

MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SPECIAL MEETING OCTOBER 4, 2025 9:00AM AT THE LIBRARY

Members Present:, Scott Schaumann, Mike Cunningham, Melissa Daley, Sarah Miller, Kate Smith and Stevi Stutzman(attended via Zoom and physically at different times through the meeting.)

Not Present: Susie Baker

Also Present: John Howard, Rebecca Strom

Mike Cunningham opened the meeting by reading the library's mission statement: "Together we create a welcoming community that empowers everyone to learn, connect, create, and grow."

Audience Comments - None

Discussion of Expansion Referendum Options

The Board spent time discussing the different types of referenda – a limiting rate increase referendum and a building bond referendum. They also reviewed drafts of the language that would need to be included on the ballot for each type. John Howard noted that while either type would achieve our goal of paying for the building expansion needed, he felt that the limiting rate increase would be better for the library as it would enable us to manage increased operating expenses and be more flexible in general. Members of the Board expressed concern about the language for the limiting rate increase, which makes the increase in taxes look more severe than it actually is. The driving concern was about which form would be more likely to pass, and about the difficulty of explaining the more complicated limiting rate increase to the community. No decision was made. The Board also noted that we must be cautious to provide only information about the referendum, and be scrupulous about not taking part in, or using library resources for, political activity that is not allowed under law..

Strategic Planning Discussion

The Board then took part in a guided discussion of the aspects of library service that should be included in the strategic plan. The discussion included discussion of value statements, local and global changes to the environment in which library is located, facility issues, collections, patron interaction, communications, library services, programming, staffing, finance and budgeting, Board of Trustees operations, and overall issues. John Howard, noted that the library leadership would combine Board feedback with that of staff and provide a draft strategic plan at the November regular board meeting.

Trustee Comments

Melissa stated that she appreciates everyone time today and the good, healthy conversation.

Stevi was very appreciative of our work as a team and great diverse ideas to keep us moving forward and appreciates our library.

Mike said that he appreciates everyone.

Adjournment

Stevi Stutzman moved to adjourn the meeting. Scott Schaumann seconded; the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted by John Howard, Library Director