MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
MINUTES of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Saturday, January 11, 2025

President Ramage called the meeting to order at 10:00am at the Mid-Hudson Library System Auditorium

1. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustees Present:	Peter Carey, Kevin Finnegan, Leslie Gerber, Charles Kutcher, Jill Leinung, Barry Ramage, Thomas Silvious, Barbara Swanson, Carla Taylor, Mark Williams
Trustees Absent:	Stuart Auchincloss, Kenneth Goldberg, Rajene Hardeman, Jenny Post, Janet Schnitzer
Directors Association Liaison:	Mary De Bellis, LaGrange Association Library
Staff Present:	Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, James Coyle, Laura Crisci, Laurie Shedrick

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Carla Taylor moved, and Barbara Swanson seconded a motion to approve the 2025 Board Priorities (Doc. 2.A). **The motion passed unanimously.** *2025 Board Priorities Approved*
- Jill Leinung moved, and Peter Carey seconded a motion to approve the 2025 Board Committees, Working and Advisory Group rosters (Doc. 2.B). **The motion passed unanimously.** *Committee rosters approved*
- Leslie Gerber moved, and Thomas Silvious seconded a motion to allow up to five trustees that have previously served on the MHLS Board to be appointed to the Government & Community Relations Working Group. **The motion passed unanimously.** *Authorization of board alumni to serve on the G&CR Working Group*

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Peter Carey moved, and Carla Taylor seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2024 Meeting (Doc. 3.A). **The motion carried unanimously.** *Minutes approved*

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

MHLS Finance Manager & Personnel Officer James Coyle conveyed the written report supplied by Treasurer Stuart Auchincloss (Doc. 4.B). Barbara Swanson moved, and Peter Carey seconded a motion to receive the November financial report. **The motion carried unanimously.** *Financial Report received*

5. REPORT ON PAYMENT OF BILLS

Carla Taylor reported that she reviewed the warrants for November 2024 and found them acceptable (Doc. 5.A). Taylor moved, and Barbra Swanson seconded a motion to receive the November warrants. **The motion carried unanimously.** *Warrants received*

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to her written report, Executive Director Aldrich elaborated on the call to action to help advocate for more state aid for the MHLS operating budget and laid out the timeline for the adoption of the state budget. *Executive Director's Report*

7. DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION LIAISON REPORT

Report from the Directors Association

Mary De Bellis, Director of the LaGrange Association Library and Chair of the MHLS Directors Association (DA) reported on the election of DA officers; concerns about content in the product Hoopla; streamlined courtesy notices for patrons; receipt of the final Local Library Services Aid payment before the end of the fiscal year; and the results of the recent survey of libraries who are struggling to meet their financial commitments for the shared OverDrive collection.

8. AUDIT COMMITTEE

Audit accepted

On behalf of the Audit Committee, President Ramage reported that MHLS has received a "clean opinion" with no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies identified. Jill Leinung moved, and Carla Taylor seconded a motion to accept the independent accountant's audit report. **The motion carried unanimously.**

9. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

EDI Working Group accomplishments highlighted

President Ramage provided the reports for both working group, taking the time to highlight the many accomplishments of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group (Doc. 9.B) as this was their last report to the Board.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESSS

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- Board members were reminded of their responsibility to sign and submit the MHLS Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement (Doc. 11.B) and the Ethics Policy (11.C)
- Peter Carey moved, and Carla Taylor seconded a motion to accept the 2025 Salary Schedule (Doc. 11.D). **The motion passed unanimously.**

Salary Schedule approved

- Peter Carey moved, and Barbara Swanson seconded a motion to name the Poughkeepsie Journal as the organization's newspaper of record. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Newspaper of Record named

12. ORIENTATION

Digital Equity & Inclusion Orientation and tour of the catalog and app provided

- Executive Director Aldrich provided a presentation on the topic of "Digital Equity & Inclusion."
- Assistant Director and Technology Operations Manager, Laurie Shedrick, provided a tour of the new online catalog and a preview of the new mobile app.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37am

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Leinung, Secretary

Approved on March 12, 2025 by the MHLS Board of Trustees