

**MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
MINUTES
of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
January 24, 2009**

Marie Smith, Board President, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. in the Auditorium of the Mid-Hudson Library System.

OATH OF OFFICE

Ms. Winn administered the 2009 Oath of Office to trustees in attendance.

I. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustees Present: John Bickford, Lisa Baker Brill, Peter Hoffmann, Martin Miller, Patricia Miller, Michael Minor, Roland Patterson; Caroline Profera, Sally Rhoads, Marie Smith

Trustees Absent: Steve Benson, Bill Conine, Jean Ehnebuske, Jim Tuttle, Janet Schnitzer

Liaisons: Tom Lawrence, Director Poughkeepsie Public Library District; Frank Rees, Director Kent Public Library

Staff Present: Merribeth Advocate, Josh Cohen, Linda Vittone, Peggy Winn

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In addition to her written report, President Smith:

- welcomed Ulster County representative, Sally Rhoads and Directors Association Board Liaison, Frank Rees, to the meeting;
- noted that, despite the current economic climate, county funding for libraries has either remained the same or increased.

President's report presented

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Miller moved and Mr. Bickford seconded THAT THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING BE APPROVED. **The motion carried.**

Minutes of December accepted

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Cohen reported that Mr. Tuttle reviewed the monthly financial report for November and found it acceptable (BOT-09-01-R1). In addition, he reported that the December report reflects an increased fund balance due to the receipt of Supplemental Aid.

Mr. Hoffmann moved and Mr. Patterson seconded THAT THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER BE RECEIVED. **The motion carried.**

Financial report for November received

V. REPORT ON PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Bickford reported that he reviewed the warrant for November and found it acceptable (BOT-09-01-R2). Ms. Brill reported that she reviewed the warrant for December and found it acceptable (BOT-09-01-R2a). Mr. Bickford moved and Ms. Rhoads seconded THAT THE WARRANTS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER BE RECEIVED. **The motion carried.**

*Warrants for
November/December
received*

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In addition to his written report (BOT-09-01-R3), Mr. Cohen reported that:

*Director's report
presented*

- System staff is stepping up advocacy efforts to increase or restore library funding to the 2008 levels. Towards this end, the board was asked to review the schedule for NYLA's Library Lobby Day on March 10th, and join this valuable advocacy effort.
- Preliminary recommendations from the Task Force on System Funding will be presented to the Directors Association for review and discussion at its upcoming meeting. It is hoped that a viable plan can be implemented to insure that the System's 2010 budget is balanced.

*Task Force to make
recommendations*

Following a lengthy discussion on the feasibility and implications of imposing fees for patron holds, the board agreed that sufficient notice must be given before implementation of any new fees, and that this action would insure public awareness of how budget cuts impact library services.

- Innovative is working to smooth out any remaining glitches in its Millennium upgrade for printing delivery slips. It is expected that the outsourcing of some technology procedures will result in more library interaction by the new technology hire.
- Legislative contacts have been initiated to insure that "shovel ready" library construction projects are included in President's Obama's proposed economic stimulus plan. Mr. Cohen informed the board that a list of libraries meeting this criterion has been sent to the state.

*Construction Projects
discussed*

VII. OTHER REPORTS

In addition to his written report (BOT-09-01-R4), Mr. Rees, as Directors Association Liaison to the Board, informed the board that:

*Liaison's report
presented*

- the directors recommended not to charge fees for OCLC/ILL services at this time however, budget constraints may make this action necessary in the future.

The board agreed that directly impacting library patrons may result in a strong lobby for increased funding for library services.

- The first meeting of the Directors Association's ad hoc Bylaws committee is February 11. The committee was formed to determine how the Association could best serve the needs of its members.

VIII. COMMUNICATION

A. Board Members

Mr. Miller encouraged the Board to attend Library Lobby Day on March 10th. In addition, he asked the System to consider delivering board documents electronically or at meetings to save mailing costs. *Mr. Cohen agreed to survey the board by email regarding their preferences, following review of the Board's Bylaws regarding the distribution of documents.*

Delivery of documents discussed

B. Staff

Mr. Cohen informed the board that, barring any objection, he plans to contact the Germantown Library to ask if it will host the board's May meeting.

May Board meeting site proposed

C. Visitors

Mr. Lawrence informed the board that the Central Library's construction project is progressing well. Some additional expenses have been incurred. However, it is expected that the project will be completed in October.

PPLD project on target

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2009 Committee Assignments

President Smith asked the board to contact her with any questions or concerns regarding their committee assignments, and to review the charge of each of the committees.

Committees assigned

B. Review of Plan of Service

Merribeth Advocate, Outreach and Education Coordinator, gave a PowerPoint presentation (*appended to file*) on the progress the System made in 2008 towards accomplishing the goals of the elements of the 2007-2011 Plan of Service (BOT-09-01-NB2). Technology enhancements and new services and continuing education programs have helped member libraries to increase and improve service to patrons in the System's five county region.

POS progress reviewed

Mr. Cohen noted that in 2009 the System will continue to work on developing criteria for accurate quality measurement

The board thanked Ms. Advocate for her thorough and

informative presentation.

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:40, Mr. Patterson moved and Mr. Bickford seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, at 10:00 a.m. at the

Respectfully submitted by

Patricia Miller
Secretary

Approved 2009
by the MHLS Board of Trustees