

**MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
**MINUTES of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Friday, May 22, 2026**

President Stuart Auchincloss called the meeting to order at 10:03 am at the Patterson Library.

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

|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trustees Present:              | Stuart Auchincloss, Peter Carey, Mary De Bellis, Kevin Finnegan, Leslie Gerber, Ken Goldberg, Charles Kutcher, Jill Leinung, Jenny Post, Janet Schnitzer, Barbara Swanson, Mark Williams |
| Trustees Absent:               | David Lavallee, Carla Taylor                                                                                                                                                             |
| Directors Association Liaison: | Michele Capozzella, Mahopac Public Library                                                                                                                                               |
| Staff Present:                 | Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, James Coyle, Laura Crisci, Jennifer Montalbano, Laurie Shedrick                                                                                                  |
| Guests:                        | Terry Raskin                                                                                                                                                                             |

**2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*President's report*

President Stuart Auchincloss:

- Called for a moment of silence to acknowledge the passing of trustee Thomas Silvious.
- Noted a recent email scam sent to a member of the board with an address posing as the MHLS Board President and encouraged all to beware of email scams.
- Reported that the board was well on its way to 100% participation as donors to the Mid-Hudson Library System.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Barbara Swanson moved, and Leslie Gerber seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the March Board Meeting (Doc. 3.A). Voting Yes: Stuart Auchincloss, Peter Carey, Mary De Bellis, Kevin Finnegan, Leslie Gerber, Charles Kutcher, Jill Leinung, Jenny Post, Janet Schnitzer, Barbara Swanson, Mark Williams; No: N/A; Abstentions: Kenneth Goldberg. **The motion carried.**

*Minutes approved*

**4. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Kevin Finnegan provided an overview of February, March and April financial reports (Doc.4A, 4B, and 4C). Charles Kutcher moved, and Peter Carey seconded a motion to receive the February, March and April financial reports. **The motion carried unanimously.**

*Financial Report received*

## Minutes, MHLS Board of Trustees Meeting, Friday, May 22, 2026

### **5. REPORT ON PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Kenneth Goldberg reported that he reviewed the warrants for February and found them acceptable. Jill Leinung reported that she reviewed the warrants for March and found them acceptable. Kevin Finnegan moved, and Mark Williams seconded a motion to receive the February and March warrants. **The motion carried unanimously**

*Warrants received*

Janet Schnitzer will review the warrants for April and report on them at the next meeting.

### **6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

In addition to her written report, Executive Director Aldrich:

*Executive Director's Report*

- Reported that Senator Michele Hinchey has secured a \$20,000 special legislative grant for the Mid-Hudson Library System;
- Reviewed the MHLS Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) usage policy which is part of the personnel policy collection; and
- Noted staff are engaged in negotiations for a new ILS contract to go into effect later this year after the directors endorsed doing so.

Janet Schnitzer moved, and Jill Leinung seconded a motion to accept the Central Library Program Budget. **The motion carried unanimously.**

*Central Library Program budget approved*

The Executive Director discussed the themes report from the Plan of Service Development Focus Groups (Doc. 6B.i). The Board then engaged in a discussion to identify the desired future state once the Plan of Service is implemented to help define what success will look like for themselves and staff.

### **7. DIRECTOR'S ASSOCIATION LIAISON REPORT**

Michele Capozzella, Director of the Mahopac Public Library and Directors Association liaison for this meeting reported on:

*Report from the Directors Association*

- The final outcome of the Resource Sharing Standard violation notices that were sent to library directors who had been chronically underspending on the OverDrive collection, noting that the directors responded well, putting action plans to course correct the pattern. Capozzella commented on the impact of unfair ebook licensing on the collection budgets of member libraries and noted that while directors are doing their best in this environment, that it is likely unsustainable long-term.
- Discussions surrounding the 2027 Members Assessment; and
- The support provided by MHLS Library Sustainability Coordinator, Laura Crisci, to member library directors to aid them in completing a very delayed annual report to the state.

### **8. AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Chair Kenneth Goldberg reported that the draft audit has been received and that upon initial review there are no major issues to report. The Committee will meet with the auditors on June 22; present the report to the Board at the July board meeting; and invite the Board to ask questions of the auditor at that meeting.

## **Minutes, MHLS Board of Trustees Meeting, Friday, May 22, 2026**

### **9. GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS WORKING GROUP**

Chair Jill Leinung reported that the group met with the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley to discuss the options and what they can provide, including promoting the fund to the public. It was noted that Executive Director Aldrich and Finance Manager & Personnel Officer James Coyle also met with the audit firm to assess the potential, and best practices, for holding an endowment fund in house, should the board decide against using the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley. Chair Leinung also noted the research being done on how best to collect stories from stakeholders to better explain to legislators and potential funders the importance of the Mid-Hudson Library System in the Hudson Valley.

### **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

### **11. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

### **12. ORIENTATION**

Executive Director Aldrich provided a report on the New York State eBook Working Group (Doc. 6). She also recommended that the Board consider joining [Readers First](#) as a supporting library.

### **13. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Terri Raskin from the public commented on a functionality issue in OverDrive.

Trustee Leinung mentioned the collaborations between the Valatie and Kinderhook libraries to promote the summer reading program.

Trustee Schnitzer discussed the popularity of the Hudson Children's Book Festival.

### **16. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 pm.