

Bellwood Public Library

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Board Meeting Minutes February 09, 2026

Ms. Riales, President, called the Bellwood Public Library Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Ms. Felicia Chase
Ms. Mary Clements
Ms. Patricia Crawford
Ms. Elizabeth Ramirez
Ms. Constance Riales
Mr. Reginald Stewart

Absent:

Mrs. Dorothy Smith

Also in attendance: Director Heather Montilla and Administrative Assistant Lili Savage, and Library Attorney Dee Jarad (via phone). There were four community members present.

Public Comment:

1. Janel Moreland thanked the Bellwood Library director, staff and Trustees for hosting the Pink Divas & Gents holiday event with 240 people from the community.
2. Arnetta Watkins thanked the Trustees for moving the board meeting to Mondays. She also liked the new setup.
3. Ms. Harvey stated that a new state law went into effect for Library's to receive state grant money for Library Security upgrades. Trustee Clements stated that she saw this new law listed on RAILS. Director Montilla will check on this new law.
4. Ms. Harvey asked if the Bellwood staff trained on Narcan. Director Montilla stated that the staff was trained in March 2025 on Narcan and Hands-only CPR and two thirds of the staff also completed the CPR and First Aid training.

A motion was made by Ms. Clements, seconded by Ms. Ramirez to approve the Special Board meeting minutes for January 26, 2026.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 6: Ms. Chase, Ms. Clements, Ms. Crawford, Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Riales, Mr. Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN: 0:

ABSENT: 1: Mrs. Smith
The motion passed.

Library Attorney arrived at 6:17 pm.

Finance Committee Report:

Ms. Clements gave the finance report which included: Reports of Bills: #866, 866-A, & 866-B. The following reports on bills were submitted, copies of which are included as part of these minutes:

#866 (Bill List) in the amount of	\$ 56,673.65
#866-A (Payroll) in the amount of	\$ 118,707.58
#866-B (Checking) in the amount of	\$ 0.00
TOTAL:	\$ 175,381.23

A motion was made by Ms. Chase, seconded by Ms. Crawford for approval of Bill-Reports #866, 866-A, & 866-B. The Treasurer's Report will be file for audit.
A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 6: Ms. Chase, Ms. Clements, Ms. Crawford, Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Riales, Mr. Stewart
NAYS: 0:
ABSTAIN: 0:
ABSENT: 1: Mrs. Smith
The motion passed.

Committee Reports:

- a. Administration Committee (Chairman: Secretary Crawford)
 - i. No report .

- b. Building and Grounds Committee (Chairman: Trustee Chase)
 - i. Trustee Chase asked the director about the movement on ADA Compliant Exterior ramp. Director Montilla read an email to the Trustees regarding the ramp. Director Montilla has received the draft from Studio GC and will send it to Library Attorney Jarad for review.

- c. Finance Committee (Chairman: Treasurer Clements)
 - i. No report

- d. Planning and Development Committee (Chairman: Trustee Stewart)
 - i. No report.

- e. Public Relations and Legislation Committee (Chairman: Trustee Smith)
 - i. No report.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

A motion was made by Ms. Chase, seconded by Mr. Stewart for approval of consideration and approval of Renewal of Bellwood Public Library’s General Liability, Property & Other Insurance Coverage Program for March 2026-March 2027.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 6: Ms. Chase, Ms. Clements, Ms. Crawford, Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Riales, Mr. Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN: 0:

ABSENT: 1: Mrs. Smith

The motion passed.

A motion was made by Ms. Clements, seconded by Mr. Stewart for approval of the timetable regarding Director Montilla’s Evaluation. All director evaluations were to be turned in by/on Friday, February 27, 2026. On Monday, March 2, 2026, the evaluations are to be Fed-Ex next day to Library Attorney Dee Jarad office.

A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: 6: Ms. Chase, Ms. Clements, Ms. Crawford, Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Riales, Mr. Stewart

NAYS: 0:

ABSTAIN: 0:

ABSENT: 1: Mrs. Smith

The motion passed.

Communication/Announcements:

Two community flyers were shared with the Trustees.

Library Director’s Report: The report is posted on the Bellwood Public Library’s web page.

Public Comments:

1. A Patron stated that they liked hearing the Director’s report on the Library’s finance.
2. Trustee Chase stated that St. Sabina Parrish is hosting an African American Speaking Series. Joy Reid will be the keynote speaker on Friday, February 13, 2026, at 7pm. The Parrish is located at 78th Place & Racine. Free event

Adjournment: Ms. Clements moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Chase seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. All voted by voice, Aye.

Patricia Crawford, Secretary