirl-Roth provided this written update to Stephanie Williams, “Leah is taking the second of her three required courses and is on target to complete by the end of the year to fulfill compliance standards.”

### *Womelsdorf Community Library- Compliance Plan:*

Stephanie received documentation from Laurel Miller, Library Director, that her second course was completed in December 2025 as expected. Her next course will be underway in the spring semester.

## New Business:

### **Borrowing Policy Vote**

Mary Ellen Wells moved to accept the Borrowing Policy as presented. Ryan Breisch seconded. The policy was approved by unanimous vote.

### **By-Laws Draft**

A copy of the BCPL Board by-laws were submitted to the Board for voting at the May meeting.

### **2026 Funding Formula**

The Board was presented with the updated 2026 Funding Formula, which was approved in August 2026. The only change is to reflect the increase in state aid distributions. There were no changes to the formula.

## District Consultant’s Report:

Becky Wanamaker, District Consultant gave the following report:

On behalf of the Reading Library District/Reading Public Library, thanks for the support and opportunity to share about what's been happening at the district. There are two quick items to highlight:

- Annual State Reports. The library directors are very busy working to get these completed by the early March deadline, and I/we are very busy supporting them in making that happen. It's a comprehensive report, and a significant undertaking, but I assure you all of our libraries will get it accomplished!
- Upcoming DOR Events. The district's DOR (Dignity Opportunity Respect) committee has several exciting events planned for this Spring - including some Nature Stroll n' Rolls and a Holocaust Memorial Program. More details will be coming soon.

## Announcements:

- Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 6:30pm at System HQ
- 2026 Commissioners Town Hall Meetings at 6:30PM:
  - o Tuesday, 3/10/2026 at Robesonia Community Library
  - o Wednesday, 4/8/2026 at Exeter Community Library
  - o Tuesday, 5/12/2026 at Boyertown Community Library
- Next Finance Committee Meeting: May 13, 2026 at 12PM hybrid at System HQ and virtually via Zoom
- Next Advisory Board Meeting: May 20, 2026 at 7PM in-person at System HQ and virtually via Zoom

## Adjournment

Helen Flynn moved for adjournment. Mary Ellen Wells seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Arleny Pimentel  
Secretary, BCPL Board

***Upcoming Meeting Dates:  
May 20, 2026; 7:00 PM  
System Headquarters: 1040 Berks Road, Leesport PA 19533***