

MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
MINUTES of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Wednesday, March 12, 2025

President Ramage called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM in the Mid-Hudson Library System Auditorium

1. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustees Present: Stuart Auchincloss, Kevin Finnegan, Leslie Gerber, Kenneth Goldberg, Rajene Hardeman, Charles Kutcher, Jill Leinung, Jenny Post, Barry Ramage, Janet Schnitzer, Thomas Silvius, Barbara Swanson, Mark Williams

Trustees Absent: Peter Carey, Carla Taylor

Directors Association Liaison: Catherine Benson, Heermance Memorial Library (Coxsackie)

Staff Present: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, James Coyle, Laura Crisci, Laurie Sheldrick, Ashley Teal

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President's report

In addition to his report, President Ramage thanked the board and MHLS staff for their advocacy efforts towards increased library aid in the state budget.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Barbara Swanson moved, and Charles Kutcher seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2025 meeting (Doc. 3.A.). **The motion carried unanimously.**

Minutes approved

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Stuart Auchincloss provided an overview of December 2024 (Doc. 4.A) and January 2025 (Doc. 4.B) financial reports and found them acceptable. Auchincloss reported that the account with the New York Liquid Asset Fund has been established and funds have been invested at a higher rate than our current CDs. Staff will monitor the rates daily to ensure the highest possible return. Rajene Hardeman moved, and Janet Schnitzer seconded a motion to receive the December and January financial reports. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Financial Report received

5. REPORT ON PAYMENT OF BILLS

Rajene Hardeman reported that she reviewed the warrants for December 2024 and found them acceptable (Doc. 5.A). Hardeman moved, and Leslie Gerber seconded a motion to receive the December warrants. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Warrants received

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to her written report, Executive Director Aldrich:

Executive Director's Report

- provided an update on the one-house budget bills released this week;
- discussed the potential of funds from Central Hudson for pending special projects;
- noted that the Mexican Consulate will be using the MHLS Auditorium three times this year; and
- invited Assistant Director and Technology Operations Manager Laurie Shedrick to address our approach to the brute-force attack on the MHLS Catalog from META AI in late February.

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7. DIRECTOR'S ASSOCIATION LIAISON REPORT

- Catherine Benson, Director of the Heermance Memorial Library (Coxsackie), Directors Association Liaison for this meeting reported on the February Directors Association Meeting, including communications with Hoopla and the survey to member library directors who have been chronically underspending on the shared OverDrive collection.

*Report from the
Directors Association
Liaison*

8. BYLAWS, POLICY, & PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

- At the recommendation of the Committee, the board voted to approve the recommended amendments to the MHLS Bylaws (Doc. 8.B). **The motion carried unanimously.**
- At the recommendation of the Committee, the board voted to approve the proposed 2025 Rules and Procedures (Doc. 8.C). **The motion carried unanimously.**

*Bylaw Amendments
Approved*

*2025 Rules and
Procedures Approved*

9. BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Chair Barbara Swanson reported on the committee's approval of the MHLS Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, October 24, 2025, with approved keynote speaker Sam Helmick, incoming president of the American Library Association.
- President Barry Ramage reminded board members that Sexual Harassment Prevention Training is required annually (Doc. 9.B).

*Board Development
Committee Report*

10. INCENTIVES COMMITTEE

- Rajene Hardeman reported on behalf of Chair Carla Taylor on the minutes of the Incentives Committee from February 2025 (Doc. 10.A).
- At the recommendation of the Committee, the board voted to approve the proposed Board Priorities for Funding (Doc. 10.B.i). **The motion carried unanimously.**
- At the recommendation of the Committee, the board voted to approve the change in definition of Economically Disadvantaged Community (Doc 10.A). **The motion carried unanimously.**

*Board Priorities for
Funding Approved*

*Economically
Disadvantaged
Definition Approved*

11. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

- Government & Community Relations Working Group
 - Chair Jill Leuning reported on the meeting of the Government & Community Relations Working Group from February 2025 (Doc.11.A). Leinung moved, and Janet Schnitzer seconded a motion to appoint Priscilla Goldfarb and Myrna Sameth, alumni board members, to the working group. **The motion carried unanimously.**

*Goldfarb and Sameth
appointed to working
group*

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The off-site meetings of the MHLS Board of Trustees are confirmed for:

- Tuesday, May 13, 2025: Highland Public Library
- Friday, September 12, 2025: Beekman Library

*2025 Off-Site
Meeting Locations
Confirmed*

13. NEW BUSINESS

Stuart Auchincloss moved, and Barbara Swanson seconded a motion to authenticate the MHLS System Annual Report. **The motion carried unanimously.**

*Annual Report
Accepted*

14. ORIENTATION

Executive Director Aldrich provided the background of the MHLS Members Assessment and explained how the formula (Doc.14.A.a) was created by the Directors Association.

*Members Assessment
Explained*

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15. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 AM.