

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

January 14, 2025

- I. The Board of Trustees of the Rochester Hills Public Library held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. The President called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm in the boardroom of the library. The presiding officer was Bob Bonam.

A quorum of the board was present including Melinda Deel, Anne Kucher, Julianne Reyes, and Harper West.

Madge Lawson was absent with prior notice given.

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

Two members of the public were present.

- II. Scott Votaw, a resident of Rochester Hills, commented on the early literacy vehicle replacement plan and was concerned that it was not a good use of public funds. He stated that he visited multiple early literacy sites to evaluate how well they liked the service.
 - A. Ms. Morian stated that over the past two days, she received reports from multiple preschool and daycare sites that are part of the RHPL early literacy service plan, that a person visited their location, identified themselves as an RHPL board member, and proceeded to ask them biased questions about the service. Now realizing that this was Mr. Votaw who presented himself in a misleading way, Ms. Morian stated it was unnerving to RHPL staff and crossed the line of acceptable behavior by a member of the public. Mr. Votaw denied saying that he was a board member when he visited those sites. Notwithstanding, Ms. Morian explicitly asked him not to present himself as an elected member of the RHPL Board and confirmed he has no authority to speak on behalf of the RHPL board to the library's partner agencies.
- III. Approval of the Agenda
 - A. On a motion by Ms. West, which Ms. Kucher seconded, the agenda was amended with one addition under Committee Updates: authorization to join Michigan CLASS (investment pool). Mr. Bonam called for discussion and hearing none, the board unanimously approved the agenda with the amended change.
- IV. Minutes
 - A. On a motion by Ms. West, which Ms. Deel, seconded, the board unanimously approved the minutes from December 10, 2024 with no changes.
- V. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and filed.

VI. Monthly Bills

- A. On a motion by Ms. Deel, which Ms. Kucher seconded, the board unanimously approved the monthly bills for December 2024, which totaled \$393,542.71.

VII. Communications

- A. The board reviewed and filed the communications.

VIII. Reports

- A. The board reviewed and filed the director's report
- B. The board reviewed the statistical report with one point of discussion regarding Makerspace use. Ms. Coleman asked if there is a way to track the percentage of utilization of the Makerspace to evaluate if current hours are meeting the needs of patrons, or if hours should be expanded. Ms. Morian noted that request and stated that she will design a plan to track such a metric over time.
- C. The board reviewed the 2024 RHPL Strategic Plan Year-End Update with minor discussion. Ms. Morian also distributed the current three-year strategic plan that lists goals (set by the board), objectives (set by the library director), and action items (agreed upon by the library director and staff). Ms. Morian stated that action items are then delegated to specific departments and staff as part of the annual performance review process and tracked at year-end. Mr. Bonam asked for this to be added as a discussion point at the next board meeting so board members could review and provide any comments.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

1. Ms. Morian reported that the Finance Committee did not meet in person, however, there was email correspondence among the committee members regarding investment funds. In response to a question about performance the 30-day yield for Michigan CLASS (investment pool) was 4.7% which was better than the current rate of bank certificates of deposits (CDs) averaging around 4.2%. The Finance Committee ultimately recommended joining the Michigan CLASS investment pool. They delegated responsibility to Ms. Morian to determine the investment balance as a lump sum and move 80% of it to an investment pool and the other 20% to be put in high-yield CDs.
2. On a motion by Ms. Deel, seconded by Ms. West, the board unanimously agreed to join the Michigan CLASS investment pool and delegated authority to Library Director, Juliane Morian, to serve as the authorized signer and key contact for the library with no further discussion.

X. Other Business

- A. Ms. Morian provided an update on the library agreements with community partners. She relayed that she had separate meetings with representatives from the City of Rochester and from Oakland Township. Both communities understood the rationale for the proposed contract fees, but disliked the flat 4% increase each year and would prefer if the

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contract were based on a millage reflecting the taxable value of each community and not a per-capita fee.

- B. Mr. Bonam stated that he would like the Finance Committee to convene and review the proposed library agreement before making any changes to the current (proposed) draft.

XI. Board Comments

- A. Ms. West thanked Ms. Deel for her service as RHPL Board President during such a momentous year with the library's centennial and a millage request.

XII. Questions from the Liaisons

- A. Mr. Kiefer stated that he is looking forward to convening the Oakland Township Library Board on Thursday, January 17th and proposing a framework for Oakland Township to remain a community partner with the RHPL.
- B. Ms. Coleman stated that she looks forward to getting any outstanding questions answered and momentum rolling on a new library agreement.

- XIII. The regular meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Julianne Reyes, Secretary