

Glen Ridge Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Ridgewood Avenue School Auditorium
Wednesday, February 8th, 2023

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Geoffrey Darby, seconded by Deanna Pagano, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:02 pm. All voted Aye and the motion was passed.

A motion to go out of Executive Session was made by Jeanna Velechko, seconded by Geoffrey Darby, at 7:24 pm. All voted Aye and the motion passed.

PUBLIC SESSION

Opening Statement by the Board President:

President Carol Harpster called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. She referenced the following statement from the agenda: "Adequate notice of the date and time of this meeting has been given in accordance of the Open Public Meeting Act. Notice has been transmitted to the Glen Ridge Paper and the Glen Ridge Voice and has been posted in the Glen Ridge Municipal Building and the Glen Ridge Public Library. A list of meeting dates for the Glen Ridge Free Public Library Board of Trustees is also on file with the Glen Ridge Borough Clerk."

The President read from a prepared statement to clarify the procedures for the meeting to the 600+ members of the public in attendance:

"Welcome to the Glen Ridge Public Library Board of Trustees meeting. I am Carol Harpster, President of the Library Board and I am joined this evening by my board colleagues and our Library Director, Tina Marie Doody as well as Borough Attorney, John Malyska, who has been very helpful on a number of issues during the past few weeks. Thank you for your patience as we relocated the venue twice to safely accommodate an anticipated large crowd and allow for social distancing during this cold, flu and COVID season.

I would like to thank Board President Betsy Ginsburg, Superintendent Dirk Phillips, Administrative Assistant Louise Cox as well as Winnie Boswell and her team for helping us transition the meeting to the Ridgewood Ave School Auditorium. Additionally, thank you to the Mayor and Council and Detective Sergeant Manley for providing us with public safety officers this evening to help our meeting run safely and smoothly. And last but not least a huge thank you to each and every one of our dedicated and hard-working library staff professionals, many of whom are in attendance this evening. You keep our building and program and services running even in the most challenging times.

We have streamlined our agenda but do have some regular Board business to address, and we will do so as expeditiously as possible.

We were also informed late this afternoon that we must vacate the building by 10:30 pm so that the building can be emptied, secured and locked by 11:00 pm. That said, I will need to end public comments by around 9:15 pm in order to provide the Board with ample time to review/discuss and vote on each of the six books.

Additionally, a few housekeeping details:

- Everyone must leave by the front auditorium doors
- No one is permitted in the school hallways
- Kindly keep all signs down when the meeting begins so all can have a clear view of the Board

Kindly note that there are three public comment periods:

- The first is for any agenda item except those relating to the book challenges.
- The second is for any agenda item including book challenges.
- The third is for any topic related to our library business.
- There are sign up sheets for public comments in the rear of the auditorium. Public comments will be limited to two minutes per person per public comment period. You will be called to come up to the microphone when it is your turn. Please remember we have many students in attendance this evening.

The Board and I look forward to a productive, civil and orderly meeting. Let's make sure we treat everyone tonight with kindness and respect."

Moment of Silence for Nathan Latifi and the people who lost their lives in the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Swearing in of new Board Trustee, Tina Payne

President Carol Harpster stated that, "Tonight, the Board will issue the oath of office to our newest Board member, Tina Payne. Tina replaces Linda Seyffarth who retired after 10 years of service. Thank you, Linda! The Board conducted an open and well-advertised search, received 17 applications and recommended Tina Payne to the Mayor and Council for appointment to a five-year term of office. Tina was officially appointed at the January 23 Council meeting. We will be issuing a press release this week." Tina Payne, raising her right hand, committed to the oath of office.

Roll Call:

P	Bernice Bonnett
P	Geoffrey Darby
P	Carol Harpster
P	David Lefkovits
A	Matthew Murphy

P	Deanna Pagano
P	Tina Payne
P	Harry Rush
P	Jeanna Velechko
P	Tina Doody

Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence:

Bond Act Reallocation (from New Jersey State Library)

Director Tina Marie Doody announced that on its third review of grant candidates, the New Jersey State Library granted the Glen Ridge Public Library funds for a proposed construction project. Further details will be shared in upcoming months.

Appeal of Request for Reconsideration Forms

Updated appeal documents have been received from the requestors. As a follow-up to the six book appeals, the Director shared that 240 correspondence, both letters and emails, had been received from the public.

Public Comment (agenda items not related to book challenges):

None

Minutes:

A motion to approve the January 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes was made by David Lefkovits and seconded by Jeanna Velechko. There were 7 Ayes approving the minutes; new trustee Tina Payne abstained.

Aye	Bernice Bonnett	Aye	David Lefkovits	Abstain	Tina Payne
Aye	Geoffrey Darby	---	Matthew Murphy	Aye	Harry Rush
Aye	Carol Harpster	Aye	Deanna Pagano	Aye	Jeanna Velechko

Committee Reports:

Finance

David Lefkovits noted that the library finances would normally be discussed during the meeting in greater detail and that questions were answered by the Director during the week on an individual basis. See: Bills List (attachment A) and Treasurer's Report (attachment B).

A motion to approve the January 2023 Bills List was made by David Lefkovits and seconded by Deanna Pagano. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Aye	Bernice Bonnett	Aye	David Lefkovits	Abstain	Tina Payne
Aye	Geoffrey Darby	---	Matthew Murphy	Aye	Harry Rush
Aye	Carol Harpster	Aye	Deanna Pagano	Aye	Jeanna Velechko

Geoffrey Darby clarified that David did not have a collective email conversation with all trustees but addressed trustee finance questions individually.

A motion was made by David Lefkovits to accept the December Treasurer’s Report. It was seconded by Geoffrey Darby. All voted in favor and the motion passed (attached).

Aye	Bernice Bonnett	Aye	David Lefkovits	Abstain	Tina Payne
Aye	Geoffrey Darby	---	Matthew Murphy	Aye	Harry Rush
Aye	Carol Harpster	Aye	Deanna Pagano	Aye	Jeanna Velechko

Personnel

The combined library personnel manual is complete. Jeanna Velechko recommended that we not incur the estimated \$2.5K expense for attorney review. Tina Payne, an attorney, is on the Personnel committee and will review the manual.

Technology

None

Building and Grounds

None

Marketing

Now that the pavilion is complete, the formal launch of the pick-up lockers to the community will be in March. The lockers were funded by the Friends of the Library; no tax dollars were used.

Director’s Report:

See attachment C.

Old Business:

Committee Selections

The President noted that committee selections for 2023 had been completed:

- Finance – David Lefkovits (chair), Carol Harpster, Harry Rush
- Personnel – Jeanna Velechko (chair), Carol Harpster, Deanna Pagano, Tina Payne
- Technology – Deanna Pagano (chair), Harry Rush, Tina Payne
- Buildings & Grounds – Geoffrey Darby (chair), Bernice Bonnett, Carol Harpster, Jeanna Velechko
- Marketing – Bernice Bonnett (chair), Geoffrey Darby, Carol Harpster, Matt Murphy

Recap of Library Materials Reconsideration

Reading from a prepared account, the President provided context on the review process to date for the six books under appeal:

- *All Boys Aren’t Blue* by George M. Johnson
- *Here and Queer* by Rowan Ellis and Jacky Sheridan
- *It’s Perfectly Normal* by Robie Harris and Michael Emberley
- *This Book is Gay* by Juno (formerly James) Dawson
- *You Know, Sex* by Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth

- *It's not the Stork* by Robie Harris and Michael Emberley

“On October 24, 2022, the Glen Ridge Public Library received Request for Evaluation forms for six titles from eight residents in six households under the letterhead of Citizens for Defending Education. The titles in question were: *All Boys Aren't Blue*, *Here and Queer*, *It's Not the Stork*, *It's Perfectly Normal*, *This Book is Gay* and *You Know, Sex*.

On November 7, Library Director, Tina Marie Doody, responded to each individual that submitted a form. The decision of the Director was that all of the titles meet the criteria of the Library Materials Selection Policy and the titles would remain in circulation.

In December, the Library received a letter from the CDE appealing the Director's decision. After clarification regarding which individuals were appealing, at least two individuals from the original eight requested an appeal as of January 12, 2023.

According to Board policy, the Board will evaluate in an open meeting the work according to the criteria in the Library Materials Selection Policy within three Board meetings from the date the appeal is received and that is what we will do this evening.

Board members have been given copies of the original requests for evaluation as well as the appeals. Additionally, the Board has been given ample opportunity to review the books in question.

Additionally, I would like to highlight some library policy as it relates to children:

- Children under 8 are not allowed in the Library without an adult
- Children under 12 are not allowed to have a Library card without signed parental consent”

Public Comment (related to book challenges):

Nearly 100 members of the public signed-up to speak during the Public Comment session; due to time constraints, not all were afforded the opportunity. The comments from the public follow.

Secretary's Note: *I made the best effort to correctly capture the names of speakers and their high-level comments with the assistance of Jeanna Velechko and the Director's sign in-sheets. Please forgive any errors or omissions.*

- **Frank Fleischman** of Belleville and native of Glen Ridge – a writer who noted that the library is for everyone; each parent has the right to judge what is appropriate for their children to access
- **Robyn Fields** of Glen Ridge – co-author of Glen Ridge United Against Book Bans; note that 2,800 signatures were on the petition to maintain the books (50% of signatures from Glen Ridge, 28% of the total borough population)

- **Paul Irwin-Dudek** of Essex County – Executive Director of GLSSN, represented impact on LGBTQ+ of available library resources; removing a book from one library impacts 600K+ BCCLS card holders
- **Phil Johnson** of Glen Ridge – founder of Glen Ridge United Against Book Bans (GRUABB), read all 6 of the challenged books and agrees with their support; removing books erases representative members of our community; inclusion makes libraries safer
- **Omar and Robin Renteria** of Glen Ridge – told the story of their two sons, one of whom committed suicide; the one who felt “seen” and represented in part through the library is alive today
- **Rev Jeff Mansfield** of Glen Ridge – Pastor of Glen Ridge Congregational Church; spoke on behalf of the Glen Ridge area religious community and noted a letter signed in support by 28 religious leaders of varying denominations
- **Kaye Johnson** of Plainfield with **Sarah Elder** and **Stephanie Elder-Law** – mother of George Johnson; read a letter from the author; debunked misperceptions about the book; importance of permissions
- **Erin Ackerman, Linda Garfinkle** of Glen Ridge & more than a dozen librarians – came out in support of keeping the books on the shelves
- **Holly Belli** of Glen Ridge – Director of the Bloomfield Library, she provided her perspective on Citizens Defending Education (CDE) and noted that parents, not libraries, are the guardrails of what their children read
- **Jodie Dawson** of Montclair – a member of 2-mother household and small business owner, she noted that LGBTQ+ teens are more than twice as likely to attempt suicide
- **Laura Hoge** of Glen Ridge – a Health and Wellness therapist; noted that among many in the LGBTQ+ community that nowhere feels safe; stigma kills
- **Elizabeth Neumann** of Glen Ridge – junior at GRHS; tired of having to defend herself against the perception that being LGBTQ+ is not OK
- **Ellis Kastenmeier** of Glen Ridge – a GRHS student; noted that kids self-select what is age-appropriate and will skip content that makes them uncomfortable; books are a much better source of knowledge than “Am I Gay?” quizzes on the internet
- **Victoria Sargent** of Glen Ridge – a GRHS Senior; commented that adversity makes LGBTQ+ people strong; noted a quote from of p. 72 *This Book is Gay* quote
- **Oli Hernandez-Conrow** of Glen Ridge – RAS student; feels these recent actions are making her family with 2 moms feel alone and sad
- **Mary Valentine** of Bloomfield – Founder of Bloomfield Pride; advocating for information; reading does not create an identity
- **Sarah McGrath** of Glen Ridge – publisher of adult fiction; books have no discovery without visibility; note that Glen Ridge library has age-appropriate sectioning with Young Adult located on the 3rd floor
- **Sharon Sargent** of Glen Ridge – used reading *The Godfather* at a young age as a metaphor to show that books don’t create your identity; in educating her children looked for a range of books from experts and chose *It’s not the Stork* to read aloud
- **Omar Khan** of Ridgefield Park – Director of Ridgefield Park Public Library and practicing Muslim; a library is a place where people can be seen as people

- **Dan Kleinman** of Chatham – provided support for CDE and that they not feel bullied; expressed a concern with the statement on the amount of correspondence; wants books kept in the library
- **Nicole Wallace** and **Felice Bettenbender** of Glen Ridge – representatives of Glen Ridge Diversity and Inclusion organization; part of every resident’s life
- **Ted Hunter** of Glen Ridge – supports the library’s decision to retain these works; noted that *It’s Perfectly Normal* is part of the Unitarian Church curriculum; *Not all Boys are Blue* is a valid work of literature from a New Jersey author; knowledge saves lives
- **Jane Clementi** of Harrison – mother of Tyler Clemente who died of suicide after shamed; noted these decisions impact the entire state and country; importance of empathy
- **Assemblywoman Brittane Timberlake** – 34th District, self-identified Christian mother, on importance of inclusion and standing up for people; drafted a bill that would make it illegal to ban books in the State of New Jersey
- **Edward Kastenmeier** of Glen Ridge – thanked the library and supports the Director’s decision
- **Billie Jo Rivero** of Glen Ridge – GRHS student; spoke of opportunity for a more diverse community and the right for an education
- **Lila Sargent** of Glen Ridge – student; spoke of reading *Melissa* and *Here and Queer*; books are one of the best ways to communication and the latter book helped her understand her sibling Carter who is trans
- **Jennifer Hondru-Celestin** of Glen Ridge – 22-year resident; spoke in support of *It’s not the Stork* and *It’s Perfectly Normal*
- **Stephen Buntrock** of Glen Ridge – representing Gaslamp Players; commented on the importance of self-identification
- **Julie Dobrow** of Glen Ridge – Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at Columbia University’s School of the Arts; in support of *You Know, Sex* for its educational value and diverse representation
- **Cynthia Garcia** of Glen Ridge – thanked board and library; commented that the book challenges are hatred and fear of others; read *This Book is Gay* which is targeted to older teens and found it accurate and promoted safety; noted that Westfield Public Library has done a ban of bans
- **Joe Manigliano** of Glen Ridge – he and his husband raised 3 children; quoted that 1 LGBTQ+ teen attempts suicide every 45 seconds; no one has the power to erase people or ideas
- **Martyn Tipping** of Glen Ridge – resident for over 17 years; recited a Dr. Seuss-like poem recapping the book challenge and in support of the Director’s decision
- **Jessica Fantz** of Glen Ridge – 2-mom family; need to see themselves reflected in the community; create empathy for friends
- **Alexis Saarela** of Glen Ridge – member of multi-racial family; books off valuable lessons in consent
- **Emily M. Fhaolain** of Glen Ridge – noted that the library is the center of our town and spoke on behalf of her 8-year-old son who loves the library

- **Harley Brown** of Glen Ridge – new resident last year; shared the story of her concern for friend who transitioned to a woman who considered suicide and the need for access
- **Lori Jeane Moody** of Glen Ridge – resident for 17 years; loves her town more tonight than ever; acknowledged volunteers; tonight was an opportunity to hear so many stories of our communities; expressed concern that social isolation is off the charts for our children
- **Melissa Meyer** & friend of Glen Ridge – elementary school; books are needed so kids learn and can come out of the closet
- **Gibson Maddock** of Glen Ridge – 5th grade student, bisexual; voiced that straight people books won't turn him straight – deal with his reality
- **Christine Malonzo** of Glen Ridge – RAS student; removing books is damaging to children
- **Bailey Bennet** of Glen Ridge – 5th grader RAS; these books save lives
- **Nathanial McCarthy** of Glen Ridge – 5th grader; made students feel welcome
- **Charlie Jubb** of Glen Ridge – student; choosing age-appropriate books is something learned at a young age
- **Melissa Hastekin** & friend of Glen Ridge – students; removing books makes people feel unwelcome and that they don't belong
- **Lena Sholtz** of Glen Ridge – 6th grader; hard to connect without books
- **Elizabeth White** – student; 1st amendment prohibits silencing

New Business – Reconsideration of Library Materials Appeal:

The library board proceeded with reviewing the six books presented for removal by Citizens Defending Education (CDE) members.

All Boys Aren't Blue

President Carol Harpster listened to the audio book of *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson and shared her experience hearing the book in the author's voice. Carol described a beautifully written coming of age story about what it was like to grow up black and queer in Plainfield, New Jersey and noted that: *It's a book about giving people and communities a second chance. Powerful words, indeed. As per the Library's Material Selection policy, "materials of a sexual nature should be made on the basis of whether a book presents life in its true proportions, whether characters and situations are realistically presented, and whether the book has literary value." This book does just that and meets these criteria.*

A motion to affirm the Director's decision that *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson meets the selection criteria of the Library's Materials Selection Policy was made by Carol Harpster and seconded by Bernice Bonnett. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Aye	Bernice Bonnett	Aye	David Lefkovits	Aye	Tina Payne
Aye	Geoffrey Darby	---	Matthew Murphy	Aye	Harry Rush

Aye	Carol Harpster	Aye	Deanna Pagano	Aye	Jeanna Velechko
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A motion that *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson be maintained in the Library's Young Adult (YA) section was made by Carol Harpster and seconded by Bernice Bonnett. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Aye	Bernice Bonnett	Aye	David Lefkovits	Aye	Tina Payne
Aye	Geoffrey Darby	---	Matthew Murphy	Aye	Harry Rush
Aye	Carol Harpster	Aye	Deanna Pagano	Aye	Jeanna Velechko

Here and Queer

Trustee Jeanna Velechko shared her experience reading *Here and Queer: A Queer Girl's Guide to Life* by Rowan Ellis and Jacky Sheridan and her rationale for maintaining the book in the library. As the objective of the Materials Selection Policy states, "The goal of the Library is to provide a well-balanced and broad collection of materials for all age groups, diverse types of material based on demand of patrons, and materials for the education and recreation of the community." The first point listed in the General Principles of the selection policy states, "Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all people in the community the library serves." The role of the Library Board is to set and uphold policy. *I believe that that this book meets the criteria of the Materials Selection Policy. Ellis' work may speak to some in our community or those wishing to learn more about a topic. I recognize some members of our community do not wish read this book, but this can be applicable to many books in our collection. It's about choice. As the policy indicates, the Library Director is charged to provide a diverse collection; however, it is up to patrons to choose what to read.*

A motion to affirm the Director's decision that *Here and Queer* by Rowan Ellis and Jacky Sheridan meets the selection criteria of the Library's Materials Selection Policy was made by Jeanna Velechko and seconded by David Lefkovits. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Aye	Bernice Bonnett	Aye	David Lefkovits	Aye	Tina Payne
Aye	Geoffrey Darby	---	Matthew Murphy	Aye	Harry Rush
Aye	Carol Harpster	Aye	Deanna Pagano	Aye	Jeanna Velechko

A motion that *Here and Queer* by Rowan Ellis and Jacky Sheridan be maintained in the Library's Young Adult (YA) section was made by Jeanna Velechko and seconded by David Lefkovits. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Aye	Bernice Bonnett	Aye	David Lefkovits	Aye	Tina Payne
Aye	Geoffrey Darby	---	Matthew Murphy	Aye	Harry Rush
Aye	Carol Harpster	Aye	Deanna Pagano	Aye	Jeanna Velechko

It's Perfectly Normal

Trustee Jeanna Velechko also shared her rationale for the book *It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, and Sexual Health* by Robie Harris and Michael Emberley. She found the book factual and informative, referencing the Glen Ridge Public Library Book Selection, "... a book should be informative and reflective of the community." *As a parent and educator, I have searched our library on many occasions for materials to start conversations and teach information.* Jeanna stated that *It is not in the Director's purview to usurp a parental or patron's right to have the freedom to select a book.* Further, she noted her belief that *It's Perfectly Normal* adds to our diverse and educational collection supporting the goal of the material selection policy.

A motion to affirm the Director's decision that *It's Perfectly Normal* by Robie Harris and Michael Emberley meets the selection criteria of the Library's Materials Selection Policy was made by Jeanna Velechko and seconded by Geoffrey Darby. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Aye	Bernice Bonnett	Aye	David Lefkovits	Aye	Tina Payne
Aye	Geoffrey Darby	---	Matthew Murphy	Aye	Harry Rush
Aye	Carol Harpster	Aye	Deanna Pagano	Aye	Jeanna Velechko

A motion that *It's Perfectly Normal* by Robie Harris and Michael Emberley be maintained in the Library's Young Adult (YA) section was made by Jeanna Velechko and seconded by Geoffrey Darby. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Aye	Bernice Bonnett	Aye	David Lefkovits	Aye	Tina Payne
Aye	Geoffrey Darby	---	Matthew Murphy	Aye	Harry Rush
Aye	Carol Harpster	Aye	Deanna Pagano	Aye	Jeanna Velechko

This Book Is Gay

Secretary Deanna Pagano shared her experience reading and support rationale for *This Book is Gay* by Juno (formerly James) Dawson, a memoir about a young person coming to terms with their sexuality. *Some will hear a snarky tone-of-voice or see broad stereotypes when they read this book; others will see useful information that they had been seeking or hear feelings similar-to-their-own expressed.* It is because of this breadth of response that the Glen Ridge Public Library has stated the goal of diversity in its Material Selection Policy. Further, the Glen Ridge Public Library supports the American Library Association Bill of Rights. Two of its principles are that:

- "Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval."
- "Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment."

A motion to affirm the Director’s decision that *This Book is Gay* by Juno (formerly James) Dawson meets the selection criteria of the Library’s Materials Selection Policy was made by Deanna Pagano and seconded by Bernice Bonnett. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Aye	Bernice Bonnett	Aye	David Lefkovits	Aye	Tina Payne
Aye	Geoffrey Darby	---	Matthew Murphy	Aye	Harry Rush
Aye	Carol Harpster	Aye	Deanna Pagano	Aye	Jeanna Velechko

A motion that *This Book is Gay* by Juno (formerly James) Dawson be maintained in the Library’s Young Adult (YA) section was made by Deanna Pagano and seconded by Geoffrey Darby. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Aye	Bernice Bonnett	Aye	David Lefkovits	Aye	Tina Payne
Aye	Geoffrey Darby	---	Matthew Murphy	Aye	Harry Rush
Aye	Carol Harpster	Aye	Deanna Pagano	Aye	Jeanna Velechko

You Know, Sex

Mayor-appointed trustee and Treasurer, David Lefkovits, described an approachable, not-just-for-the-attractive book in *You Know, Sex* by Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth. David shared a passage on sexting that demonstrated the voice of care, concern and supervision and the book’s alignment with the library’s Materials Selection Policy.

A motion to affirm the Director’s decision that *You Know, Sex* by Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth meets the selection criteria of the Library’s Materials Selection Policy was made by David Lefkovits and seconded by Harry Rush. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Aye	Bernice Bonnett	Aye	David Lefkovits	Aye	Tina Payne
Aye	Geoffrey Darby	---	Matthew Murphy	Aye	Harry Rush
Aye	Carol Harpster	Aye	Deanna Pagano	Aye	Jeanna Velechko

A motion that *You Know, Sex* by Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth be maintained in the Library’s Young Adult (YA) section was made by David Lefkovits and seconded by Harry Rush. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Aye	Bernice Bonnett	Aye	David Lefkovits	Aye	Tina Payne
Aye	Geoffrey Darby	---	Matthew Murphy	Aye	Harry Rush
Aye	Carol Harpster	Aye	Deanna Pagano	Aye	Jeanna Velechko

It’s Not the Stork

Trustee Geoffrey Darby discussed *It’s not the Stork* by Robie Harris and Michael Emberley, the only one of the six books housed in the Parenting section of the General collection for parents’ use. He noted that its most important lesson was about privacy

and inappropriate touching. Geoffrey described *It's not the Stork* as an educational book and well in-line with the library's Materials Selection Policy.

A motion to affirm the Director's decision that *It's not the Stork* by Robie Harris and Michael Emberley, meets the selection criteria of the Library's Materials Selection Policy was made by Geoffrey Darby and seconded by David Lefkovits. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Aye	Bernice Bonnett	Aye	David Lefkovits	Aye	Tina Payne
Aye	Geoffrey Darby	---	Matthew Murphy	Aye	Harry Rush
Aye	Carol Harpster	Aye	Deanna Pagano	Aye	Jeanna Velechko

A motion that that *It's not the Stork* by Robie Harris and Michael Emberley be maintained in the Parenting section of the General Reading collection was made by Geoffrey Darby and seconded by Carol Harpster. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Aye	Bernice Bonnett	Aye	David Lefkovits	Aye	Tina Payne
Aye	Geoffrey Darby	---	Matthew Murphy	Aye	Harry Rush
Aye	Carol Harpster	Aye	Deanna Pagano	Aye	Jeanna Velechko

Upon the completion of the voting, the members of the general public responded with a standing ovation.

Final Comments

President Carol Harpster acknowledged the board's appreciation of all comments from public, especially the children. She affirmed that all decisions are final and cannot be reassessed for 36 months from today's date of February 8, 2023.

Public Comment (all library business topics):

- **Phil Johnson** of Glen Ridge – thanked board members and shared that the CDE reportedly mailed unsolicited information packets to a random selection of Glen Ridge households
- **Sandra Lefkovits** of Glen Ridge – thanked board members
- **Geoffrey Darby** of Glen Ridge – trustee; celebrated the demonstration of democracy
- **Harry Rush** of Glen Ridge – trustee; shared that all six of the affirmed books are in the New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Phoenix and Houston Public Libraries; this was one of the proudest nights of his 40 years living in Glen Ridge

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Harry Rush seconded by Tina Payne. All voted Aye and the motion passed.

Aye	Bernice Bonnett	Aye	David Lefkovits	Aye	Tina Payne
Aye	Geoffrey Darby	---	Matthew Murphy	Aye	Harry Rush
Aye	Carol Harpster	Aye	Deanna Pagano	Aye	Jeanna Velechko

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Deanna Pagano, Secretary

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 7:30 (location and 7:00 Executive Session TBD)



Glen Ridge Public Library

Bills List

January 2023

DATE	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	SPLIT	AMOUNT
Accounts Payable				
01/02/2023	Cavendish Square		Materials:Books:Children	204.44
01/02/2023	Morris County Elevator, Inc.		-Split-	1,456.00
01/02/2023	NJLA		Professional Development:Staff Development	300.00
01/03/2023	EBSCO (Library Aware)		Subscriptions:Electronic	753.00
01/03/2023	AME INC.		-Split-	4,024.55
01/04/2023	Tina Marie Doody		Technology & Communications:Cell Phone	75.61
01/04/2023	AME INC.		Facilities & Maintenance:Maintenance & Repair	872.72
01/10/2023	SYNCB/Amazon		-Split-	384.14
01/12/2023	BCCLS		-Split-	34,741.76
01/12/2023	Scannx		Technology & Communications:Software/Hardware	64.60
01/13/2023	Worral Community Newspapers		Materials:Books:Adult	250.00
01/18/2023	Livingston Public Library		Materials:Lost & Paid	10.00
01/19/2023	Staples Advantage		-Split-	192.25
01/20/2023	Bank of America		-Split-	555.83
01/24/2023	Jason Patterson		Programming:Juvenile	200.00
01/24/2023	Ampco		-Split-	205.92
01/28/2023	Verizon		Technology & Communications:Software/Hardware	269.00
01/28/2023	Ingram Library Services		Materials:Books:Young Adult	642.08
01/30/2023	Kathy Hunziker		-Split-	64.34
01/30/2023	Morris County Elevator, Inc.		Facilities & Maintenance:Maintenance & Repair	606.20
01/30/2023	Sydney Young		-Split-	30.35
01/31/2023	Baker & Taylor		-Split-	2,212.45
01/31/2023	OverDrive		-Split-	934.09
01/31/2023	Kanopy LLC		Materials:Kanopy	225.00
01/31/2023	Wells Fargo		Contractual:Copy Machine	175.00
01/31/2023	Glen Ridge Public Library		-Split-	128.56
01/31/2023	Borough of Glen Ridge		-Split-	45,771.01
01/31/2023	Ready Refresh		Facilities & Maintenance:Office Supplies	45.96



Glen Ridge Public Library

Bills List

January 2023

DATE	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	SPLIT	AMOUNT
Total for Accounts Payable				\$95,394.86
Contractual				
BCCLS				
01/12/2023	BCCLS	2023 BCCLS Membership	Accounts Payable	26,829.13
Total for BCCLS				\$26,829.13
Copy Machine				
01/24/2023	Ampco	Invoice IN24242	Accounts Payable	185.92
01/24/2023	Ampco	Invoice IN24160 Toner Shipping	Accounts Payable	20.00
01/31/2023	Wells Fargo	Invoice 5023701614	Accounts Payable	175.00
Total for Copy Machine				\$380.92
Delivery				
01/12/2023	BCCLS	2023 BCCLS Delivery	Accounts Payable	7,912.63
Total for Delivery				\$7,912.63
Elevator				
01/02/2023	Morris County Elevator, Inc.	Invoice 22925 Payment 1 of 4	Accounts Payable	684.00
Total for Elevator				\$684.00
HVAC Maintenance				
01/03/2023	AME INC.	Invoice 61422 Maintenance Payment 1 of 4	Accounts Payable	2,284.50
01/03/2023	AME INC.	Invoice 61421Controls Payment 1 of 4	Accounts Payable	1,740.05
Total for HVAC Maintenance				\$4,024.55
Inspections				
01/02/2023	Morris County Elevator, Inc.	Invoice 22830 Lift Service Agreement	Accounts Payable	772.00
Total for Inspections				\$772.00
Total for Contractual				\$40,603.23
Facilities & Maintenance				
Maintenance & Repair				
01/04/2023	AME INC.	Invoice 61542 Actuator	Accounts Payable	872.72
01/10/2023	SYNCB/Amazon		Accounts Payable	45.26
01/20/2023	Bank of America	Light Bulbs	Accounts Payable	74.16
01/30/2023	Morris County Elevator, Inc.	Invoice 22979 Service call - recovery bucket	Accounts Payable	606.20
Total for Maintenance & Repair				\$1,598.34
Office Supplies				
01/19/2023	Staples Advantage	Invoice 3528137979 Paper, Card Stock, Clips	Accounts Payable	72.35
01/20/2023	Bank of America	Labels, Ear Buds	Accounts Payable	48.89



Glen Ridge Public Library

Bills List

January 2023

01/31/2023	Glen Ridge Public Library	Change for Copier	Accounts Payable	17.00
01/31/2023	Glen Ridge Public Library	D. Petretti Desk Supplies	Accounts Payable	2.50
DATE	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	SPLIT	AMOUNT
01/31/2023	Library	Ready Refresh Invoice 13A0435193131	Accounts Payable	45.96
Total for Office Supplies				\$186.70
Total for Facilities & Maintenance				\$1,785.04
Materials				
Books				
Adult				
01/10/2023	SYNCB/Amazon		Accounts Payable	98.28
01/13/2023	Worral Community Newspapers	Glen Ridge Paper Archives 2022	Accounts Payable	250.00
01/20/2023	Bank of America		Accounts Payable	85.72
01/31/2023	Baker & Taylor	Account L0765053	Accounts Payable	1,377.89
Total for Adult				\$1,811.87
Children				
01/02/2023	Cavendish Square	Invoice CAL3405031	Accounts Payable	204.44
01/10/2023	SYNCB/Amazon		Accounts Payable	5.34
01/20/2023	Bank of America		Accounts Payable	34.83
01/31/2023	Baker & Taylor	Account L3576163	Accounts Payable	824.35
Total for Children				\$1,068.96
Young Adult				
01/10/2023	SYNCB/Amazon		Accounts Payable	19.44
01/28/2023	Ingram Library Services	73617595, 73644070, 73795825, 73820918, 73976669, 740878812, 74111672	Accounts Payable	642.08
Total for Young Adult				\$661.52
Total for Books				\$3,542.35
DVD				
01/10/2023	SYNCB/Amazon		Accounts Payable	163.24
01/20/2023	Bank of America	Netflix, Disney+, DVDs	Accounts Payable	96.73
01/31/2023	Baker & Taylor	Account 75005204	Accounts Payable	10.21
Total for DVD				\$270.18
eContent				
01/31/2023	OverDrive	Invoice 03301CP23031909	Accounts Payable	284.09
01/31/2023	OverDrive	Invoice 03301DA23009220	Accounts Payable	122.50



Glen Ridge Public Library

Bills List

January 2023

01/31/2023	OverDrive	Invoice 03301CO23000841	Accounts Payable	527.50
Total for eContent				\$934.09
Kanopy				
01/31/2023	Kanopy LLC	Invoice 333837-PPU	Accounts Payable	225.00
Total for Kanopy				\$225.00
Lost & Paid				
01/18/2023	Livingston Public	Replacement Item 31792005731570	Accounts Payable	10.00
DATE	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	SPLIT	AMOUNT
	Library			
Total for Lost & Paid				\$10.00
Processing				
01/19/2023	Staples Advantage	Invoice 3528137979, 3528530076 Receipt Rolls, Rubber Bands	Accounts Payable	119.90
Total for Processing				\$119.90
Total for Materials				\$5,101.52
Professional Development				
Meeting & Conference				
01/30/2023	Sydney Young	ECPL Meeting Supplies	Accounts Payable	10.35
Total for Meeting & Conference				\$10.35
Staff Development				
01/02/2023	NJLA	Invoice 10487 Institutional Membership	Accounts Payable	300.00
01/20/2023	Bank of America	Sympathy flowers for employee	Accounts Payable	89.95
Total for Staff Development				\$389.95
Total for Professional Development				\$400.30
Programming				
Adult				
01/31/2023	Glen Ridge Public Library	G. Allin, D. Petretti Programming Supplies	Accounts Payable	15.80
Total for Adult				\$15.80
Juvenile				
01/24/2023	Jason Patterson	Invoice 012023 Comic Presentation 1/24/23	Accounts Payable	200.00
01/30/2023	Kathy Hunziker	French Club January	Accounts Payable	31.93
01/30/2023	Sydney Young	Gift Cards	Accounts Payable	20.00
01/30/2023	Kathy Hunziker	French Club December	Accounts Payable	32.41
01/31/2023	Glen Ridge Public Library	A. Davidson Spanish Club	Accounts Payable	16.34
Total for Juvenile				\$300.68



Glen Ridge Public Library

Bills List

January 2023

Young Adult				
01/10/2023	SYNCB/Amazon		Accounts Payable	52.60
01/20/2023	Bank of America	Program Supplies	Accounts Payable	35.95
01/31/2023	Glen Ridge Public Library	B. Carroll YA Craft	Accounts Payable	23.38
01/31/2023	Glen Ridge Public Library	B. Carroll YA Program Materials	Accounts Payable	33.54
Total for Young Adult				\$145.47
Total for Programming				\$461.95
Salaries & Wages				
Benefits				
DATE	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	SPLIT	AMOUNT
01/31/2023	Borough of Glen Ridge	January	Accounts Payable	5,950.89
Total for Benefits				\$5,950.89
FICA				
01/31/2023	Borough of Glen Ridge	1/3, 1/13 paychecks	Accounts Payable	2,783.76
Total for FICA				\$2,783.76
Full Time Salaries				
01/31/2023	Borough of Glen Ridge	1/3, 1/13 paychecks	Accounts Payable	23,080.26
Total for Full Time Salaries				\$23,080.26
Part Time Salaries				
01/31/2023	Borough of Glen Ridge	1/3, 1/13 paychecks	Accounts Payable	13,308.77
Total for Part Time Salaries				\$13,308.77
Total for Salaries & Wages				\$45,123.68
Subscriptions				
Electronic				
01/03/2023	EBSCO (Library Aware)	Account TN10915 Library Aware Invoice 1000199110-1	Accounts Payable	753.00
Total for Electronic				\$753.00
Total for Subscriptions				\$753.00
Technology & Communications				
Cell Phone				
01/04/2023	Tina Marie Doody	January	Accounts Payable	75.61
Total for Cell Phone				\$75.61



Glen Ridge Public Library

Bills List

January 2023

Marketing & Outreach				
01/20/2023	Bank of America		Accounts Payable	89.60
01/31/2023	Glen Ridge Public Library	T. Doody Rotary	Accounts Payable	20.00
Total for Marketing & Outreach				\$109.60
Software/Hardware				
01/12/2023	Scannx	Invoice 8919 4th qtr fax	Accounts Payable	64.60
01/28/2023	Verizon	Account 755-678-814-0001-21 WiFi 1/29-2/28	Accounts Payable	269.00
Total for Software/Hardware				\$333.60
Telephone				
01/31/2023	Borough of Glen Ridge		Accounts Payable	647.33
Total for Telephone				\$647.33
Total for Technology & Communications				\$1,166.14

Glen Ridge Public Library
Budget vs. Actuals: 2023 Budget - FY23 P&L
 January - December 2023

TOTAL				
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenue				
Appropriation				
BCCLS	37,471.76	37,471.76	0.00	100.00 %
Benefits	5,950.89	90,300.00	-84,349.11	6.59 %
FICA	2,783.76	37,162.00	-34,378.24	7.49 %
Monthly Disbursement	11,530.33	138,364.00	-126,833.67	8.33 %
Salaries	36,389.03	485,778.00	-449,388.97	7.49 %
Telephone	647.33	2,400.00	-1,752.67	26.97 %
Total Appropriation	94,773.10	791,475.76	-696,702.66	11.97 %
Daily Income	463.66	4,000.00	-3,536.34	11.59 %
Lost and Paid	81.00		81.00	
Total Daily Income	544.66	4,000.00	-3,455.34	13.62 %
Friends of the Library		16,000.00	-16,000.00	
Gift/Donation	107.60	800.00	-692.40	13.45 %
Interest	17.55		17.55	
Raymond Fund		16,000.00	-16,000.00	
State Aid	49.00	3,500.00	-3,451.00	1.40 %
Total Revenue	\$95,491.91	\$831,775.76	\$ -736,283.85	11.48 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$95,491.91	\$831,775.76	\$ -736,283.85	11.48 %
Expenditures				
Contractual				
BCCLS	26,829.13	26,829.13	0.00	100.00 %
Copy Machine	380.92	3,850.00	-3,469.08	9.89 %
Delivery	7,912.63	7,913.00	-0.37	100.00 %
Elevator	684.00	3,508.00	-2,824.00	19.50 %
HVAC Maintenance	4,024.55	16,099.00	-12,074.45	25.00 %
Inspections	772.00	775.00	-3.00	99.61 %
Security & Fire		1,644.00	-1,644.00	
Total Contractual	40,603.23	60,618.13	-20,014.90	66.98 %
Facilities & Maintenance				
Cleaning				
Supplies		1,445.00	-1,445.00	

Glen Ridge Public Library

Budget vs. Actuals: 2023 Budget - FY23 P&L

January - December 2023

Total Cleaning		1,445.00	-1,445.00	
Maintenance & Repair	1,598.34	6,000.00	-4,401.66	28.64 %
Office Supplies	186.70	5,500.00	-5,313.30	3.39 %
Shared Service Agreement		16,925.00	-16,925.00	
Total Facilities & Maintenance	1,785.04	29,870.00	-28,084.96	5.98 %
Materials				
Books				
Adult	1,811.87	28,000.00	-26,188.13	6.47 %
Children	1,068.96	15,000.00	-13,931.04	7.13 %
TOTAL				
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Young Adult	661.52	7,200.00	-6,538.48	9.19 %
Total Books	3,542.35	50,200.00	-46,657.65	7.06 %
CD		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
DVD	270.18	3,000.00	-2,729.82	9.01 %
eContent	934.09	13,000.00	-12,065.91	7.19 %
Kanopy	225.00	2,400.00	-2,175.00	9.38 %
Library of Things		3,700.00	-3,700.00	
Lost & Paid	10.00		10.00	
Processing	119.90	2,500.00	-2,380.10	4.80 %
Total Materials	5,101.52	75,800.00	-70,698.48	6.73 %
Preservation Project				
Local History Room		2,533.00	-2,533.00	
Total Preservation Project		2,533.00	-2,533.00	
Professional Development				
Dues		850.00	-850.00	
Meeting & Conference	10.35	500.00	-489.65	2.07 %
Staff Development	389.95	1,000.00	-610.05	39.00 %
Travel		500.00	-500.00	
Total Professional Development	400.30	2,850.00	-2,449.70	14.05 %
Professional Services				
Auditor		6,000.00	-6,000.00	
Background Checks		125.00	-125.00	

Glen Ridge Public Library
Budget vs. Actuals: 2023 Budget - FY23 P&L
 January - December 2023

Bank Fees		40.00	-40.00	
Credit Card Fees	7.42	50.00	-42.58	14.84 %
Legal Fees		2,000.00	-2,000.00	
Total Professional Services	7.42	8,215.00	-8,207.58	0.09 %
Programming				
Adult	15.80	3,500.00	-3,484.20	0.45 %
Juvenile	601.17	3,500.00	-2,898.83	17.18 %
Summer Reading Program		3,250.00	-3,250.00	
Young Adult	145.47	3,500.00	-3,354.53	4.16 %
Total Programming	762.44	13,750.00	-12,987.56	5.55 %
Salaries & Wages				
Benefits	5,950.89	90,300.00	-84,349.11	6.59 %
FICA	2,783.76	37,162.00	-34,378.24	7.49 %
Full Time Salaries	23,080.26	276,963.00	-253,882.74	8.33 %
Part Time Salaries	13,308.77	208,815.00	-195,506.23	6.37 %
Total Salaries & Wages	45,123.68	613,240.00	-568,116.32	7.36 %
Subscriptions				
Electronic	753.00	5,815.00	-5,062.00	12.95 %
Print		3,750.00	-3,750.00	
TOTAL				
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Total Subscriptions	753.00	9,565.00	-8,812.00	7.87 %
Technology & Communications				
Cell Phone	75.61	925.00	-849.39	8.17 %
Marketing & Outreach	109.60	2,500.00	-2,390.40	4.38 %
Software/Hardware	333.60	6,000.00	-5,666.40	5.56 %
Telephone	647.33	2,400.00	-1,752.67	26.97 %
Website		780.00	-780.00	
Total Technology & Communications	1,166.14	12,605.00	-11,438.86	9.25 %
Total Expenditures	\$95,702.77	\$829,046.13	\$ -733,343.36	11.54 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -210.86	\$2,729.63	\$ -2,940.49	-7.72 %
NET REVENUE	\$ -210.86	\$2,729.63	\$ -2,940.49	-7.72 %

Director's Report – February 2023

General Updates

I will be on vacation from starting on Monday, January 30th until Tuesday, February 7th. I will be out of the country with limited internet access starting on Saturday, January 28th. The staff are aware of who to contact if a problem arises while I am gone.

Meetings & Community Events

I attended two rotary meetings. I will be the speaker at the next meeting to discuss Library Services and highlight the new lockers.

On Friday, January 13th, Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill dropped into the Library as part of a quick visit she was making in our area. I got the chance to meet her, show off the Lockers and the brick display, and give her a brief tour of the Children's Area in all of its after-school glory. I also offered to invite the Congresswoman and her staff to the locker opening and they seemed interested.

Correspondence

We received official word on January 12, 2023 from the State Librarian, Jen Nelson, that the Library's 2021 Bond Act Grant Proposal has been accepted and moved from the waitlist to an active project. This will provide the Library with \$247,361 in grant funding that will be matched by the Borough. We are awaiting further details as to next steps, but this is an exciting turn of events.

We received an updated appeal letter from Citizens Defending Education in reference to the Request for Reconsideration forms that their members have previously submitted. We also received a separate appeal letter from Frances Mielach.

In addition to the appeal letters, I have received numerous emails, letters, and phone calls from patrons who oppose removing books from our collection. The written correspondence is included in your packet and accessible via the Google Drive in the "Correspondence" folder. Other than the appeal documentation I have not received any additional correspondence requesting the removal of the books in question.

We have received two "Request for Reconsideration" forms for "Let's Talk about It" by Erika Moen. I have not yet responded to the requests but will do so by the February 11, 2023 deadline.

Library Organizations (BCCLS, NJLA, NJSL)

I will be co-chairing the eBCCLS Committee this year with Emily Weisentein from the Livingston Public Library. We had an introductory call on January 12th to discuss our goals for the year, and we also attended a Committee Chairs meeting that BCCLS hosted on January 17th.

As part of our participation in the Northstar Digital Literacy program I attended a user-group meeting on January 19th. As we are just starting out with Northstar this is a good way to network with other libraries who are farther along than we are and to learn from their experiences.

Diversity & Inclusion

The EDI Task Force met on January 18, 2023. Members of the committee submitted their rankings for the Meyer Assessment that we will be using as a pre & post test, to mark our improvement over time. The description of the assessment tool and the results of our scoring are included in your packets.

Task Force Members have been tasked with completing the “Inclusive Services Assessment and Guide” from the Wisconsin State Libraries by February 14, 2023. The scores will be tallied and we will review the results at our February meeting. We will then discuss our next steps forward and what Action Items we think are appropriate. I plan to have a full update on our work at the March 2023 Board Meeting.

Friends

Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Library held their annual meeting at the Library on Saturday, January 21st in the meeting room. It was well attended and there was a great discussion about clarifying “membership” in terms of the Friends.

Programming

Children’s & YA Programming

In January in addition to their regular programming schedule the Children’s Department offered an Unplugged Game Day, a snowball toss program, and an author visit by Jason Patterson, author/illustrator of the Blue, Barry, and & pancakes graphic novel series.

Teen events continue with the Teen Advisory Board, Teen D&D, Anime Club, Bad Movie Night, and pick up crafts.

Adult Programming

The Adult crafts remain popular with a “Snowflake Block” craft for pickup in January. In January we held meetings of the Cookbook and Romance Book Clubs, and provided a Synchronicity Journaling program.

We had arranged to host a “Where Does Your Waste Go” webinar with the Environmental Advisory Committee on December 5th, and it has been rescheduled for February 22nd.

B&G

Kiosk/Lockers

The lockers were “soft launched” on January 24, 2023. The staff will be providing information to patrons that inquire about the lockers as well as a small group that have volunteered to be early adopters. This will allow the staff to work out any kinks in their processes before our grand opening event at the end of March.

Marketing

The Grand Opening event for the lockers was tentatively scheduled for March 25, 2023. The Marketing Committee is currently working on their plans for the event.

I gave an interview with New Jersey Spotlight News on January 26th about the Book Challenges that we are experiencing. I also answered some questions via email for NJ.com.

Personnel

The Library's Business Manager, Judy Bagdon, has tendered her resignation. Her regular schedule will end on February 9, 2023 but she has agreed to be available on a day by day basis in order to help train her replacement as well as answer any questions that come up during the transition. We have posted the position and are currently reviewing resumes.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Marie Doody, Library Director
January 27, 2023