

MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2026-4 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

SEPTEMBER 14, 2026 6:16PM AT THE LIBRARY

Members Present: Mike Cunningham (via Zoom) , Stevi Stutzman, Melissa Daley, Kate Smith

Members Absent: Susie Baker, Sarah Miller

Also present: John Howard, Tammy Caputo, Corinne Kohler

Stevi Stutzman opened the hearing at 6:16pm.

Audience Comments

None

Adjournment

The hearing was adjourned at 6:17pm.

MAHOMET PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING SEPTEMBER 14, 2026 6:17PM AT THE LIBRARY

Members Present: Mike Cunningham (via Zoom) , Stevi Stutzman, Melissa Daley, Kate Smith, Corinne Kohler

Members Absent: Susie Baker, Sarah Miller

Also present: John Howard, Tammy Caputo

Stevi Stutzman 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."

Oath of Office for New Trustee

Stevi Stutzman led Corinne Kohler in reciting the oath of office.

Review of the Minutes from August 10, 2026

Melissa Daley moved to approve the minutes from August 10, 2026. Kate Smith seconded. The motion passed, with amendments, unanimously.

Kate Smith noted the appointment of candidate to fill a vacant public library trustee seat was not unanimous as was reported in the minutes.

Review and Approval of the Closed Session Minutes from August 10, 2026

Melissa Daley moved to approve the closed session minutes from August 10, 2026. Kate Smith seconded. The motion passed, with amendments, unanimously.

Kate Smith noted the time the Board went into and returned from the closed session should be in the minutes.

Treasurer's Report

A. Approval of Preliminary Financial Reports for August 2026

Kate Smith moved to approve the preliminary financial reports for August 2026. Melissa Daley seconded. The motion passed with amendments, unanimously.

Kate Smith noted the Per Capita Grant should not be listed as income. This amount would have been shown in the previous fiscal year as a receivable.

B. Approval of the Check Register for August 2026

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

John Howard noted the check to Freedom Roofing & Construction was for a roof leak.

Stevi Stutzman asked if the check to SteamMaster was for carpet cleaning. John Howard said yes. All visible carpet in the building was cleaned.

Director's Report

John Howard noted that total circulation was down 6% compared to the same period last year. He also reported that circulation of digital materials had decreased by 6%. Kate Smith stated there may be a calculation error in the spreadsheet. There was not a decrease in digital materials based on the figures in the Circ Totals portion of the spreadsheet.

John Howard said it was sad to lose Julie Butler. She has worked as a shelver at the library for over 20 years. He noted the position has been posted and applications are being reviewed.

John Howard said it is exciting to see what Ty is doing with the teen collection and programming.

John Howard noted that the IPLAR was filed slightly late due to the discovery that the annual insurance renewal did not include the required surety bond.

Melissa Daley asked if Everything Mahomet Facebook posts could be shared to other groups by Everything Mahomet instead of John Howard. John said he will look into it.

Audience Comments

Tammy Caputo presented the redesigned "Welcome to the Mahomet Library" information packets to the Board. She explained

that Mahomet patrons who sign up for a library card receive an information packet in a Mahomet Library-branded book bag. Children who sign up for a library card receive a Mahomet Library-branded lanyard with a pouch to hold their library card.

Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

Kate Smith informed the Board that the finance committee met on August 25th. The committee recommends that the Board approve Ordinance 2026-4 Budget and Appropriations. The committee also agreed with John Howard's recommendation to continue using Meristem Advisors as the municipal advisor and for financial analysis.

New Business

A. Continued Provision of QSEHRA in 2027

Kate Smith moved to continue provision of QSEHRA in 2027. Melissa Daley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Consideration of Ordinance 2026-4 Budget and Appropriations

Ordinance 2026-4 Budget and Appropriations was unanimously approved upon the recommendation of the finance committee.

C. Report from Eden+ Feasibility Study of Potential Expansion Capital Campaign

Eric Heining, President of Eden+ Fundraising Consulting presented the final report of Mahomet Public Library's feasibility study.

Mike Cunningham asked for clarification on where the \$2.5 million would come from. Eric Heining said it would come from fundraising.

Stevi Stutzman asked if there was a list of names of potential donors and campaign committee volunteers. John Howard responded yes.

Corinne Kohler asked if the online survey was anonymous. Eric Heining stated contact information was optional, with approximately 50% of respondents providing it.

John Howard stated it was difficult securing community members for interviews, with many calls and emails going unanswered. He expressed concern that there may not be enough community support to lead a capital campaign.

John Howard stated that \$2.5 million would not be sufficient to fund the expansion needs. If \$2.5 million were raised and the referendum failed, the funds would be secured for future expansion needs.

John Howard asked Eric Heining what Eden+'s role would be if the library hired the firm to conduct the capital campaign. Eric Heining stated their role is project management. They would work behind the scenes, monitor day-to-day activities, support the campaign committee, and handle much of the legwork.

D. Consideration of Next Steps and Retention of Eden+ for Capital Campaign Services

The Board held an extensive discussion regarding the information presented by Eric Heining and next steps. Key points included:

- The difficulty John Howard had in securing community members for interviews may indicate a similar challenge in finding members to serve on the campaign committee.
- Concerns were raised that community members would be responsible for contacting potential donors, as many people may not feel comfortable asking for financial support.
- The proposed capital campaign timeline presented by Eden+ is 9 months. Board members expressed concern that there may not be enough time to conduct an effective capital campaign while also investing significant time in community education and outreach about the need for the expansion.

Mike Cunningham asked what \$ number is required to keep taxes the same. John Howard stated \$4.6 million, which is probably enough to build a new children's library. However, the need is for a larger programming space AND a new children's library.

Kate Smith asked John Howard to contact the architects to obtain updated cost estimates for the expansion plan.

The Board made the decision to pause doing a capital campaign at this time and to put energy, resources, and time into a full referendum campaign. Once the results of the school referendum are in, a decision can be made on what the library's referendum campaign will look like.

Board Advocacy

A. Meeting to Discuss Fundraising Event on September 22nd

Due to only two Board members being available to attend the September meeting, the Board decided to postpone the meeting and poll members for alternative dates. Tammy Caputo will send out a poll with several additional meeting date options.

Trustee Comments

All trustees welcomed Corrine Kohler as the new trustee and thanked her for taking the time to serve on the Board.

Kate Smith proudly displayed her Read & Grow Mahomet Public Library sticker. She loves it! (Thank to Ty for the great design.)

Corinne Kohler said she is happy to be here and is looking forward to serving on the Board.

Melissa Daley wished Tammy Caputo a belated happy birthday and thanked her for spending her birthday at a Board meeting.

Stevi Stutzman thanked Alyssa and Ty for all the creative programs coming up this fall. She also thanked staff for their work in creating the new "Welcome to Mahomet Library" packet. (Leah and Tammy collaborated on this project.)

Adjournment

Melissa Daley moved to adjourn the meeting. Corinne Kohler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Caputo, Assistant Director