

MUSKEGON AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

A meeting of the Muskegon Area District Library Board was held on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at the Muskegon Area District Library Administration Building, 4845 Airline Road, Muskegon. Staff present: L. Abramson, A. Bodbyl-Mast, M. Chandler, J. Endres, K. Ferski, B. Hall, M. Higginbottom-Johnson, A. Susalla, R. Suszek, K. Wisniewski, and legal counsel, M. Anderson.

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

ROLL CALL

Present: L. Aerts, K. Arter, D. Hughes, B. Scolnik, K. Richards, R. Vanaelst, A. Williams (Quorum)

Absent: J. Hodges

Approval of Agenda

D. Hughes requested to remove item 9e. Collective Bargaining Unit Agreements under New Business because the agreement has not been finalized at this time.

Motion by Richards, Second by Arter

That the Agenda is approved as presented, omitting Item 9e.

Motion Carried

Board Development

None.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Aerts, Second by Williams

That the MADL Board approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried

Vouchers for October 2025

Motion by Richards, Second by Vanaelst

That the MADL Board approved the Vouchers for October 2025 as presented.

ROLL CALL

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

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

Committee Reports

There were no Committee meetings scheduled in November.

Reports/Questions

D. Hughes noted that the number of visits to Storyville continues to increase and has doubled in use since this time last year, demonstrating the benefit and value of the Storyville installations to the community.

R. Suszek commented on the Board Rotation schedule, communicating that he will be working to ensure that any currently renewing or expiring appointments will be discussed with the appropriate local entities to ensure consistent Board representation. R. Vanaelst has volunteered to continue with the Board as representative for region 4. R. Suszek will be contacting Cashovia Township Supervisor to confirm support for the appointment. Additionally, K. Arter and J. Hodges are recommended to continue with the Board as representatives for region 6 and region 2 respectively.

R. Suszek discussed preliminary findings of some usage data showing a small subsection of MADL constituents utilizing Hackley Public Library for their circulation needs. R. Suszek has requested data from the Lakeland Library Cooperative (LLC) to determine what materials are being utilized.

R. Suszek stated that the Union continues to work on finalizing the agreement that has been negotiated. R. Suszek will be meeting with each Board member individually to review and discuss the agreement with the plan to bring the final document for a vote at the December meeting.

J. Enders was asked about the “Splash Page” mentioned in her monthly report. She explained that it is the newly developed MADL webpage that was added as the default web browser page on all public computers at the branches, increasing visits to the MADL webpage from approximately 15,000 in September to over 40,000 in October.

M. Chandler-Nash was asked about the “OJE Placements”. She explained that “OJE” refers to an “on-the-job-evaluation” program partnership MADL has with Goodwill to provide volunteer employment opportunities for individuals who may have accessibility, training or other barriers to traditional employment.

Suszek and S. Rinsema-Sybenga reported on the success of the Big Read Lakeshore 2025 Author Talk with Leif Enger which took place with a full house at the Muskegon Community College Overbrook Theater on November 13th.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Steve Rauschert, Representative from Lakeshore Employee Benefits, was in attendance to address any questions regarding MADL's 2026 selected Blue Care Network (BCN) Medical Plan under the HMO HSA Plan. The Plan is fully funded within current 2026 appropriations.

Mr. Rauschert also discussed the recommended motion for 2026 to adopt an exemption from Public Act 152 Hard Cap Method for Employee Medical. He explained that the exemption was not requested due to increased costs, but instead to allow MADL to maintain appropriate coverage across all user types rather than as a set amount per employee, as required by the Act.

Motion by Arter, Second by Aerts

That the MADL Board elects to exempt itself from the requirements of Public Act 152 for the medical benefit plan coverage year beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026. Furthermore, this resolution is made prior to the beginning of the coverage year and in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Motion Carried

Motion by Scolnik, Second by Vanaelst

Motion to approve the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule for regular Board meetings as presented.

Motion Carried

Motion by Arter, Second by Scolnik

That the MADL Board approves the 2026 Holiday Schedule as presented. (pursuant to the ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement).

Motion Carried

Public Comment

L. Abrahamson, Union Steward representing MADL Teamsters, communicated that Union members have had preliminary meetings to discuss the pending agreement and are waiting on the finalized document for vote.

Board Comment

None.

Adjournment: D. Hughes adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.