

MUSKEGON AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

A meeting of the Muskegon Area District Library Board was held on Monday, April 21, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at the Muskegon Area District Library Administration Building, 4845 Airline Road, Muskegon. Staff present: L. Abramson, M. Chandler, J. Endres, K. Ferski, B. Hall, M. Higginbottom-Johnson, A. Susalla, R. Suszek, and K. Wisniewski. M. Anderson, Legal Counsel, was in attendance via phone. Member of the public present: Karla Bates.

D. Hughes called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Hodges, Hughes, Scolnik, Vanaelst, Arter, Richards, Aerts

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Hodges, Second by Richards

That the Agenda is approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Board Development

None.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Vanaelst, Second by Hodges

That the MADL Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried

Vouchers for March 2025

Motion by Hodges, Second by Richards

That the MADL Board approve the Vouchers for March 2025

ROLL CALL

AYES: Hodges, Hughes, Vanaelst, Arter, Scolnik, Richards, Aerts

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

Committee Reports

None.

Reports/Questions

Karla Bates, Treasurer of the millage committee, provided details about the fundraising event held March 18, 2025, and stated it was successful. R. Suszek provided an update regarding the upcoming August election. He stated that April 22, 2025, is the filing deadline for the upcoming election. At the time of submission, there were no other ballot proposals. He also discussed the material fulfillment issue at Baker & Taylor, and that it has impacted circulation. At this time, communications have been limited with the vendor as to the exact causes; however, it is a nationwide problem, not specific to MADL. It appears that a factor in material fulfillment is due to negotiations regarding publisher pricing, and we hope that this will be resolved soon.

K. Wisniewski provided a reminder that MADL's new website will launch this week, and he is working on the final touches. Ron Suszek added that K. Wisniewski (IT) and J. Endres (Marketing) have put in much time and effort in the last several months to create a better-designed website experience.

M. Johnson provided reassurance regarding the number of incidents at our Branches and stated that MADL is diligent in following through and handling these situations as they arise.

M. Chandler provided staff updates regarding the recruitment of candidates to fill open positions with MADL and student candidates to fill entry-level positions for the summer.

S. Rinsema-Sybenga mentioned that we have partnered with various organizations to address the divides amongst voting-age citizens. This program, known as "beyond polarization", hopes to facilitate civil dialogue amongst individuals with opposing ideas. MADL will be hosting in-person workshops to discuss the meaning of beyond polarization within our community, to build an understanding, and to assist with making conversations of various viewpoints possible.

Old Business

R. Suszek mentioned that date for MADL's offsite strategic planning meeting on May 21st, 2025. The strategic planning team will be attending, and it is encouraged for board members to attend, if possible.

New Business

R. Suszek stated that after a recent visit to the Norton Shores Branch Library, he observed that the furniture is in bad shape, and from there began looking at Michigan-wide contracts. Haworth was one of the firms on contract through the State of Michigan MiDEAL. Haworth offers a large discount and would provide replacements for in-library furniture, including tables and chairs throughout. The cost of the new furniture is anticipated to cost \$38,000, which includes setup and delivery. This would replace nearly all the seating within the library with quality and comfortable furniture. Utilizing the vendor we have previously engaged for furniture procurement would double the cost of the project. The furniture expenses will be paid using accumulated interest from the Eagan funds, avoiding the use of the principal balance.

Motion by Vanaelst, Second by Hodges

That the MADL Board approves expenditures not to exceed \$38,000.00 for the purchase of furniture for the Norton Shores Branch.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Arter, Hodges, Aerts, Richards, Hughes, Vanaelst, Scolnik

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

M. Chandler addressed the health savings account policy, as established with the 2025 health insurance plan. The policy will ensure MADL has consistent application of the use, contribution, and management of the HSA.

Motion by Aerts, Second by Hodges

That the MADL Board approves the Health Savings Account Policy as stated.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Aerts, Hughes, Vanaelst, Arter, Hodges, Richards, Scolnik

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

B. Hall briefly spoke about the OPEB actuarial report. It is well overstated in funds, and the commitment by MADL has already been fulfilled as the plan is closed with only 4 eligible participants.

Motion by Hodges, Second by Richards

That the MADL Board approves the OPEB Actuarial as stated.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Scolnik, Hughes, Vanaelst, Arter, Hodges, Richards, Aerts

NAYS: None

Informational

M. Chandler discussed the director's upcoming evaluation. The plan again this year is to have board members fill out evaluations electronically.

Public Comment

Karla Bates spoke about the upcoming millage election and the various methods that are being used to share information with the public to seek additional funding.

Board Comment

L. Aerts expressed gratitude and appreciation for the kindness and services MADL offers.

Adjournment: That the MADL Board adjourns at 4:36 p.m.

Reviewed by: Linda Aerts, Board Secretary