

MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
MINUTES of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday, May 13, 2025

President Ramage called the meeting to order at 10:00am at the Highland Public Library.

1. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Trustees Absent: Peter Carey, Kevin Finnegan, Rajene Hardeman, Carla Taylor

Directors Association Liaison: Michele Capozzella, Mahopac Library

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

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President's report

President Ramage

- Thanked the board and MHLS staff for their advocacy efforts towards increased library aid in the state budget.
- Recognized the upcoming retirement of Julie Kelsall-Dempsey, Director of the Highland Public Library and publicly thanked her for her many years of service to the Mid-Hudson Library System. Ms. Kelsall-Dempsey has served, with distinction, as the chair of the MHLS Directors Association, Resource Sharing Advisory Committee and System Services Advisory Committee; was part of the team that created the MHLS Assessment solution to help create a sustainable financial path for system services in the face of dire state cuts to library aid in 2010; and has served as a pilot library for almost all of the technological advancements offered through MHLS, including, most recently, the new catalog and app.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Minutes approved

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Stuart Auchincloss provided an overview of the financial position of the organization after the first quarter, noting all income and expenditures as normal. Auchincloss reported on a recent visit to learn more about how funds are accounted for by MHLS Business Office staff, James Coyle and Elizabeth Garcia, who spend time with him walking him through how both receipts and expenses are managed. Leslie Gerber moved, and Charles Kutcher seconded a motion to receive the February (Doc. 4.A) and March (Doc. 4.B) financial reports. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Financial Report received

5. REPORT ON PAYMENT OF BILLS

Ken Goldberg reported that he reviewed the warrants for January and February 2025 and found them acceptable. Goldberg moved, and Mark Williams seconded a motion to receive the January and February warrants. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Warrants received

Minutes, MHLS Board of Trustees Meeting, Wednesday, March 12, 2025

6. AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chair Ken Goldberg reported on the recently received independent accountants audit report (Doc. 6.B), which was summarized as a “clean audit” with no material findings, and the experience of working with the new audit firm. Charles Kutcher moved, and Ken Goldberg seconded a motion to accept the audit report and the Report to the Board from EFPR (Doc. 6.C). **The motion passed unanimously.**

Audit report received.

7. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- In addition to her written report, Executive Director Aldrich provided detailed report on the outcome of the New York State budget and the impact of federal action and recent lawsuits against the federal government on funding for New York State from the Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS). MHLS will be rolling out four new advocacy initiatives, including a postcard campaign and an Advocacy Ambassador program, to engage more library stakeholders in advocating for federal funds for New York State to ensure the stabilization of the NYS Division of Library Development, which is completely funded through IMLS.
- Barbara Swanson moved, and Stuart Auchincloss seconded the approval of personnel action for the meeting (Doc. 7.A). **The motion passed unanimously.**

State and Federal budget update

Personnel action approved

8. DIRECTOR’S ASSOCIATION LIAISON REPORT

- Michele Capozzella, Director of the Mahopac Library and Directors Association Liaison for this meeting reported on the April Directors Association Meeting. Ms. Capozzella expressed gratitude from the DA to the MHLS Executive Director and the Board for their advocacy on the state budget and expressed that the rollout of the new mobile app has gone well thanks to the preparation of MHLS staff.
- Stuart Auchincloss moved, and Charles Kutcher seconded a motion to approve the 2024 Expenditures Report and 2025 Budget for the Central Library Services program (Doc. 8.B.i). **The motion passed unanimously.**

Report from the Directors Association Liaison

Central Library Report and Budget approved.

9. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

This report was tabled until the next meeting.

10. NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Chair Janet Schnitzer reported that all impacted county associations have been notified of upcoming vacancies and notified the board that the call for nominations for 2026 officers is open until the July board meeting.

Call for Board Officers Announced

11. CORE VALUES ADVISORY GROUP

Jill Leinung moved, and Janet Schnitzer seconded a motion to reaffirm the core values of the Mid-Hudson Library System:

- Responsive Customer Service: The staff and board of the Mid-Hudson Library System strive to be active listeners and timely problem solvers that create a culture of support and professionalism with each other and our member libraires.
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: The staff and board of the Mid-Hudson Library System believe in working together to co-create a society that is free from structural inequities.
- Environmental Stewardship: The staff and board of the Mid-Hudson Library System are committed to minimizing our organization’s ecological impact and maximizing future generations’ ability to live, work, and play in our shared natural environment, with equal access to clean air, clean water, and natural resources.

Organizational Core Values Reaffirmed

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- Economic Feasibility: The staff and board of the Mid-Hudson Library System are committed to achieving sustainable funding both for the System and for member library services.
- Future-Focused: The staff and board of the Mid-Hudson Library System are devoted to optimizing, balancing, iterating and innovating services to equip member libraries for the future.

The motion passed unanimously.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

13. NEW BUSINESS

Mark Williams moved, and Stuart Auchincloss seconded a motion to approve all member library variance requests, as presented (Doc. 13.C). **The motion passed unanimously.**

*Member Variance
Requests Granted*

14. ORIENTATION

Executive Director Aldrich provided an overview of the current state of ebook and downloadable audiobook licensing and the high costs to member libraries. The presentation included a summary of the impact of the Directors Association's OverDrive Ad Hoc Committee and the legislative priority of eBook licensing reform.

*Digital Material
Licensing Overview
provided*

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Leinung, Secretary

Approved on [DATE] by the MHLS Board of Trustees