

MUSKEGON AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

A meeting of the Muskegon Area District Library Board was held on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at the Muskegon Area District Library Administration Building, 4845 Airline Road, Muskegon. Staff present: L. Abramson, M. Chandler-Nash, P. Crosby, J. Enders, K. Ferski, B. Hall, M. Higginbottom-Johnson, A. Susalla, S. Rinsema-Sybenga, R. Suszek, and K. Wisniewski. Also present, M. Anderson, Legal Counsel.

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

ROLL CALL

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

Excused: Hodges

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Aerts, Second by Vanaelst

That the Agenda is approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Board Development

None.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Aerts, Second by Scolnik

That the MADL Board approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried

Vouchers for April 2025

Motion by Aerts, Second by Arter

That the MADL Board approved the Vouchers for April 2025

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

Committee Reports

The millage committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 1:30.

Reports/Questions

R. Suszek noted that he spoke with the Friends of the Library at the Norton Shores Branch about the upcoming millage. Andy O'Reilly was also in attendance, and he provided a very welcoming presentation. There is a lot of generosity and excitement from the Friends of the Library about upcoming changes with MADL, the acquisition of the Norton Shores Library, and the support MADL is receiving. R. Suszek will be speaking at the White Lake Rotary in June to inform the community about the millage and the upcoming changes with MADL. A meeting is scheduled with Melissa Horton from the museum to discuss the outcomes of their millage and to seek more information about their polling prior to the election. Hopefully, this will provide us with comparison data in the more rural communities in Muskegon.

R. Suszek provided some final comments regarding the millage increase, stating that it was a very tough decision to propose this request. He further stated that with each Headlee rollback, MADL falls further behind because the costs of providing services do not decrease proportionally. If the millage is not successful and MADL moves ahead with the renewal option in November, roughly \$1 million in cuts will need to be made from the budget, which will compromise the way MADL handles services. Lastly, he stated that the renewal option will make the next 10 years extremely difficult and branches will be closed, which is why getting the story out for the community to understand the "ask" of this millage is critical.

J. Enders spoke to provide information on how to get the word out by connecting with library users who are supportive of seeing the library continue and improving in some areas. She additionally explained that with the "ask" of the millage, the communications need to be clear that this is an operational millage, and if it does not pass, MADL will lose 90% of its funding. J. Enders has been working with various advertising agencies to help spread awareness of the library and all the services MADL offers before the election in hopes of gaining a favorable outcome.

A. Susalla said that he is still working on the acquisition module, but he hopes the DVDs will be arriving soon. The records are now in Sierra, and he is waiting for the products to be shipped to MADL.

M. Chandler-Nash reported on HR and staff updates as well as a timeline for the Directors' evaluation.

S. Rinsema-Sybenga spoke to show her gratitude to P. Crosby, who was hired in March as a contract employee to help with early literacy programs. She appreciates the energy she brings. P. Crosby shared that the new Story Trail is being installed at Giddings Field behind the Egelston Branch Library, and the celebration will be held on June 10.

Old Business

Ron Suszek mentioned that the Strategic Planning Committee will meet on May 22, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the MAISD. They will brainstorm and work together on the Strategic Plan. Mark Anderson is working on a preliminary purchase agreement for the acquisition of the Norton Shores Library branch. Plans are to bring it to the board at the June board meeting, with final approval in July.

New Business

M. Chandler discussed the director's evaluation. The plan again this year is to have board members fill out evaluations electronically by May 30, 2025.

Public Comment

None.

Board Comment

None.

Adjournment: D. Hughes adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.