

**MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
March 18, 2006**

Camilla von Bergen, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Mid-Hudson Library System.

OATH OF OFFICE

Ms. Winn administered the 2006 Oath of Office to trustees who were not in attendance at the January meeting.

I. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustees Present: Bill Conine, Margaret Feldman, Peter Hoffmann, James Hoover, Jennifer Lange; Patricia Miller, Ronald Oppen, Kathleen Orth, Roland Patterson; Caroline Pflieger; Janet Schnitzer, Marie Smith, Jim Tuttle, Camilla von Bergen

Trustees Absent: Steve Benson

Liaisons: Tom Lawrence, Director Poughkeepsie Public Library District

Staff Present: Merribeth Advocate, Josh Cohen, Margaret Keefe, Rebekkah Smith, Linda Vittone, Peggy Winn

Others Present: Elaine DiNovo, Florence Fuimarello, Carl Hadden, Mary Keelan, Beverly Tas, Frank Van Zanten

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In her report, President von Bergen:

President's report presented

- welcomed the Board and guests to the meeting, and asked Board members who were absent from the January meeting -- Caroline Benton Pflieger, Margaret Feldman, Patricia Miller, and Frank Tuttle, to introduce themselves. Mr. Cohen then introduced System retirees and staff to the Board.
- expressed regret at not having been able to attend Library Legislation Day, in Albany on March 14, and emphasized the need to continue advocacy efforts on behalf of library funding.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Conine moved and Mr. Hoffmann seconded THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING BE APPROVED. **The motion carried.**

Minutes of January accepted

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Smith found the monthly financial report for January (BOT-06-03-R1). Mr. Tuttle moved and Ms. Pflieger seconded THAT THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY BE RECEIVED. **The motion carried.**

Financial report for January received

Mr. Cohen noted that an accounting of Pass-thru grants has been added to the monthly financial report. In addition, in response to a request from the Board, copies of a breakdown of Pass thru grants and staff salaries and benefits from Outreach and grant budgets were distributed.

Pass-thru grant information given

V. REPORT ON PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Hoover reviewed the January warrant and found it acceptable (BOT-06-03 -R2). Ms. Orth moved and Ms. Smith seconded THAT THE WARRANT FOR JANUARY BE RECEIVED. **The motion carried.**

Warrants for Jan./Feb. received

Mr. Tuttle reviewed the February warrant and found it acceptable BOT-06-03 -R2a). Ms. Orth moved and Ms. Smith seconded THAT THE WARRANT FOR FEBRUARY BE RECEIVED. **The motion carried.**

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to his written report (BOT-06-03-R3), Mr. Cohen reported that:

- The System is considering terminating its contract with Velocity Express early.

The Board asked the Executive Director, in addition to looking for alternate vendors, to consider renegotiating with Velocity to determine if a mutually agreeable financial arrangement can be reached.

- information received on Library Legislation Day indicates the need for library supporters to continue to pressure Assembly representatives Kevin Cahill and Sandra Galef to match the Senate's library funding proposal. He thanked Mr. Hoover for attending the event on behalf of the Board.
- as Chair of the Public Library Systems Directors Organization (PULISDO) he is working with a committee to devise a library legislative proposal to present to the gubernatorial candidates;
- he and Betsy Hamilton, Board President of the Hudson Area Association Library, are continuing to work to solve the library's managerial problems that has led to the loss of materials.

Director's report presented

Advocacy efforts still needed

PULISDO to present candidates with proposal

Hudson Library issue discussed

The Board agreed that Mr. Cohen should schedule a meeting with the entire Hudson Library Board to discuss and define the severity of the situation and ways to solve the library's managerial problems.

the library's managerial problems.

VII. OTHER REPORTS

A. Directors Association Liaison Report

Liaison's report presented

In the absence of Ms. Goverman, Directors Association Liaison to the Board, Mr. Lawrence presented her report (BOT-06-03-R4). In addition, he informed the Board that at the March 2, meeting: Linda Vittone, Business Office Manager, gave her budget presentation, and directors discussed the Hudson Area Library delivery issue and the effect of the cut in Ulster County funds on its libraries.

B. Trustee Services Committee Report

Annual Meeting discussed

Mr. Tuttle reported that the committee met immediately before this meeting and discussed the following regarding the Annual Meeting:

- the possibility of inviting Gerald Nicols, Director of Long Island University's Palmer Institute for Public Library Organization and Management, to speak at this year's Annual Meeting, on Friday, October 6, on *how to market libraries to constituencies by quantifying the services they provide*;
- ways to encourage the attendance of trustees from more libraries; and
- how to accommodate a larger number of attendees.

Retiree health contribution plan discussed

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Retiree Health Benefit Contribution Plan

President von Bergen opened the discussion stating, that it is with great regret that the Board has had to implement the new retiree health benefit contribution plan. However, after researching all relevant documentation, including Union contracts, and seeking legal counsel, the System is within legal bounds to implement this decision, and has no prior obligation to continue to pay 100% of health benefits to retirees and their spouses.

The Board agreed that the contribution being required from retirees is minimal and continues to provide coverage at the same rate.

Following statements from the Board, retirees Mary Keelan, Frank Van Zanten and Beverly Tas, reiterated the reasons presented in their correspondence (BOT-06-UB1) why the Board should rescind its decision, or at least impose a four month moratorium on implementation, pending further dialogue between retirees and Board representatives. In addition, Ms. Tas requested that the System provide the dollar amount that each retiree will be required to contribute.

Mr. Cohen agreed to provide each individual with this information.

President von Bergen agreed to set up a meeting to dialogue further, and thanked the group for taking the time to attend the meeting and inform the Board how they will be impacted by the implementation of this policy.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of System's Annual Report

Annual Report reviewed

Mr. Cohen informed the Board that:

- New York State requires the Board to review the System's Annual Report;
- there are a number of increases in services in the report, including: database titles and holdings; items delivered per year; training session participants; technical assistance and consulting services; and, overall contact services;

The Board suggested that the Executive Director contact the Division of Library Development to request data from two or three other System Annual reports, as a means of comparison.

B. Central Library Presentation

Presentation of this report was postponed until the May meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 12:05 p.m., Ms. Smith moved and Mr. Hoover seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, at 10:00 a.m. at the Beekman Library.

Respectfully submitted by

Patricia Miller
Secretary

Approved 2006
by the MHLS Board of Trustees

