W. H. Walters Free Public Library
1001 East Boulevard
Alpha, NJ 08865

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Date: January 12, 2026

- The Board of Trustees Meeting for January 12, 2026 is called to order at 7:23 p.m. in the Library.
- Roll Call is taken and a Quorum is declared**.** (P=present; A=absent; E=excused)

  Susan Billera-P Ginny Boyle-P Seth Cohen-P Meghan Dragotta-P

  Mo Ferretti-P Kim Iannitto-P Joseph Schocko -P

  Holly Thomas- P

  • **Reading of the Open Public Meeting Notice by the President**

  Adequate notice of the meeting has been provided in accordance with NJ Open Public Meetings Act with the publishing of the annual calendar on our Library Bulletin Board, in the Express Times, on our website https://alphapubliclibrary.com/and in the Library.

- **Motion to approve Agenda** Motion- Seth Cohen Second- Meghan Dragotta- All in Favor
- **Motion to approve Minutes as presented** (July 21, 2025 and November 17, 2025)

  Motion- Seth Cohen Second- Susan Billera- All in Favor

- **Treasurer's Report –**
  a. Bill/Check Approval:
     September 2025- $1055.83
     October 2025- $540.80
     November 2025- $2640.78
     December 2025- $686.52
     Motion- Meghan Dragotta Second – Susan Billera Roll Call- All yes votes
  b. Budget vs. Actual
  c. Financial Report Approval: Motion- Sue Billera Second- Seth Cohen Roll call- All yes votes.

- **Library Director's Report –**

Overview: During December 2025 and the first-half of January 2026, the library continued to serve the community with regular hours, public access to materials and technology, and seasonal programming. January saw an increased use due to winter weather and the Winter Reading Programs.

Circulation & Library Use:

January 2026

Circulation Statistics	Current Month	Dec 2025 to Date	2025 Total
Items Added to Collection	13	22	440
Number of Physical Items Circulated	44	113	1,103
Hoopla/CloudLibrary Circulation	17	62	458
New Patron Registrations	0	0	41
Patrons in the Library	55	145	1,313
Interlibrary Loans (ILL)	1 req; 0 filled	2 req; 0 filled	84 req; 47 filled

Adult fiction & children's materials continue to be the most popular categories.

Public Computer & Technology Use:

Total public computer sessions: 20

December: 15

January: 6

Printing, copying, and Wi-Fi usage remained steady.

Some APS students have been doing their HW on the computers.

Library Programs:

January 2026

Programs	Number Offered Current Month	Participants Current Month	Number Offered 2025 Total	Participants 2025 Total
Children Ages 0-5	4	2	64	41
Children Ages 6-11	2	2	33	15
YA 12-17	2	0	30	10
Adult	3	2	45	56
General Interest	3	6	37	117
TOTALS:	14	12	209	239

Other 2025 Events:

Fall Festival = 150 people

Patrol Dogs = 50 people

National Night Out = 50 people

July Movie Night = 80 people

August Movie Night = 40 people

Coffee w/ cops = 30 people

Reading Party w/ the blue = 25 people

Saturday Openings:
December 6th = 0 people.
January 10th = 1 person.

Other Information:
Book orders have been placed w/ Ingram & several items have come in.
Most of the selected titles for the 2026 Book Club for Adults have come in.

Looking Ahead (February – March)
Valentine's & St. Patrick's Day themed programs.
Tax assistance information display; free 2026 tax forms have been ordered.
Planning an event w/ Mrs. Hammerstone & Anthony Goodell (chief of Phillipsburg police).
Holly is exploring options for window displays featuring book-themed imagery or literary characters to increase visibility and help identify the building as a public library.

Discussion was had about Saturday openings. Mo Forretti is going to help the Library Director with more promotion about the hours.

Holly asked about a Friends of the Library Group. Discussion was had and it was recommended to see if we have anyone interested before we look into it further.

- **School Principal's Report –**

-School had a long break.

-Memorial Day- The school is creating a Wall of Hero's. They are looking for veteran's student are familiar with to include.

- **Motion to approve all committee reports.** Motion-Sue Billera Second- Seth Cohen All in Favor

- **New Business –**
    a. New Library Policies
        a. Social Media Policy
        b. Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Policy
        c. Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Policy Acknowledgement Form
        d. Public Library Collection Development Policy
        e. Request for Removal Policy
        f. Request for Removal/Reconsideration of Library Material Form and Procedures

g. Reference and Reader's Advisory Service

Motion to approve all policies as written – Seth Cohen Second- Meghan Dragotta All in favor.

- **Next Regular Meeting is March 16, 2026 at 7:00 pm.**
- **Motion to Adjourn:** Motion- Mo Forretti Second- Seth Cohen- All in favor. Time 7:42pm