

# MAPL December Board Meeting 12/11/25



MORRIS AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOOKS FOR ALL

**Morris Area Public Library  
December 11, 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 6:32 P.M.
- b. Roll Call: Cummings, Geiger, Keavney, Keegan, and Peterson were present. Peterson arrived at 6:40. Absent: Ebert and Russel.
- c. Library Interim Director Barowsky was present, along with guests Burton, Eallonardo, Fischer, D. Mai, R. Mai, Meachum, Meyer, Roseland, Sandoval, Sargent, Schretter (architect), and Urbanec. Biasella and Gutierrez arrived at 8:05.

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

- a. none

### 3. Construction Update -

- a. Schretter
  - i. Looked over carpeting options
  - ii. Viewed the new layout of the potential floor plan (Peterson arrived)
  - iii. Discussed ceiling options and where the acoustical clouds, pendant light, and design structures will be positioned.
  - iv. Asked for a proposal requested on potential changes to the ceiling designs.
  - v. Confirmed the choice of the floor covering to be installed.
- b. Eallonardo
  - i. The Current phase will be completed by January 15, depending on the time required to receive the flooring.
  - ii. Phases 2a and 2b are projected to take approximately 6 weeks each.
  - iii. There have been no change orders, but some are pending.
  - iv. The allowance log has no bills as of yet
  - v. Next payment of 379,021.50 due.
  - vi. The staff lunch room ceiling will be replaced. The least expensive option was selected.
  - vii. The dedication and time capsule will be postponed to a future date.

### 4. Annual Audit Presentation

- i. T Roseland from Tri County Management Tax and Accounting
  1. The 2025 Audit was given a clean opinion.
  2. No recommendations for changes.
  3. Cummings motioned to accept the Financial Audit as presented, and Geiger seconded the motion. Approved 5 -0

### 5. Correspondence, Communications, and Public Comment

- a. Meachum spoke: Expressed Board of Trustees concerns.
- b. D. Mai spoke: Highlighted Resa Mai's contributions.

### 6. Minutes from the previous meeting

- a. Cummings moved to approve the November monthly meeting minutes, with the correction to add Peterson as present. Geiger seconded. Approved 5 - 0

### 7. Directors Report

- a. Building
  - i. The North Parking Lot book drop is currently awaiting repair.
  - ii. Recommend purchasing an XBlue phone system to replace our outdated system. This wireless system will enable the relocation of desks during construction and in the future.
- b. Professional Development

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- i. T Berndt attended a virtual HR webinar.
  - ii. Barowsky, Berndt, Murray, and Sargent have all completed FOIA training. Sargent will serve as the lead FOIA agent.
  - iii. Barowsky has completed OMA training.
- c. Follow-up
  - i. We have received a \$2,000 grant from LyondelBasell for Lab Ratz programming.
  - ii. Work continues on creating a pay scale for staff. The review process will be modified to better align with the budget process.
  - iii. There will be a 1% pay increase in January, followed by a second increase in July 2026, to align with the pay scale.
  - iv. All weeding and reshelving will be completed next week, and we are ready to proceed with phase 2 of the expansion.
- d. Financial
  - i. Due to financial irregularities that have come to light, the Interim Director and a member of the board will investigate and resolve these matters.
  - ii. Work continues with Grundy County Bank to move the Bond issue into a separate interest-bearing account.
  - iii. Work is ongoing to obtain a credit card for the library that does not list a staff member as the primary account holder.
- e. Other Information
  - i. Murray and Barowsky are continuing work on the Per Capita Grant, which is due in January.
  - ii. Baldine, Burton, and Sargent are working on a grant to get funding for an interactive Teen Space with video games and seating.
  - iii. Sargent presented a long-term replacement plan for all library technology to the Facilities and Technology committees.
  - iv. Furnace repairs were required this month, and it was noted that the furnace had not been receiving yearly maintenance. And this issue is being rectified.
  - v. The City of Morris had done an excellent job of clearing our parking lots and snowblowing our sidewalks.

### **8. President's report**

- a. Keavney expressed high praise for Interim Director Barowsky and the staff for their leadership and professionalism throughout this transition.
- b. Biasella, Gutierrez, Meyer, and Sandoval spoke highly of the new Interim Director and staff, noting strong collaboration and high morale during this transitional period.

### **9. Vice President's Report**

- a. None

### **10. Financial Reports**

- a. A motion to accept the November financial reports as presented was made by Keavney and seconded by Geiger. 5-0

### **11. Committee Reports**

- a. **Finance Committee (Geiger)**
  - i. None
- b. **Facilities & Technology Committee (Ebert/Russell)**
  - i. None
- c. **Personnel & Policy Committee (Cummings/Keavney)**
  - i. None
- d. **Strategic Plan Committee (Keavney)**
  - i. None

### **12. Unfinished business**

- a. None

### **13. New Business**

- a. None

### **14. Other**

- a. None

### **15. Executive Session**

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- a. A motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss the resignation of the Director and to discuss B. Murphy's benefits, at 8:27 p.m. by Cummings and seconded by Keagan. Approved 5-0

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.

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.

### 16. Action on Executive Session

- a. The open session resumed at 8:50 p.m.
- b. A motion was made to approve the resignation agreement with Library Director Mai. The motion was moved by Keavney and seconded by Cummings. The motion was approved, 5-0.
- c. A motion was made to correct B. Murphy's PTO deficit in Paylocity by adding 61 hours. The motion was moved by Keavney and seconded by Cummings. The motion was approved, 5-0.
- d. Motion to delegate authority to Karen Barowsky to review Library District finances and accounts and take all action reasonably necessary to update and correct any issues/documents with Library District finances and accounts and employee benefits. The motion was moved by Keavney and seconded by Geiger. The motion was approved, 5-0.

### 17. Adjournment

- a. At 8:54, Keavney motioned to adjourn, and Keagan seconded. approved 5 -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

