

# **MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

## **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING JANUARY 12, 2026 5:31PM AT THE LIBRARY**

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**Members Present:** Susie Baker, Mike Cunningham, Kate Smith, Stevi Stutzman, Melissa Daley

**Members Absent:** Scott Schaumann, Sarah Miller

**Also present:** John Howard, Tammy Caputo

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 December 8, 2025**

Stevi Stutzman moved to approve the minutes from December 8, 2025. Mike Cunningham seconded. Kate Smith noted some wording changes. The motion passed, with amendments, unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

#### **A. Financial Report for December 2025**

John Howard stated that the financial report for December 2025 was not available and will be presented for approval at the February 2026 meeting.

#### **B. Check Register for December 2025**

Kate Smith moved to approve the check register for December 2025. Stevi Stutzman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Stevi Stutzman noted that the checks made out to her were for staff holiday party expenses.

### **Director's Report for December 2025**

John Howard reported there was a big push to finish two projects by the end of December. Both projects were completed on time.

1. Get the Everything Mahomet website up and running
2. Get The Library Book(let) ready for publication

Melissa Daley asked why the numbers for program attendance and people counts were so different from this time last year. John Howard suggested weather may have affected the program attendance. John also suggested the increase in teens using the library to study for finals may have had an impact on the people count number.

In reference to the yard signs the Friends of the Library are passing out, Melissa Daley asked if we could keep track of how many signs are given out and to whom. John Howard said yes.

### **Audience Comments**

There were no audience comments.

### **Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports.

### **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Discussion of fundraising feasibility study**

John Howard stated he received a proposal for a fundraising feasibility study from the company Eden+. He will be obtaining additional proposals.

Mike Cunningham asked what the feasibility study will do for our fundraising campaign. John Howard stated the study will provide us with a campaign plan. This includes graphic design and layout, annotated table of gifts for top 100 prospects, and donor research. The study will also help identify prospective members of the fundraising committee.

The board discussed the pros and cons of performing a feasibility study.

John Howard will bring additional proposals to next month's meeting.

## **B. Discussion of expansion project and referendum**

John Howard stated the focus this month was putting together the expansion information for The Library Book(let).

John Howard reported that staff member Leah Drete is creating a bookmark containing expansion information. The bookmarks will be given to patrons at checkout and available at the help desk and circulation desk for patrons to take.

## **C. Review of January Library Book(let)**

Board members were given a copy of The Library Book(let) to review. Excellent and amazing were the comments made by board members.

John Howard stated that board members should familiarize themselves with the expansion FAQs on the library's website.

## **Strategic Plan**

There was nothing to report.

## **Board Advocacy**

### **A. Board Duties for Murder Mystery Dinner February 14, 2026**

- I. Setup and Decorations (Friday afternoon)  
Stevi Stutzman, Susie Baker, Kate Smith; Stevi Stutzman would like to see the venue as soon as possible.
- II. Registration Table  
Mike Cunningham, Rob Baker
- III. Bartending/Food Serving  
Bartending: Kate Smith, Stevi Stutzman
- IV. Clean-up  
Everyone helps with clean-up.

Melissa Daley said she could help wherever she is needed.

Stevi Stutzman has offered to purchase drinks.

John Howard stated he will be contacting prospective caterers for the event. He will be talking to Filippo's and South Paw Social.

John Howard said everyone should arrive by 5:00pm on the night of the event.

## **Trustee Comments**

Mike Cunningham gave some positive and reassuring advice about the stress everyone is under preparing for the upcoming referendum. He said we can only control the controllable. He stated we have done everything we can to educate the community on the expansion project. We need to remain positive and diligent with our fundraising efforts.

Melissa Daley stated that even though she voted to change the board meeting time to from 6:15 to 5:30, she does not love it. She would like to revisit the decision sometime soon.

Susie Baker reiterated Mike Cunningham's comments. Susie asked if donation information will be on the bookmarks Leah Drete is making. John Howard said no.

Kate Smith toured the newly arranged children's area before the meeting. She loves the way the space has been reorganized. Kudos to Becca Strom.

## **Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:43pm.

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Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Caputo, Assistant Director