

**MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM  
MINUTES  
of the  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
September 18, 2004**

Christopher Post, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Mid-Hudson Library System.

**I. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Trustees Present: John DeJoy, Jesse Feiler, Peter Hoffmann, James Hoover, Patricia Miller, Ronald Oppen, Christopher Post, Marie Smith, Jim Tuttle, Muriel Verdibello

Trustees Absent: Camilla von Bergen, Margaret Feldman, Sally Laurilliard, Kathleen Orth, Nancy Ursprung

Liaisons: Daniela Pulice, Director Pleasant Valley Library

Staff Present: Merribeth Advocate, Josh Cohen, Margaret Keefe, Rebekkah Smith, Mohamed Toufali, Peggy Winn

Others Present: Lauren Muffs, Assistant Director Poughkeepsie Public Library District

**II. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

In the absence of President von Bergen, Vice President Post called the meeting to order and welcomed Lauren Muffs, Assistant Director of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District.

*Vice President  
conducts meeting*

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Smith moved and Mr. Hoover seconded THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING BE APPROVED. **The motion carried.**

*Minutes of July  
accepted*

**IV. TREASURER'S REPORTS**

Ms. Smith found the monthly financial reports for June and July acceptable (BOT-04-09-R1/1a). Ms. Smith moved and Mr. Tuttle seconded THAT THE FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JUNE AND JULY BE RECEIVED. **The motion carried.**

*Financial reports for  
June/July received*

**V. REPORT ON PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Mr. Cohen reported that Ms. Feldman reviewed the warrant for July and found it acceptable (BOT-04-09-R2). Ms. Smith moved and Mr. Hoover seconded THAT THE WARRANT FOR JUNE BE RECEIVED. **The motion carried.**

*Warrant for June  
received*

Mr. Hoover found the warrant for August acceptable (BOT-04-09-R2a). Mr. Hoover moved and Mr. Hoffmann seconded THAT THE WARRANT FOR JULY BE RECEIVED. **The motion carried.**

*Warrant for July received*

**VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

In addition to his written report (BOT-04-09-R3), Mr. Cohen reported that:

*Director's report presented*

- the System has contacted its local Senators and Assemblymen to ask that they override the Governor's veto of the restoration of the 5% cut in library funding. He asked the Board to join this effort and to encourage their community organizations and constituents to do so as well.

*Restoration of library cuts sought*

The Board shared the Executive Director's concern that ongoing cuts in library funding will lead to increased operating deficits. The Budget Committee was asked to make recommendations following its preliminary review of the 2005 budget, in November, by which time it is hoped that a decision on the Governor's veto will have been reached.

*Budget Committee to meet in November*

- the transition to the new delivery service is on target. Delivery service to libraries has not been impacted. However, Velocity is still in the process of hiring a fifth driver and back-up drivers for all routes.
- the System has successfully completed its internal and county audits. Copies of the Dutchess County audit are available upon request, and copies of the System's audit will be distributed with the October Board packet.

*New delivery service "on target"*

*Audits completed*

**VII. OTHER REPORTS**

Ms. Pulice, as the Directors Association Liaison to the Board, presented her report (BOT-04-09-R4). She informed the Board that the directors: understood the need to charge fees for non-mandated services and to raise circulation fees; were enthusiastic about applying for a grant to build "Yes" votes through targeted marketing and programming; and, have asked the Resource Sharing Committee to review a draft of a System-wide Internet Use Policy, which will require Board approval before adoption.

*Liaison's report presented*

In the absence of Ms. Feldman, Chair of the Bylaws, Policy and Procedures Committee, the scheduled committee meeting was postponed.

*Bylaws meeting postponed*

**VIII. COMMUNICATION**

*PCLA meeting  
announced*

A. Board Members

Ms. Miller informed the Board that the Putnam County Library Association's dinner will be held on Wednesday, October 13, at the Centennial Golf Club, in Carmel, New York. Mr. Cohen will moderate the topic discussion from the floor.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*Phil Reisman to speak  
at Annual Meeting*

A. Annual Meeting

Mr. Cohen informed the Board that *The Journal News* columnist, Phil Reisman, will speak at this year's Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held on Friday, November 19, at the Culinary Institute of America, in Hyde Park, New York. The event will again include a brief continuing education session, before the meeting.

He asked the Greene County Board representatives to help recruit a candidate from their county to fill a vacancy being created by the resignation of Nancy Ursprung.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

*DVD of System  
viewed*

A. Dutchess Community College DVD about MHLS

The Board viewed a documentary about the System created by film students from Dutchess Community College. Following the presentation, Mr. Cohen asked the Board for suggestions on how the video might be utilized.

Board suggestions included showing the video to:

- local board members;
- teachers and students (to advertise library resources); and,
- community colleges in other counties (for use as a model for replication).

B. Approval of the United Way 2004 Certificate of Good Standing

*Grant certificate  
verified*

Mr. Cohen explained to the Board that the System received a grant from the United Way of Dutchess County to continue its LSTA *Emergent Literacy Grant Initiative entitled "Raising a Reader"*. He informed the Board that in order for grant funds to be released, and to satisfy the terms of agreement between the two agencies, a Certificate of Good Standing (BOT-04-09NB1) must be completed. Ms. Smith moved and Mr. Oppen seconded THAT THE BOARD ATTESTS TO THE TRUTH OF ALL STATEMENTS LISTED ON THE UNITED WAY 2004 CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING. **The motion carried.**

C. Summer Reading Program Summary

*Summer Reading  
Program reviewed*

Margaret Keefe, Youth Services Coordinator, and Coordinator of the Summer Reading Program, gave a brief overview of the System's role in facilitating the Summer Reading Program for the member libraries (BOT-04-09-NB2). Copies of anecdotal comments and a comparison chart of participation statistics were distributed (BOT-04-09-NB2a/b).

The Board agreed that it would be beneficial to find a way to quantify the impact these programs have on fostering life-long learning skills, and thanked Ms. Keefe for coordinating the program.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:17 a.m. Ms. Smith moved and Mr. Hoffmann seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

*The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 16, at 10:00 a.m. at the Mid-Hudson Library System Auditorium.*

Respectfully submitted by

Sally Laurilliard  
Secretary

Approved            2004  
by the MHLS Board of Trustees