

MASCOUTAH PUBLIC LIBRARY
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MARCH 17, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Mascoutah Public Library held its regular meeting at the library on March 17, 2026 at 6:15 p.m.

Trustees present were Nancy Larson, Frank Bandre, Scot Erickson, Wayne Wilhelm, Suzy Friederich, Kay Connolly, Casey Hoercher and Merly Friedland; absent was Jordan Rehfeldt. Also present was Library Director Joel Pikora.

President Nancy Larson presided and Merly Friedland recorded the minutes.

Additions to Agenda – None Public Comments – None

The minutes of the regular board meeting held on January 20, 2026 were approved as written. (*Motion by Frank, second by Kay*)

Financial Report: Frank presented the Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2026, the statements of income and expenses for the months of January and February, 2026 and the (10-month) year to date period from May 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026. Frank stated that income and expenses are generally within budget. He pointed out the exceptions, being the unusually high spending on service contracts and building repairs and maintenance, which were anticipated and previously approved by the Board. We continue to maintain a positive cash flow and a healthy balance sheet.

The Board unanimously approved the above financial statements and ordered that the same be filed for audit. (*Motion by Suzy, second by Wayne*)

Personnel Committee Report: The Committee met on March 6, 2026. On behalf of the Committee, Nancy presented in detail, and recommended for Board approval, a proposed salary schedule for the library staff for FY 2026-2027 totalling \$281,000. There was a review of the current Library Salary Schedule for each staff position, along with their levels, duties, education and experience. Joel is very pleased with the staff performance and efficiency in delivering quality service to our patrons. The staff is given every opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills in their areas of responsibility.

After discussion, the Board approved by unanimous voice vote, the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, to adopt the proposed salary schedule for FY 2026-27 in its entirety, as presented. (*Motion by Frank, second by Scot*)

Personnel Committee Report – continued: On behalf of the Committee, Nancy submitted and recommended for Board approval, a proposed slate of Officers and Standing Committees for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

Officers : Nancy Larson, President; Scot Erickson, Vice President; Merly Friedland, Secretary, Frank Bandre, Treasurer.

Building & Grounds: Wayne Wilhelm, Chairman; Members: Suzy Friederich, Scot Erickson and Joel Pikora.

Finance: Frank Bandre, Chairman; Members: Merly Friedland, Casey Hoercher and Joel Pikora.

Policy: Kay Connolly, Chairman; Members: Wayne Wilhelm, Jordan Rehfeldt and Joel Pikora.

Personnel: Nancy Larson, Chairman; Members: Kay Connolly, Scot Erickson and Joel Pikora.

The Board approved by unanimous vote, the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, to accept the slate of officers and standing committees for FY2026-27, as presented. (*Motion by Wayne, second by Kay*)

Policy Committee Report: The Committee met on March 10, 2026. On behalf of the Committee, Wayne submitted and recommended for approval, the adoption of the following library policies:

1. New Privacy Policy
2. Updated Remote Attendance & Fees for Library Services Policy Updates

After review and discussion of the proposed Policies, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation of the Committee to adopt the foregoing stated policies, as presented. (*Motion by Kay, second by Frank*)

Director's Report: Please refer to the Director's written report for the March 2026 Board Meeting relating to operations and activities since the last meeting, the comparative Library Circulation for January/February 2025 versus January/February 2026, Non-resident Registrations and Library Programming Report for January/February 2026.

The Director also discussed the following matters for Board information and appropriate action:

1. Digital Library Protection Act, House Bill 5236 – The Illinois Legislature will be acting on this bill, the purpose of which is to establish fair contract terms between libraries and publishers for digital materials.

Director's Report - continued:

1. The Leu Civic Center has been officially closed for public operations as of March 7, 2026.
2. Creation of library email addresses for each Board member – Joel will be happy to help get the emails set up if assistance is needed.
3. Required Trustee Trainings – The State Library now requires board training hours to be included in the report alongside staff training hours. It is an indication toward required annual training specific to library board members.

Old Business: Everything Mahomet Website - There are costs associated with the use of the website as it requires a full time job. Joel will look into more details at a meeting later this month and will likely provide more information at the May board meeting.

New Business: A/B/C - The Board discussed in detail and acted upon the following quotes from these service providers. Upon motions duly moved and seconded, the Board approved, by unanimous voice vote, the following described quotes:

1. A quote from Solus North America for \$1,680 for Solus eb#1 Platform Subscription for <10K population for 1st year. (*Motion by Scot, second by Wayne*)
2. A quote from Ring Central Inc. for DigitalLine Unlimited Advanced at a rate of \$203.00 per month, for 36 months or \$7,308 total. (*Motion by Frank, second by Kay*)
3. A quote from America's Cleaning LLC for \$1,958 for carpet cleaning (*Motion by Scot, second by Frank*)

D. Scheduling of FY 2026-27 Regular Meeting Dates – The Board approved, by unanimous vote, the meeting schedule as presented. (*Motion by Frank, second by Casey*)

E. The Board approved, by unanimous vote, the non-resident fee of \$174.00 for fiscal 2026-27.

(*Motion by Wayne, second by Suzy*)

Discussion - None

Adjournment: There being no further business, President Nancy declared the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m. The next Board Meeting will be at the Library on May 20, 2026 at 6:15 p.m.


Merly T. Friedland

Secretary