

MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OCTOBER 13, 2025 6:15PM AT THE LIBRARY

Members Present: Susie Baker, Scott Schaumann, Mike Cunningham, Sarah Miller, Melissa Daley, Kate Smith

Members Absent: Stevi Stutzman

Also present: John Howard, Tammy Caputo, Rebecca Strom

Susie Baker 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."

Review of the Minutes from September 8, 2025

Mike Cunningham moved to approve the minutes from September 8, 2025. Scott Schaumann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of the Budget & Appropriations Hearing Minutes from September 15, 2025

Kate Smith moved to approve the minutes from September 15, 2025. Scott Schaumann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of the Special Meeting Minutes from September 18, 2025

Mike Cunningham moved to approve the minutes from September 18, 2025. Scott Schaumann seconded. Mike Cunningham noted the date of the minutes was incorrect. The motion passed, with amendments, unanimously.

Review of the Special Planning Meeting Minutes from October 4, 2025

Mike Cunningham moved to approve the minutes from October 4, 2025. Scott Schaumann seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

A. Financial Report for September 2025

Kate Smith moved to approve the financial report for September 2025. Sarah Miller seconded. Kate Smith noted the 'Donation' deposit amount on the income statement seemed high. John Howard will check with Kathy Leathers and report back at the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Check Register for September 2025

Kate Smith moved to approve the check register for September 2025. Sarah Miller seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report for September 2025

John Howard shared how the closing of book supplier Baker & Taylor is impacting libraries' ability to get books. It is likely the impact will be felt for weeks. Mahomet Library has chosen Ingram as its new book supplier.

Scott Schaumann asked if payments have been made to Baker & Taylor for books we have not received. John Howard said no. Payment for materials is made once the books arrive and are checked against packing slips.

Susie Baker asked if information about delays in receiving new books could be posted on the library's social media accounts. John Howard stated he has already asked the marketing team to do so.

Scott Schaumann asked why there were no statistics on locker usage. John Howard said the lockers are being repaired and inaccessible at this time.

Kate Smith expressed how clever it is to show a picture of 'The Goodbye Book' on the new overdue notices.

Scott Schaumann asked if there have been problems with patrons not receiving the new notices. John Howard said no one has been aware of any issues.

Mike Cunningham said the new notices were much more personable than the old ones.

Audience Comments

There were no audience comments.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

A. Approval of Ordinance 2025-4 Tax Levy

The ordinance was approved by the library's attorney and the Finance Committee. The board voted unanimously to pass the ordinance.

B. Expansion Plan Update

a. Form of Referendum

John Howard shared the updated expansion spreadsheet from James Rachlin of Meristem Advisors.

Kate Smith suggested the Finance Committee meet with James Rachlin to different scenarios in the spreadsheet and share their findings at the November 2025 board meeting.

b. Expansion Schedule

John Howard said the expansion project is in fundraising mode.

John Howard stated the library's website has been updated as follows:

- an expansion FAQ section has been added
- the expansion information has been updated to reflect the most current information

John Howard said the deadline for the board to decide on the type of referendum to take to taxpayers is at the December 2025 meeting.

c. Need for Additional Drawings from Engberg Anderson

John Howard requested a more accurate drawing from Engberg Anderson, at a cost of up to \$3,000.

C. Discussion of Watson's Food Truck in the Library Parking Lot

John Howard said the owner of Watson's Food Truck asked if they could park in the library parking lot on Tuesday evenings from 5:00-8:00. John asked for feedback from the board.

Scott Schaumann asked if there was an issue using public property for commercial use. John Howard said he will find out. Barring no issues, the consensus of the board is to say yes to Watson's on an experimental basis to see how it works for the library and the community.

D. Plan for Director Evaluation 2025

Susie Baker will email library staff the director's evaluation form. Tammy Caputo will send Susie the email addresses of all library staff. The board will go into a closed session at the November 2025 meeting to finalize the evaluation of the director.

E. Letter Regarding the Proposed Fisher Public Library

John Howard stated the Board of Trustees received a certified letter announcing the proposal of a Fisher Public Library. The town of Fisher sent the letter to the Board to demonstrate due diligence in their efforts to place a referendum on the ballot in March 2026.

F. Discussion on Changing the Date/Time of Board Meetings (not on the agenda)

Mike Cunningham asked for discussion on changing the date/time of board meetings.

Kate Smith moved to change the start time of the November board meeting to 5:30. Mike Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

John Howard said a vote to permanently change the meeting start time to 5:30 will be taken at the November 2025 meeting.

Strategic Plan

A. Quarterly Review of Progress

There were no comments.

Board Advocacy

A. Murder Mystery Dinner Date February 14th at Farm Credit

John Howard stated someone is needed to oversee decorating. Decorating will take place during the day on Friday, February 13. The theme is 'prom night'.

John Howard said a caterer has not been chosen. Mike Cunningham stated he preferred to choose a Mahomet business to cater.

Trustee Comments

Melissa Dailey met with educators from the Mahomet Schools. She shared the following information:

- to date, 3% of students are in homes where English is the second language
- guided reading leveling has been replaced with Lexile leveling.

Adjournment

Mike Cunningham moved to adjourn the meeting. Melissa Dailey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Caputo, Assistant Director