

# MAPL November Board Meeting 11/10/25



MORRIS AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOOKS FOR ALL

**Morris Area Public Library**  
**November 10, 2025**  
**Board of Trustees General Meeting Minutes**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Morris Area Public Library Conference Room**

Minutes-

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

- a. Called to order at 6:31 P.M.
- b. Roll Call: Cummings, Geiger, Keavney, Keegan, and Russell were all present. Keegan and Ebert attended via Zoom. Keegan left at 7:45.
- c. A motion was made to bring Ebert and Keegan in remotely by Keavney, seconded by Geiger, and approved 5-0.
- d. Library Interim Director Barowsky was present, along with guests Baldine, Burton, Fischer, Flessen, Meyer, Murray, Sargent, and Sandoval. Other guests did not sign in.

**2. Review of Agenda for Additions/ Changes:**

- a. none

**3. Construction Update -**

- a. The next OAC meeting will be on Thursday, November 20.
- b. There are authorized changes to the interior plan.
  - i. The storage room and a study room will switch places so that the LoT are stored closer to their point of use.
  - ii. The office will only have a single window.
  - iii. Relocate some clouds due to changes in the interior.
  - iv. The architect and consultant did a walk-around to revise the staff space.
- c. Due to budget constraints, there are no significant changes to the children's space. But these changes will be part of a strategic plan.
- d. We are on schedule for construction to go to phase 2.

**4. Correspondence, Communications, and Public Comment**

- a. None

**5. Minutes from the previous meeting**

- a. Keavney motioned to accept the October meeting minutes, and Geiger seconded the motion. Approved 7 - 0

**6. Directors Report**

- a. Community
  - i. The National Lights On Afterschool Showcase was a success, with 1,543 attendees. We served 816 hot dogs with the support of the Community Foundation of Grundy County.
    - 1. We attended the Grundy County Career Fest and had two school group tours of the library.
    - 2. In October, the library issued 79 new cards and had 5,734 check-outs.
- b. Programs
  - i. Programs are running in a smaller space.
  - ii. Winter Wonderland has been postponed due to the smaller space and occupancy restrictions, and reduced funding.
  - iii. 2,420 patrons were participating in a variety of programs.
- c. Building
  - i. The public restrooms needed repairs in October.
  - ii. The elevator was repaired after a staff member was stuck in it for an hour.
  - iii. We are working with a cleaning company to maintain the cleanliness of the bathrooms.
- d. Professional Development
  - i. Reports are attached from the staff members who attended ILA.
  - ii. Murray continues her MLS studies and will submit her first tuition reimbursement request.

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- e. Follow up
  - i. Staff are thankful for the new book drop near the front door.
  - ii. We are awaiting final design plans before purchasing chairs for the front desks..
  - iii. 2- Step authenticity fobs have been purchased, and IT is currently setting them up.
  - iv. Berndt submitted a new disposal contract with Republic. Berndt negotiated a better price.
- f. Other
  - i. The annual audit began on Wednesday, October 30. The auditors and the financial advisor are working on correcting a few issues.
  - ii. There is a proposal to update the library closure dates for 2026.
    - 1. Move All Staff Training Day to September 26, which is the Friday before the Cornfestival Parade.
    - 2. Closing at 5 PM during Cornfestival. Wednesday, September 23, and Thursday, September 24.
    - 3. A motion was made to amend the library's closure dates: September 23 and September 24. The library's hours will be 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and the library will be closed on September 25 for an all-staff training Day. The library will remain open on January 19. Moved by Cummings and Seconded by Geiger. Approved 7 - 0
  - iii. The LyondellBassel grant has been approved.
  - iv. Work is continuing with the financial advisor to create a pay scale and to calculate annual reviews.
  - v. We are in good shape with the weeding and reshelving, and ahead of schedule to move into Phase 2 of the construction. Staff have been putting forth a great effort.
  - vi. There will be movers hired to move the heavy shelving.
  - vii. There are new procedures in place to keep the library accessible after 8 pm if the board meeting extends past closing time.

### 7. President's report

- a. None

### 8. Vice President's Report

- a. None

### 9. Financial Reports

- a. Geiger complimented the extra detail on the credit card expenditures.
- b. A motion to accept the October financial reports as presented was made by Keavney and seconded by Russel. 7-0

### 10. Committee Reports

- a. **Finance Committee (Geiger)**
  - i. None
- b. **Facilities & Technology Committee (Ebert/Russell)**
  - i. Noted the next meeting will be on December 5 at 1 PM.
- c. **Personnel & Policy Committee (Cummings/Keavney)**
  - i. Next meeting TBD
- d. **Strategic Plan Committee (Keavney)**
  - i. None

### 11. Unfinished business

- a. None

### 12. New Business

- a. None

### 13. Other

- a. None

### 14. Executive Session

- a. A motion was made to go into Executive Session at 6:54 p.m. by Cummings and seconded by Russel. Approved 7-0

Executive session pursuant to 5ILCS 102/2: the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

## **MAPL November Board Meeting 11/10/25**

Executive session pursuant to 5ILCS 102/3: the selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in this Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given the power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office when the public body is given the power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance.

### **15. Action on Executive Session**

- a. The open session resumed at 7:50 p.m.
- b. It was noted that Keegan left at 7:45 PM.

### **16. Adjournment**

- a. At 7:52, Keavney motioned to adjourn, and Cummings seconded 6-0

All topics on the agenda are potential action items.

The Morris Area Public Library District is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting for the facilities, are required to contact the library administrator at (815) 942-6880 x116 promptly to allow the Morris Area Public Library District to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.

\_\_\_\_\_, Board Secretary