

**MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM  
MINUTES  
of the  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
January 27, 2005**

Camilla von Bergen, President, called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Mid-Hudson Library System.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Ms. Winn administered the 2005 Oath of Office to trustees in attendance.

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

Trustees Present: Steve Benson, John DeJoy, Sally Laurilliard, Patricia Miller, Ronald Oppen, Kathleen Orth, Marie Smith, Muriel Verdibello, Camilla von Bergen

Trustees Absent: Bill Conine, Margaret Feldman, Peter Hoffmann, Jim Hoover, Christopher Post, Jim Tuttle

Liaisons: Tom Lawrence, Director Poughkeepsie Public Library District; Gloria Goverman, Director East Fishkill Library

Staff Present: Merribeth Advocate, Josh Cohen, Margaret Keefe, Rebekkah Smith, Peggy Winn

**II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ms. von Bergen asked the Executive Director to introduce the new Directors Association Liaison, Gloria Goverman, Director of the East Fishkill Library. The Executive Director thanked Ms. Pulice for her service to the Board, and welcomed Ms. Goverman to the position.

*President's report presented*

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Verdibello moved and Ms. Smith seconded THAT THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING BE APPROVED. **The motion carried.**

*Minutes of December accepted*

**IV. TREASURER'S REPORTS**

Ms. Smith found the monthly financial report for November (BOT-05-01-R1). Ms. Smith moved and Ms. Verdibello seconded THAT THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER BE RECEIVED. **The motion carried.**

*Financial report for November received*

**V. REPORT ON PAYMENT OF BILLS**

In the absence of Mr. Hoffmann, the warrant for November was tabled (BOT-05-01-R2).

*November warrant tabled*

Ms. Miller found the warrant for December acceptable (BOT-05-01-R2a). Ms. Miller moved and Ms. Smith seconded THAT THE WARRANT FOR DECEMBER BE RECEIVED.

*Warrant for December received*

**VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

In addition to his written report (BOT-05-01-R3), Mr. Cohen reported that:

*Director's report presented*

- The Governor's 5% cut in library funding remains. Due to the serious impact on the System's budget, advocacy efforts to restore funds need to continue;
- The System is trying to find out how libraries will be impacted by the Governor's plan to move libraries from under the auspices of the State Education Department to a newly formed Institute of Cultural Education;
- March 15, is Library Lobby Day in Albany. Those who are unable to attend were encouraged to contact their local legislators;
- Member libraries will be given the first chance to purchase the System's four vans and one mini-van. It is hoped that \$20,000 will be raised and deposited into the Capital Fund;
- The annual summation of the Plan of Service is in progress. This year, libraries will be asked to evaluate objectives by three intended results: which have been achieved; which have we made progress on; and, which are we not making progress on;
- As the cost of a full audit is more than a review, the System would like to know whether a full audit is necessary every year. *Following discussion, the Board agreed that the System could alternate full audits with reviews.*

*Funding cuts remain*

*Library Lobby Day March 15*

*Mini-vans for sale*

*P.O.S. review to be sent to member libraries*

*System to alternate audits*

**VII. OTHER REPORTS**

Ms. Goverman, as Directors Association Liaison to the Board, presented her report (BOT-05-01-R4). In response to an inquiry regarding the Wilson Online Catalog, Ms. Goverman clarified that the product is a public library fiction catalog used for weeding collections.

*Liaison's report presented*

Mr. Lawrence presented the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Central Library Reference Services report. He informed the Board that the Central Library Committee met on January 24, and:

*CL Reference Report presented*

**Minutes, MHLS Board of Trustees Meeting, Thursday, January 27, 2005, p.3**

---

- discussed reference service training needs for 2005;
- reviewed a county grid of reference visits to ensure that every member library is being visited at least once a year;
- discussed ways to encourage member libraries to avail themselves of the Central Library's reference Web links; and,
- considered the best use of reference training in light of the 5% cut in funding for this program.

*Reference Services reviewed*

**VIII. COMMUNICATION**

A. Board Members

Ms. Miller announced that the Mahopac Library has reopened its first floor following the disastrous flood and arson threat that is currently under investigation.

*Mahopac Library reopened*

B. Liaisons

Mr. Lawrence informed the Board that he will work with the Executive Director to provide temporary parking spaces for his staff, during the construction of the library's new parking lot, in April.

*CL to built new parking lot*

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Committee Assignments

President von Bergen distributed copies of the Board's committee assignments for 2005. She announced that the committees were formed to try and accommodate members' preferences and to equalize the workload.

Mr. Cohen noted that the Elections and Nominating Committees and the Planning and Personnel Committees have been combined.

Ms. von Bergen asked that any questions or comments regarding committee service be directed to herself or another committee member.

*Committee positions assigned*

B. Domestic Partnerships

The Executive Director informed the Board that the materials distributed regarding Domestic Partnerships (BOT-05-01-UB2) outline the eligibility criteria for providing and receiving these benefits. The System will be reviewing its health benefit package this year, and would like to begin to provide health benefits for domestic partnerships. *The Board agreed with this decision and asked that these benefits be equal to those received by married employees.*

*System health benefits to be reviewed*

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

*PPLD Adult Literacy  
Grant ranked*

**A. Ranking of Adult Literacy Services Grant**

The Executive Director informed the Board that the Poughkeepsie Public Library District has submitted the only application for an Adult Literacy Library Services Grant for Program Year 2005-2007. Therefore, with Board approval, this application will be ranked number one and sent to the Division of Library Development.

Following Mr. Lawrence's brief description of the grant proposal, "*Learn to Earn*", Ms. Verdibello moved and Ms. Orth seconded THAT THE BOARD RANKS THE POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT'S ADULT LITERACY LIBRARY SERVICES GRANT PROPOSAL NUMBER ONE. **The motion carried.**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:52 a.m. Ms. Smith moved and Ms. Verdibello seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

*The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 19, at 10:00 a.m. at the Mid-Hudson Library System Auditorium.*

Respectfully submitted by

Patricia Miller  
Secretary

Approved            2005  
by the MHLS Board of Trustees