

MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING APRIL 13, 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."

Review of the Minutes from March 9, 2026

Mike Cunningham moved to approve the minutes from March 9, 2026. Scott Schaumann seconded. Stevi Stutzman noted a wording change. The motion passed, with amendments, unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

A. Approval of Financial Reports

Kate Smith moved to approve the financial reports for March 2026. Stevi Stutzman seconded. Sarah Miller stepped out of the room prior to the vote. The motion passed unanimously by the remaining Board members.

John Howard stated he is still looking into why the expenses for 'L&P: Payroll/Benefits Process' are over budget.

B. Approval of the Check Register for March 2026

Kate Smith moved to approve the check register for March 2026. Stevi Stutzman seconded. Sarah Miller returned to the room prior to the vote. The motion passed unanimously by all Board members.

John Howard stated the check to 4imprint, Inc. was for tote bags. New members of the community visiting the library are given a tote bag containing information about the library and the community of Mahomet.

John Howard stated the check to him was reimbursement of expenses for the Teen Finals Study event.

John Howard stated the check to Hanover Insurance was for our primary property, liability and worker's compensation insurance. He noted a few changes to our insurance

- Increase of the building's replacement cost – based on the construction costs we are getting for the expansion. He wants to ensure we are not underinsured in case of a total loss such as a tornado.
- Director and officers' insurance – Being added this spring.
- Notary Public insurance – This was actually added last June to protect our notaries from liability.

Stevi Stutzman stated the check to her was for Murder Mystery Dinner expenses.

Director's Report for March 2026

John Howard stated we are still seeing strong circulation numbers. Compared to this time last year, total circulation is up 6%.

John Howard explained that people counts fluctuate based on the types and number of events held each month. The higher count this month is likely due to the Minecraft Day event and increased traffic from Election Day voters.

John Howard noted that the library card design contest has concluded, and the winners have been announced. He added that it was a fun project for the staff.

John Howard reported that the library has transitioned to Watts for printer/copier service and is purchasing a new copier. The new machine will replace the patron copier, and the current patron copier will be moved to replace the older unit in the south workroom. He also stated that the new copier is expected to pay for itself within a year, with substantial savings realized by switching from GSI to Watts.

John Howard announced that the library will begin offering battery recycling to the public and expressed appreciation to Kathy Leathers for helping make this possible.

John Howard stated that, since the referendum did not pass, the library will remain in the current building layout for at least the next three years. Rebecca Strom is leading an effort to assess the use of storage and space within the library.

Melissa Daley asked whether the off-site space had reached maximum capacity. John Howard replied that evaluating how the

space is used is part of the staff's plan to make the most of the space available. The plan includes weeding the collections stored off-site.

Scott Schaumann inquired about spaces that might be repurposed. John Howard said that the main library will remain unchanged, while the mechanical room, book sorting room, and Edgar Room storage are currently under consideration.

Kate Smith said she likes the removal of locks on music CD and DVD cases. John Howard said it is another way to make the library easier for patrons to use.

John Howard explained the information on the Library IQ circulation report. The report helps identify understocked and overstocked collections and can guide purchasing decisions. It also makes the case for needing more space. He noted that Library IQ can analyze collections based on the Book Industry Standards and Communications (BISAC). BISAC is a standardized set of subject headings used to catalog books by genre and topic.

Melissa Daley asked if we could speak to the high school librarian to learn what books students are reading. John Howard agreed, noting collaborating with the school librarians is part of the strategic plan.

Audience Comments

There were no audience comments.

Committee Reports

Susie Baker stated the finance committee will be meeting prior to the May Board meeting.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

A. Approval of Purchase of New Copier from Watts

It was determined the Board did not need to approve purchase of the new copier.

John Howard stated the cost of the new copier is \$4,400.

B. Questions about SEI Filing

John Howard stated the deadline for filing is May 1, 2026. He asked Board members to let him know when they have filed.

C. Review of Referendum – Discussion of Next Steps

John Howard stated the referendum failed by 25 votes. He asked what could have been done differently.

Scott Schaumann said the timing of the election over spring break had a negative impact on voting numbers.

Sarah Miller said the library did not hold a major fundraising event, which would have helped include more community members in the project. She added that it appeared to the public as if the library was not doing much to encourage voters to support the expansion project.

Melissa Daley asked if there was a group organizing a "Vote Yes" campaign. She noted that several community members had told her they were unaware the expansion project was going to be on the ballot. The information did not get out to the community.

Kate Smith said planning for a activities like a major fund raising can start soon, and that we would have more time to plan them. She hopes the referendum can be placed back on the ballot in April 2027.

Mike Cunningham said more people need to be involved and that more tasks should be delegated to those who want to help with the effort.

Board members also discussed the following strategies to raise community awareness of the expansion project:

- Partnering with local businesses as part of a capital campaign
- Creating a dedicated Facebook page focused on referendum-related topics

Mike Cunningham stated that discussion of the referendum should be placed on future agendas under Unfinished Business, and John Howard agreed to include it.

The Board does not want to lose momentum and would like the referendum to be on either the November 2026 or April 2027 ballot. They are not ready to decide yet and will take the next month to reflect on what could have been done differently. John

Howard asked Board members to email him individually with their comments and suggestions. He will compile the list and present it at next month's meeting.

D. Discussion of Representative to Serve on Friends of the Library Board

Stevi Stutzman volunteered to serve as the Board of Trustees representative on the Friends of the Library Board.

Strategic Plan Update

Sarah Miller asked for an update on the strategic plan. John Howard said the Board had intentionally postponed work on it until after the election. He noted that Rebecca Strom and Tammy Caputo will help finalize the plan. He expects to present the plan to the Board in July.

Board Advocacy

A. Ice Cream Social

John Howard said the Ice Cream Social will be held on July 19th from 2:00-4:00. This is a great opportunity for the community to get to know Board members. John asked the Board members to let him know if they are unable to attend. Mike Cunningham said he will not be there.

B. I Spy Summer Volunteer Sign-up

The I Spy Summer event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Rotary Club. This year's event will be held on May 23rd. John Howard said Board members are invited to help out with the event, but it is not a requirement. He passed around a signup sheet for those who want to attend.

Melissa Daley said she will not be able to attend.

Trustee Comments

Mike Cunningham asked if it were possible for Board members to get a draft copy of the meeting minutes within a week of the meeting. Tammy Caputo said yes. John Howard agreed.

Scott Schaumann announced he will be resigning from the Board before his term ends because he is moving away from Mahomet. Several Board members told him what a pleasure it has been to work with him, that they greatly value his contributions and will be sad to see him go.

Melissa Daley said as an elected member of the Board, we represent members of the community. It is our responsibility to speak out at meetings and voice our opinions.

Sarah Miller said she may not be able to volunteer much for the foreseeable future because she is currently working two jobs.

Stevi Stutzmann said it's okay to disagree with other Board members. She recalled feeling intimidated as a new Board member when speaking up.

Stevi Stutzman described the election results as disappointing but emphasized that it's time to move forward. She thanked John and the staff for their hard work.

Adjournment

Mike Cunningham moved to adjourn the meeting. Stevi Stutzman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Caputo, Assistant Director