

**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 October 8, 2025, at the Ida Branch Library, Ida, Michigan, the meeting was called to order by Chair Peven at 5:00 p.m.

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

Excused: Mike Grodi

Staff: Sandy Calkins; Suzanne Krueger; Lou Komorowski

After calling roll, the chair determined that a quorum was present. The Board proceeded to transact business.

2. Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Rita Gordon, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Beth LaPensee, to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2025 meeting as amended. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment—Suzanne Krueger welcomed the board to Ida and introduced Daneen Cole of the Friends of the Ida Branch Library. Ms. Cole updated the board on recent activities and programs sponsored by the Friends including “Blind Date with a Book”. She also shared a platter of sliced apples with the board.
5. Consent Agenda – Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Beth LaPensee, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.
6. Committee Reports

Finance Committee – We have not yet received the September financial report or penal fine information from the County. A revised Woodlands contract appears later on the agenda.

Facilities Committee – No meeting. Director Bellaire updated the board on the Navarre Branch Library/Learning Bank/Opportunity Center project as well as a possible LaSalle Branch location.

Policy and Personnel Committee –no meeting. Director Bellaire’s performance review will be postponed until the November meeting so that the full board is present.

Technology Committee – no meeting. The staff and Board AI committees have exchanged updates to the draft policy. Chair Peven and Trustee Calder reported on sessions that they attended at ALA, including concerns about AI-- sustainability and data mining.

Woodlands Update – The Governing Board approved an increase to our Fiscal Services contract and the updated contract appears later on the agenda.

Legislative Update – Rita Gordon said that a Michigan Budget update, provided by MLA, was included in the board packet.

7. Unfinished Business – AI Policy remains in progress and will likely continue to evolve over time.
8. New Business –
Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Beth LaPensee, to approve the revised Fiscal Services contract with Woodlands, replacing \$5080 with the new total of \$7000. Motion carried.
Motion by Rita Gordon, supported by Cathe Calder, to approve granting a 13th check for eligible retirees as calculated in the actuarial report. Motion carried.
Motion by Cathe Calder, supported by Beth LaPensee, to approve the draft holiday closing schedule for 2026. Motion carried.
9. Staff Report – None.
10. Director's Report – Director Bellaire shared photos of children using Library of Things fishing poles, United for Libraries workshop information, and Monroe County Community College's 2025-6 program mailer that unveils the headliner for the Big Gig—the Blind Boys of Alabama.
11. Board Comments – The board said that they were glad to meet in Ida and thanked Daneen Cole for the apples and information about the Friends. Rita Gordon said that family visiting from Louisville visited Ellis and loved the branch, including the river setting. Beth LaPensee said that she enjoyed seeing the photos online of the Ellis playhouse. Cathe Calder encouraged all to attend the 2025 Writers on the River program. Rob Peven shared information about the Dorsch Gingko t-shirt that he was wearing.
12. Public comment—None.
13. Announcements
Date of Next Board Meeting and Budget workshop – Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 5 p.m. at the Mary K. Daume Library Service Center, Monroe, MI.
14. Adjournment
Motion by Rita Gordon, supported by Cathe Calder, to adjourn the meeting at 5:42 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Gordon, Secretary

Rob Peven, Chair