

MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2026 5:30PM AT THE LIBRARY

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

Members Absent: none

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."

Amended Agenda

John Howard presented an amended agenda. Stevi Stutzman moved to accept the amended agenda. Melissa Daley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of the Minutes from January 12, 2026

Mike Cunningham moved to approve the minutes from January 12, 2026. Stevi Stutzman seconded. Kate Smith and Tammy Caputo noted some wording changes. The motion passed, with amendments, unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

A. Approval of financial reports

Kate Smith moved to approve the financial reports for June 2025 through November 2025. Stevi Stutzman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Kate Smith asked why we are over budget on Digital M Online Subscriptions. John Howard said he thinks something was coded incorrectly and will look into it.

Melissa Daley asked about excess interest earned over the budgeted amount. Ways to maximize interest cash was discussed.

Kate Smith moved to approve the financial reports for January 2026. Stevi Stutzman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kate Smith asked why the amount spent on magazines was over budget. John Howard said he started a subscription to Publishers Weekly.

B. Approval of the check register for January 2026

Kate Smith moved to approve the check register for January 2026. Stevi Stutzman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Melissa Daley stated she thought we had cut back on ordering books from Amazon and asked why the amount spent with Amazon was high. John Howard said we purchase other items and supplies through Amazon.

Melissa Daley asked if we are caught up on book backorders. John Howard said yes.

Scott Schauman asked if there are issues with Ingram. John Howard said no. After a few glitches, the processes are going well.

John Howard noted the check to Library Ideas was for an order of Vox and Wonderbooks.

Director's Report for January 2026

John Howard stated we are still seeing strong circulation numbers. Compared to this time last year, total circulation is up 11% and print material circulation is up 13%. We continue to see increases in people count numbers.

Kate Smith stated she was pleased to see the number of SHARE mobile app launches continuing to increase.

Scott Schauman would like to see web statistics. John Howard said he would look into it.

Melissa Daley stated she was pleased with the people count and program attendance numbers. John Howard said both numbers are an indicator of how busy the library is.

Scott Schauman asked how the increase in overall busyness affects staff. Are they overwhelmed? John Howard said they are overwhelmed at times. He said a committee of more experienced staff members has been formed to look at our processes. Among the topics to be discussed is the possibility of scheduling additional staff on certain days and/or times and ways to reduce circulation errors.

Stevi Stutzman stated she would like to see how many of our patrons are active users. John Howard said he would look into it.

John Howard pointed out the Patron Point (PP) online registration and automatic renewal statistics. Between May 1, 2025 and January 31, 2026, 162 people attempted to register online for a library card. Of the 162 attempts, 38 were rejected because PP could not validate the person's address. There was discussion on how to reduce this number. A decision was made to lower the threshold PP uses to validate addresses. Scott Schauman asked for quarterly statistics to see if the number of rejections decrease. Stevi Stutzman asked if PP could automatically send us information when a registration is rejected. John Howard said he would look into it.

John Howard pointed out the Library IQ Chart, noting the variances in items added by month. The drop occurring in the latter part of 2025 is due to Baker & Taylor going out of business. Scott Schauman asked what other factors cause variances. John Howard said standing orders and when best sellers are released can impact when items are added to the library catalog.

Melissa Daley asked when the I Love My Library signs can be picked up. John Howard said the Friends of the Library are working on it. He does not know when the signs will be ready but hopes soon.

Audience Comments

There were no audience comments.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

A. An Ordinance determining the financing of certain library improvements in and for the Mahomet Public Library District, Champaign County, Illinois

John Howard stated Illinois Library District law requires passage of the ordinance.

Susie Baker stated: An Ordinance determining the financing of certain library improvements in and for the Mahomet Public Library District, Champaign County, Illinois need to be voted upon by the Board. Kate Smith moved to pass the ordinance. Mike Cunningham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Discussion of expansion project and referendum

John Howard said we continue to provide information about the expansion and upcoming referendum to the public.

Melissa Daley asked if more fundraising feasibility study proposals were received. John Howard said he contacted another firm; however they do not have time and declined his offer. Melissa Daley mentioned a conversation she had with a person who paid for a fundraising feasibility study for their organization. Because this organization did not have someone on their staff who could build relationships with potential donors, they did not raise additional funds.

C. Update on completion of Statement of Economic Interests forms for 2026

John Howard said the website used to submit the forms is not working. Once it is operational, he will let everyone know. The deadline for submission is May 2026.

D. Acceptance of Audit for 24-25

Kate Smith moved to accept the audit for 24-25. Scott Schauman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kate Smith stated the auditors gave us a clear audit.

Strategic Plan

There was nothing to report.

Board Advocacy

A. Plans for Murder Mystery Dinner February 14, 2026

John Howard passed out duty assignments for the event.

Sarah Miller asked if she is supposed to pay for a ticket to the dinner. John Howard stated it is up to her.

There was discussion on whether or not more effort should be put into making this event a true fundraising event because of the amount of work that goes into putting the event on. Sarah Miller stated she was open to the idea for next year.

Trustee Comments

Kate Smith formally acknowledged how hard Kathy Leathers worked on the audit.

Susie Baker said she is looking forward to the murder mystery dinner event. She also mentioned how hard we have all worked on the expansion project and we should be proud of our accomplishments. It's now up to the voters.

Melissa Daley said she is overall pleased with the positive comments on Facebook about the expansion project.

Closed Session

Mike Cunningham moved that the Board enter a closed session for discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the OMA, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated in Section 2.06.5 ILCS 120/(c)(21). Stevi Stutzman seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the Board went into closed session at 6:56pm.

The board returned from closed session at 6:58pm.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Caputo, Assistant Director