

MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
MINUTES of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Friday, July 14, 2026

President Stuart Auchincloss called the meeting to order at 10:02 am in the Mid-Hudson Library System Auditorium.

1. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustees Present: Stuart Auchincloss, Kevin Finnegan, Leslie Gerber, Kenneth Goldberg, David Lavallee, Jenny Post, Janet Schnitzer, Barbara Swanson, Carla Taylor, Mark Williams

Trustees Absent: Peter Carey, Mary De Bellis, Charles Kutcher, Jill Leinung

Directors Association Liaison: Darren Lanspery, Plattekill Public Library

Staff Present: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, James Coyle, Laura Crisci, Jennifer Montalbano, Laurie Shedrick

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President's report

President Stuart Auchincloss:

- Reported that all board members have financially contributed to MHLS for 2026.
- President Auchincloss encouraged board members to make time to see our state legislators in their districts whenever possible and to convey the problems for system operations caused by a lack of investment in library operating aid in the state budget. Office hours, fundraisers, community events, and invitations to local libraries were all shared as opportunities to do so.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Barbara Swanson moved, and David Lavallee seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the May Board Meeting (Doc. 3.A). **The motion carried unanimously.**

Minutes approved

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Kevin Finnegan provided an overview of the May and June financial reports (Doc.4A, 4B). Leslie Gerber moved, and Carla Taylor seconded a motion to receive the May and June financial reports: **The motion carried unanimously.**

Financial Report received

5. REPORT ON PAYMENT OF BILLS

Janet Schnitzer reported that she reviewed the warrants for April and found them acceptable. Barbara Swanson reported that she reviewed the warrants for May and June and found them acceptable. David Lavallee moved, and Mark Williams seconded a motion to receive the April, May and June warrants. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Warrants received

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6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to her written report, Executive Director Aldrich:

- Engaged the board in a discussion about advocacy for state aid for the Mid-Hudson Library System and how to improve our connections with area legislators;
- Reported that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) initiated a proposal that questions whether to continue E-Rate, the federal program that has made high-speed broadband and Wi-Fi affordable for public libraries and schools nationwide.

*Executive Director's
Report*

Janet Schnitzer motioned and Kenneth Goldberg seconded the motion to approve the Personnel Actions (Doc.6C). The motion carried unanimously.

*Personnel Actions
approved*

7. DIRECTOR'S ASSOCIATION LIAISON REPORT

Darren Lansprey, Plattekill Public Library and Directors Association Liaison for this meeting, reported on the success of the OverDrive Ad Hoc Committee to help member libraries meet their spending goals; noted that the Resource Sharing Advisory Committee is studying the impact of the number of holds allowed through OverDrive; reported that the DA unanimously endorsed MHLS negotiating a new contract with the current ILS vendor; and that the DA unanimously approved the 2027 Assessment, draft Plan of Service, draft Free Direct Access Plan, and draft Central Library Program Plan.

*Report from the
Directors Association*

Barbara Swanson moved, and Carla Taylor seconded the motion to approve the amended Members' Capital Fund Projections (Doc. 7.B). **The motion carried unanimously.**

*Members Capital
Fund Projections
Amended*

8. AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chair Kenneth Goldberg provided an introduction to 2025 Audit Report. Brent Jensen and Michael Prentice from EFPR Group provided a summary of the audit process and the 2025 audit results. Kenneth Goldberg moved, and Janet Schnitzer seconded a motion to receive the 2025 audit. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Audit Received

9. PERSONNEL & PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Executive Director Aldrich provided an introduction to the draft Plan of Service documents recommended by the MHLS Directors Association and MHLS Personnel & Planning Committee. The board unanimously approved: Plan of Service (Doc. 9B); Free Direct Access Plan (Doc. 9C); Central Library Plan (Doc. 9D)
- Chair Jenny Post introduced the committee's proposed amendment to the Personnel Policy related to staff and director conflicts of interest (Doc. 9E). The board voted unanimously to amend the policy as presented.
- The Executive Director Job Description will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

*Plan of Service
Approved*

*Personnel Policy
Amended*

10. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Chair Carla Taylor reported, introducing the Committee's recommendation to change the project scope for the SAM grant from the boiler replacement to Ethernet cabling

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replacement and second floor renovations. The board voted unanimously to change the scope of the grant project as presented.

*SAM grant project
scope amended*

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Stuart Auchincloss moved, and David Lavallee seconded, a motion to allow the Mid-Hudson Library System to join Readers First. The motion passed unanimously.

*Board votes to join
Readers First*

12. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

13. ORIENTATION

Executive Director Aldrich provided an introduction to the State Aid for Library Construction (Doc. 12A).

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Swanson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barbara" being more prominent than the last name "Swanson".

Barbara Swanson, Vice President

Approved on September 10, 2026 by the MHLS Board of Trustees