

**Rochester Hills Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting**

December 10, 2024

- I. The Board of Trustees of the Rochester Hills Public Library held a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2024. The President called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm in the boardroom of the library. The presiding officer was Melinda Deel.

A quorum of the board was present including Bob Bonam, Melinda Deel, Anne Kucher, Madge Lawson, and Harper West.

Julianne Reyes was absent with prior notice given.

Guests included Library Director Juliane Morian, City of Rochester Liaison, Lauren Coleman, and Oakland Township Library Board President, Jim Kiefer.

Additional members of the Oakland Township Library Board present at the meeting included Margaret Willard-Taub, David Youngman, and Kristin Syverson.

Additional staff present at the meeting included Sara Pinkham-Jones, Early Literacy Outreach Librarian.

Four additional members of the public were in attendance.

- II. Public Comments

- A. Scott Votaw, a resident of Rochester Hills, commented on the early literacy vehicle replacement plan and was concerned that it was not a good investment.

- III. Approval of Agenda

- A. On a motion by Ms. West, which Ms. Lawson seconded, the board unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

- IV. Early Literacy Mobile Outreach recommendation

- A. Ms. Morian led the board through additions to the summary document that the board reviewed last month regarding a bookmobile replacement. It chronicled the history of the early literacy outreach service and provided new analysis on options for continuing the service with various models of implementation.
- B. Ms. Morian introduced Sara Pinkham-Jones, Early Literacy Outreach Librarian to answer specific questions the board had.
 1. Ms. Pinkham-Jones answered questions about the capacity of the bookmobiles, shelving height, and what a day in the life of an early literacy librarian looked like.
 2. Ms. Pinkham-Jones, introduced Kendra Barnett who is a faculty member at Oakland University and oversees one of the sites that RHPL visits, the Lowry Center. Ms. Barnett said that RHPL's commitment to early literacy is exceptional

and sets the standard that other public libraries aspire to reach. As a caregiver she was able to comment on the positive impact she sees in the lives of children who use the early literacy bus. As a researcher in this field, she said she believes the Rochester Hills Public Library is following best practices prescribed by early literacy professionals regarding the importance of building reading comprehension skills and borrowing books from a library even at a young age.

- C. On a motion by Mr. Bonam, which was seconded by Ms. Lawson, the board unanimously approved spending up to \$200,000 on a new early literacy bookmobile manufactured by the vendor Winnebago, with no additional discussion.

V. Minutes

- A. On a motion by Mr. Bonam, which Ms. Kucher seconded, the board unanimously approved the regular meeting minutes from November 12, 2024 with no discussion.

VI. Treasurer's Report was reviewed and filed.

VII. Monthly Bills

- A. On a motion by Mr. Bonam, which Ms. Kucher seconded, the board unanimously approved paying the monthly bills for November 2024, which totaled \$886,054.38
 - 1. Ms. Morian commented that bills for December were unusually high because of the final payment due on the remodeling project for the second floor of the library.
 - 2. Ms. West inquired about the two entries for postage in the amount of \$15,000. Ms. Morian stated that RHPL pays for bulk mailing postage costs by maintaining a deposit of funds at the post office. This amount appears twice on the check registrar because the first is actually a voided check that was reissued later.

VIII. Communications

- A. The board reviewed and filed the communications with no significant discussion.

IX. Director's Reports

- A. The board reviewed and filed the director's report and statistical report with minor discussion regarding the preference for the Finance Committee to review investment options for the new revenue anticipated with the new millage in early 2025.

X. Committee Reports

- A. Nominating committee - Ms. Kucher reported that the nominating committee included Mr. Bonam, Ms. West, and herself. The committee met to discuss a slate of officers to propose for the RHPL Annual Meeting in January 2025. The proposed slate is:
 - 1. President - Bob Bonam
 - 2. Vice-President - Melinda Deel
 - 3. Treasurer - Anne Kucher
 - 4. Secretary - Julianne Reyes

XI. Other Business

- A. Ms. Morian presented a draft of proposed changes to the RHPL Board of Trustee Bylaws on November 25, 2024, more than the 10 days notice required. The board reviewed one proposed change: to strike a phrase that limits the millage amount to 1.0 mills that the board can appropriate on an annual basis.
- B. On a motion by Mr. Bonam, seconded by Ms. Lawson, the board unanimously adopted the change and removed the phrase that limits the millage amount to 1.0 mills, with no additional discussion.
- C. The board reviewed a draft planning calendar for 2025.
 - 1. On a motion by Mr. Bonam, which was seconded by Ms. Kucher, the board unanimously approved closing early on Friday, January 17th at 5:00pm in order to set up for one hour before the Winter Wonder Library event that begins that night at 6:00pm.

XII. Board Comments

- A. Ms. Deel welcomed the Oakland Township Library Board members present, and offered introductions to everyone in the room.
- B. Ms. Kucher extended gratitude to the hard work of Ms. Morian in a momentous year that ushered in major events and projects such as securing a new millage, celebrating the centennial year, and remodeling portions of the library.
- C. Ms. Deel also thanked Ms. Morian for her hard work in 2024 and stated that she has been very grateful to serve as the RHPL Board President in 2024 and commented that it has been a very fulfilling role for her.

XIII. Questions and Comments from the Liaisons

- A. Ms. Coleman stated that she has updated the Rochester City Council regarding library operations. That being said, she said there was no update from the Rochester City Council regarding the new library agreement.
- B. Mr. Kiefer stated that his board members have been officially sworn in as elected officials within the township, their first meeting will take place in January, and they are looking forward to exploring next steps with the library service agreement.

XIV. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm

Anne Kucher, Secretary