

**MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**

1. At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Monroe County Library System held on January 8, 2025, at the Ellis Library & Reference Center, the meeting was called to order by Chair Calder at 5:00 p.m. Ms. LaPensee declared that a quorum was present.

Present: Catharine Calder, Chair; Rob Peven, Vice-Chair; Beth LaPensee, Secretary; Rita Gordon, Trustee; and Nancy Bellaire, Director

Excused: Mike Grodi, Trustee

Staff: Lou Komorowski; Barbra Krueger; Jenn McCarty; Stephanie Wintersteen

A quorum being present, the Board proceeded to transact business.

2. Motion by Rita Gordon, supported by Rob Peven, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Beth LaPensee, supported by Rita Gordon, to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment
Jenn McCarty welcomed the board to Ellis. She and Youth Services Lead Stephanie Wintersteen shared information about upcoming programs and partnerships at Ellis. Cathe Calder complimented Jenn on the electronic sign messaging.
5. Board of Trustees Reorganization
Motion by Ms. Calder, supported by Ms. Gordon, to nominate Rob Peven for the position of Chair. There were no other nominations. Motion by Ms. Gordon, supported by Ms. Calder, to close nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Rob Peven. Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Calder, supported by Ms. Gordon, to nominate Beth LaPensee for the position of Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. Motion by Ms. Gordon, supported by Ms. Calder to close the nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Beth LaPensee. Motion carried.

Motion by Rob Peven, supported by Beth LaPensee, to nominate Rita Gordon to the position of secretary. There were no other nominations. Motion by Rob Peven, supported by Beth LaPensee, to close the nominations for secretary and cast a unanimous vote for Rita Gordon. Motion carried.
6. Consent Agenda – Motion by Trustee Calder, supported by Vice-Chair LaPensee, to accept the items on the consent agenda as presented, and place on file. Motion carried.

7. Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Nancy Bellaire reported that we have not yet received our financial reports or penal fine distribution for the month. The auditors plan to be on site in late January.

Facilities Committee – The temporary Navarre Branch is making progress toward Opening with ADA modifications taking place now.

Policy and Personnel Committee – No meeting.

Technology Committee – No meeting.

Woodlands Update – No news from Woodlands yet this month. Nancy will provide the minutes from the Woodlands Governing Board meetings when available

Legislative Update – Michigan's Freedom to Read bill failed to gain approval in the Lane Duck Session.

8. Unfinished Business – None.

9. New Business

Discussion regarding 2025 Board Committee assignments resulted in Mike Grodi replacing Bernie Smith on the Retiree Health Care Trust Board as well as the Facilities and Technology Committees.

The Board tabled the line item relating to extending the Covid Leave Policy for 2025 until the March meeting and the Earned Sick-Leave Act has been finalized by the State. Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Rita Gordon to approval the proposal from Calkins, Hehl, Rafko for the audit for the year ending December 31, 2024, for the amount of \$13,300. Motion carried.

10. Lou Komorowski followed up on Jenn McCarty's earlier announcements and said that they are currently seeing a resurgence of teachers requiring more print resources much like we experienced pre-COVID.

Stephanie Wintersteen agreed with Lou and shared program statistics with the board. Barbra Krueger said that several MCLS locations serve as warming centers and distributed photos of the temporary Navarre facility and demolition of the previous Navarre Branch.

11. Nancy Bellaire updated the board on the 2025 Blues Series, construction on I-75, a letter describing an upcoming bequest of Custer materials, and the State of Michigan's part-time sick leave legislation.

12. Board comments – The board thanked Lou, Stephanie, and Jenn for their hospitality and updates. Rita Gordon wished all a Happy New Year and said that it looks like we are off to a positive start! Cathe Calder said that it is great to be at Ellis and said how welcoming and inviting it is, inside and out. She also complimented the staff on our social media efforts. Beth LaPensee offered her congratulations to the new officers. Rob Peven thanked his colleagues for having the confidence in him to lead the board this year. He shared information about a podcast article and also about a high school student that gave rave reviews about Ellis.

13. Public comment—none.

14. Announcements

Date of Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 12, @ 5 p.m. at the Blue Bush Branch Library, 2210 Blue Bush Road, Monroe, Michigan.

15. Adjournment

Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Rita Gordon to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 p.m.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Peven, Chair

Rita Gordon, Secretary