

Franklin Public Library
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2026

Present: Charleen Belcher, Kathleen Gerwatowski, Amanda Rabbitt, Barbara Steele and Alison Wallace of the Board, Youth Services Librarian Caleigh Keating, and Library Director Felicia Oti.

Call to Order: Charleen called the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Public Comment: Letha Heminway and Liz Pungitore of the Friends of Franklin Library joined the meeting.

Caleigh Keating: This year, for the very first time, Caleigh was invited to the literacy specialist program meetings. There are six literacy specialists in the Franklin Public Schools. Caleigh will oversee the book selection for the summer reading program. A summer reading flyer with participation instructions will go home with summer learning folders. Everything will be integrated with the schools. Incoming kindergartners will receive a folder inviting them to participate. Caleigh is also working with the high school librarian to encourage summer reading since typically this initiative ends after middle school.

Minutes: The minutes of the March 2nd meeting were approved.

Report of the Board Members:

Amanda: Amanda shared a photo of a library kiosk in Worcester. She wondered if a kiosk might be a good option for Franklin's two MBTA stations. Felicia will investigate the costs of kiosks, which need to be protected from the elements and have a power source. However, she warned that the maintenance can be harrowing.

Library Director's Report: Felicia shared a document entitled *Franklin Public Library Strategic Planning Themes* which was created by the library staff's vision and value statements. The results of the patron survey will be incorporated into this document to develop the strategic plan. The Board will use Google Docs to comment as we draft the strategic plan based on both surveys.

Felicia provided a draft of the Library Facility Rentals Policy, which includes guidelines for wedding ceremonies and photography sessions. The Board will review the policy in more depth at a future meeting.

The FY27 budget public hearings will be held on May 20th and 21st. The Board is encouraged to attend.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be held on April 27, 2026.

Agenda for next month: At the next meeting we will discuss the strategic plan.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gerwatowski