

## Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library of the Township of Washington

### March 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes

**Time and Place:** The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library was called to order by Board President Lisa Bertolini in the Conference Room of the Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library, 606 Delsea Drive, Sewell, NJ, on March 18, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

**Sunshine Law Statement:** A notice was read that was published and posted according to the NJ Open Public Meetings Act.

**Quorum:** Lisa Bertolini, Victoria Binetti, Jane Crocker, Shaun Giberson, Gina Gurcsik, Whitney Huston, Frank Indriso (via speakerphone), Catherine Matos, Mayor Anthony DellaPia

**Also Present:** Joseph Alacqua, Esq.; Sheila Mikkelson, Library Director; Dina Meddings, Board Secretary

**Absent:** Salvatore Coppola

**Minutes:** It was moved by Jane Crocker and seconded by Whitney Huston to approve the minutes of the February 2026 Board meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

**President's Report:** Lisa did not have a formal report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Resolution No. 2026-17 was moved by Vicky Binetti and seconded by Whitney Huston to authorize payment of all obligations on the March 2026 bill list, in the amount of \$169,298.91. Roll Call: Bertolini: Yes; Binetti: Yes; Crocker: Yes; Giberson: Yes; Gurcsik: No; Huston: Yes; Indriso: No; Matos: Yes; Mayor DellaPia: Abstain. Resolution passed.

**Director's Report:** Sheila read some of the positive comments received from patrons.

Board training requirements have changed this year to now require two hours per board member. Lisa suggested a "divide and conquer" approach and asked for board members to let her know which sessions/topics they may be interested in, in an attempt at information sharing. Sheila did relay that informational emails sent to the board should be sent via a blind copy to everyone to prevent a "reply all" situation that would violate the Open Public Meetings Act.

Sheila reported increases in American Girl Dolls and adult book bundles borrowed, downloaded materials, as well as youth program attendance and overall program attendance.

Sheila stated that she drafted a resolution for the Mayor in conjunction with the April 22 council meeting and National Library Week.

Sheila mentioned that the strategic planner does not think we should start a foundation but had other suggestions to investigate.

Lisa commented that it is hard for patrons to get into the cardio drumming classes and asked if we could add more classes to the calendar. The meeting room can only accommodate so many attendees at once, and adult services librarians are appropriating expenditures for the year based on their allotted budgets, but we may look into this further and see what can be done.

Shaun expressed concern that the 508 budget line has encumbered almost half of the budgeted amount when we are only one-quarter through the year. This line is also used for projects that our handyman is able to accomplish for us, and as we run lower on funds, we will begin to slow down on the projects we request from him.

Gina asked if the library has considered utilizing public works for lawn care. The library advertises this service on a yearly basis and alerts the township when they do so, but have not ever received a bid for these services. Mayor DellaPia stated the township most likely could not provide a quote to the specs requested, but that perhaps a shared services agreement with a seasonal cap could be instituted.

Vicky commented that many of the Environmental Commission's scheduled activities for Earth Month are being held or sponsored by the library and that she appreciates the partnership. She distributed a program flyer which has been added to the March board packet.

**Adjournment:** It was moved by Jane Crocker and seconded by Gina Gurcsik to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.