

# MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MAY 11, 2026 5:31PM AT THE LIBRARY

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**Members Present:** Susie Baker, Scott Schaumann, Kate Smith, Melissa Daley, Sarah Miller  
Melissa Daley left the meeting at 6:30 p.m., and Sarah Miller left at 6:45 p.m. Neither absence affected any voting.

**Members Absent:** Mike Cunningham, Stevi Stutzman

**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 April 13, 2026

Scott Schaumann moved to approve the minutes from April 13, 2026. Melissa Daley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report

#### A. Approval of Financial Reports

Kate Smith moved to approve the financial reports for April 2026. Melissa Daley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Scott Schaumann asked about several expenses that are currently over budget. John Howard explained the following:

- Trash Service is over budget due to the rental of a dumpster.
- Janitorial Supplies is over budget because of the high usage of brown paper towels.
- Giveaway Books is over budget because reimbursement from the Rotary Club has not yet been received.

#### B. Approval of the Check Register for April 2026

Kate Smith moved to approve the check register for April 2026. Melissa Daley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

John Howard stated the voided checks were due to having the wrong issue date.

Sarah Miller asked about the checks issued to staff and Board members. John Howard explained that the checks were reimbursements.

### Committee Reports

#### A. Finance Committee

##### a. Discussion/Approval of 2026-2027 Operating Budget

Kate Smith told the Board that the finance committee met May 5th to discuss the proposed FY 2026-2027 operating budget and that the proposed budget was included in the Board packet. Kate stated the committee voted to present the budget to the Board for approval.

Melissa Daley asked why personnel salaries and benefits were higher than the previous year. John Howard explained that the budgeted amount includes a cost-of-living increase for staff and reflects Tyeler Laboray's promotion to a full-time librarian position.

Melissa Daley asked why the budgeted amount for programs and events is lower than the previous year. John Howard explained that the amount is based on the projected spending for the current year, which is anticipated to be \$22,850.

The proposed FY 2026-2027 budget was submitted by the finance committee. A roll call vote was taken; all trustees voted to approve the budget.

### New Business

#### A. Zoom Consultation with Ashley Stewart, Every Library Institute (ELI)

Ashley Stewart delivered an excellent presentation titled "Post-Election Debrief & Next Steps." She described her organization's services and explained how they could support the library. She also noted that ELI provides its services pro bono.

The following are the key highlights from her presentation:

## **Post-Election Debrief**

- What Worked Well:
  - The printed materials, mailer, website, and social media were exceptional.
  - Community members specifically complimented the quality of the information.
  - Director-led information campaign was disciplined, accurate, and consistent.
- Challenges / Areas to Develop:
  - No formal “Vote Yes” ballot committee, which meant no organized persuasion or turnout effort.
  - A library cannot legally do ‘get out the vote’ work; Friends of the Library members and an independent committee can.
  - Looming/competing tax pressure from the school district weighed on some voters.

## **Potential Next Steps**

- Companion Strategy for Sustainable Funding for the Library:
  - A capital campaign (even a modest one) would demonstrate community demand and reduce the size of the tax ask.
  - A feasibility study over the summer is another recommended next step.
- Referendum Retreat:
  - A referendum retreat brings together staff, board members, Friends of the Library, and community supporters to align on strategy, sharpen your messaging, and build the coalition you’ll need to win.

## **B. Discussion of Next Steps Forward to Achieve Expansion**

John Howard asked the BIG question – When do we go to the polls again?

Kate Smith asked about the Consolidated Primary scheduled for February. John Howard stated that, according to the County Clerk’s office, Mahomet currently has nothing on the ballot.

Melissa Daley believes the schools will be placing their referendum on the November ballot. She is still undecided about when the library should return to the polls but noted that November could be advantageous due to higher voter turnout.

Scott Schaumann suggested being prepared for the November election then observing the schools’ plans before making a final decision.

Kate Smith said she could be persuaded, though she prefers the April election. She also suggested holding a referendum retreat in collaboration with ELI.

Susie Baker stated that she is not concerned with the schools’ timing and also prefers April, noting that it would allow more time to complete necessary preparations properly.

Sarah Miller agreed with Susie, noting that additional time is needed to effectively share information with the community. She stated that an April election would provide that opportunity.

The Board agreed to hold a referendum retreat on Saturday, May 30 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Edgar Room. Susie Baker suggested inviting individuals who spoke in support of the library and the expansion on social media. Melissa Daley said she would gather the names.

## **C. Discussion of Meeting Time for 2026-2027 (Ordinance in June)**

Scott Schaumann suggested that John Howard present two options at next month’s meeting: one proposing a 5:30 p.m. meeting time and the other proposing a 6:15 p.m. meeting time. The Board will then vote on one of the proposals. John agreed to do so.

## **D. Approval of Non-Resident Fee Formula for 2026-2027**

### **a. Staff proposal is to continue using the Tax Bill method for non-residents, with a minimum of \$50 which is also the amount charged to renters**

Scott Schaumann moved to accept the staff proposal. Kate Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **E. Appointment of Two Trustees to Perform the Secretary's Audit**

Melissa Daley and Susie Baker agreed to conduct the secretary's audit. The audit is scheduled to take place in July.

## **Director's Report for April 2026**

Several Board members commented that they thought John Howard's letter for the upcoming Booklet was excellent.

Scott Schaumann asked about newly hired Susie Underland. John Howard responded that she is an excellent writer and was his first choice for the position.

John Howard suggested Board members look at the reorganized storage spaces. Kate Smith and Scott Schaumann took a tour and said they are impressed by Rebecca Strom's organizational skills.

Scott Schaumann asked why computer usage has increased. John Howard stated that more young people are using the computers, especially in the teen area.

## **Audience Comments**

There were no audience comments.

## **Strategic Planning**

There was nothing to report.

## **Board Advocacy**

### **A. Discussion of Ice Cream Social**

John Howard said the Ice Cream Social will be held on July 19<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00.

### **B. Discussion of I Spy Summer**

John Howard stated this year's event will be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. He said Board members are invited to help out with the event, it is not a requirement.

## **Trustee Comments**

There were no trustee comments.

## **Adjournment**

Scott Schaumann moved to adjourn the meeting. Kate Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.

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Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Caputo, Assistant Director