MASCOUTAH PUBLIC LIBRARY
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AUGUST 18, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Mascoutah Public Library held its regular meeting at the library on August 18, 2026 at 6:15 p.m.

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

President Nancy Larson presided and Merly Friedland recorded the minutes.

Additions to Agenda – E-Rate Public Comments – None

Merly thanked the Library Board and Staff for their expression of kindness and sympathy on the loss of her husband, Carl Friedland.

The minutes of the regular board meeting held on March 17, 2026 were approved as written. ***(Motion by Frank, second by Scot)***

The minutes of the regular board meeting held on May 19, 2026 were approved as written. ***(Motion by Wayne, second by Scot)***.

Financial Report: Frank presented the Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2026, the statements of income and expenses for the months of May, June & July, 2026 and the 3-month year-to- date period from May 1, 2026 to July 31, 2026. We received $135,422 in corporate tax monies and $14,882 in grants. The per capita grant exceeded the anticipated amount by $2,000. In summary, we are doing well during the first 3 months of the fiscal year and maintaining a healthy cash position.

Frank stated that some CDs will mature in 6 months. He is considering putting some of the proceeds in operating cash, making it readily available for special needs.

Frank suggested that the Board review the status and purposes of Special Reserve Fund 2 and Book Sale, now having balances of $3,647 and $32,053, respectively.

Frank stated there was a mix-up in the allocation of levies, involving tort and medical. We will closely monitor this process for accuracy in the future.

Financial Report – continued:

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

Committee Report: None

Director's Report: Please refer to the Director's detailed written report for the August 2026 Board Meeting relating to operations and activities since the last meeting, the comparative Library Circulation Report for May/June/July 2025 versus May/June/July 2026, Non-Resident Registrations and Library Programming Report for May/June/July 2026.

A. Joel commented on the summer reading programs. The reading portion of summer reading did very well. Our Beanstack reading challenges were well used. However, we saw a drop in attendance in some of our regular programs. A bigger hit to overall attendance was a large drop in interest for our performers. Joel noted at the Library Directors Meeting that this trend is seen as area wide with some libraries already discussing not having large performers at all next summer.

B. Circulation Changes – There was a change in the operation of the circulation desk by assigning a staff member to the Desk during all open hours. Joel also informed the Board of additions to and departures from the staff for various reasons.

C. Tammurra's Act : Public Act 104-0808 – This bill was passed by the Legislature early this month, effective January 1st. It requires libraries the prominent display of the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline contact information across public facilities and enhances youth mental health education. We have already ordered and received the posters for the Library.

D. Teen Room TV – Two teen girls were playing with a squishy ball and the ball was spiked into the TV, causing damage to it. We have not been able to identify the girls as the damage was not discovered until the next day. A police report was filed and the police will see the school officer to help identify the girls.

E. E-Rate – There is uncertainty surrounding the continuation of the E-rate. We are encouraged to speak directly to our congressional legislators by inviting them to tour our facilities and to stress to them the importance of E-rate in delivering affordable and reliable internet access that powers libraries and their communities.

Old Business: Joel gave an update on the Community Website Proposal. Discussions are still ongoing and no decisions on this matter have been made. Joel will inform us of developments at future meetings.

New Business: A. Comic Plus Subscription Quote – Joel submitted a quote of $1,423.70 for one-year subscription to Comic Plus.

After discussion, the Board approved by unanimous voice vote, to accept the foregoing stated quote. ***(Motion by Wayne, second by Scot)***

B. Standards Review - Joel led a review and discussion of Illinois Public Library Standards Sections 1 – 4, covering various action plans. The checklist indicates that the Library is in compliance with these standards.

Closed Session: At 6:55 p.m., on a motion by Nancy, seconded by Frank, the Board went into Closed Session to discuss personnel matters, in accordance with Section 2 (c) (1). The Closed Session was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Open Session Resumed: Following the closed session, the Board unanimously agreed to refer the personnel matters to the Personnel Committee for further consideration and appropriate action.

Adjournment: There being no further business, President Nancy declared the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. The next Board Meeting will be held at the Library on September 15, 2026 at 6:15 p.m.

Merly T. Friedland
Secretary