

SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, September 10, 2025

Minutes

ATTENDING

TRUSTEES: Kate Van Sleet, April Kuehnhoff, Sarah Pascarella, Anandavalli Thiagarajan, Ami Feldman, Janaki Perera, Mark Sternman,
ABSENT: Mike Smith, Carla Lillvik
DIRECTOR: Cathy Piantigini
GUEST: Maura Deedy

CALL TO ORDER

President Van Sleet called the meeting of the Library Board of Trustees to order at 6:00 pm.

MINUTES

Janaki Perera motioned to approve the minutes from June. Sarah Pascarella seconded and the minutes were unanimously adopted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Staffing update - Paused hiring efforts for a manager position. Hoping to post an opening by the end of September. Librarians are rotating to the East Branch to cover vacancies. New hire started at the West Branch. Central has no teen or children's librarians currently.
2. Many unattended belongings were left behind the West Branch. These items have now been cleaned out.
3. Central has new shelving for library holds.
4. Strategic planning work is ongoing. Survey will go live on Monday and be live until October 10. The library will also be doing some tabling related to strategic planning. Director will be speaking at City Community Meetings and will mention the strategic planning survey. The strategic planning consultant will host five virtual focus groups and also conduct 9 interviews.
5. Central library elevator was repaired.
6. No incidents to report related to teen behavior.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Libraries and schools mayoral forum was held on September 5, 2025. Collaboration between PTA Council and the Library Friends, Foundation, and Trustees. The Library Foundation sponsored the event. The organizers received about 80 suggested questions, roughly equally divided between libraries and schools. Approximately 120 people attended the forum and 344 have viewed the recording on YouTube.
2. The Friends will be doing a fundraiser at Vinal Bakery on September 14th.

COMMITTEES

1. Communications Committee - Trustees will prepare content for the fall newsletter.

GUEST

1. Library Consultant, Maura Deedy, joined to discuss her work to amend the Somerville Public Library Standards of Library Conduct.
2. New policy will clarify behavior expectations and how the library will follow through on violations.
3. Library staff are also being trained on a Patron Incident Tracking software system and will no longer be tracking incidents on paper. Allows incidents to be reported even if the person's name is not known.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and no objection, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Trustees will be held on October 8, 2025 at 6:00 pm. The open meeting will take place in the Director's Office at the Central Branch Library.

April Kuehnhoff, Secretary