

Marshalltown Public Library
Board of Trustees
February 17, 2026

Members Present: Tonya Gaffney (remote) Sandy Bennett, Ashtyn Beek, Erik Hall, Lea Husak (remote)
Ruzan Morrison Absent: Ronnie Manis
Staff: Sarah Rosenblum, Joa LaVille, Katie Fink
Recording Secretary: Sandy Gowdy

Vice President Sandy Bennett called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Public Comment: Comments were made by John Worden and Ray Mitchum

Board Comment: There were no comments.

Approval of Agenda: Moved/seconded (Hall/Morrison) to approve the agenda. Passed.

Approval of the Jan. 20, 2026 Minutes: Moved/seconded (Morrison/Beek) to approve. Passed.

Approval of the Bills: Moved/seconded (Hall/Beek) to approve the bills. Passed.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business:

A: Interior Renovation Update: There is an upcoming meeting to decide on furniture and they are trying to add a phone line for a FAX line.

B. Staffing Update:

- Monica Rohde-Fulton has retired. Her position is being revamped to be more focused on tech and meeting room use
- Logan Jay, an internal candidate, has been hired for that position
- A part-time position will be advertised to replace Logan's previous position

C. Operating Plan: Management staff has been working on an operating plan to include:

- Leadership transition
- Change in ILS system
- New meeting room policies

D. Staff Reports:

Katie:

- Smart goals (new city requirement) have been determined for, and by, staff members
- Library served as a "Homeless Point-in-Time" counting location
- Madelyn Mayberry is going to give a virtual tour of the DM Art Center
- Author visit: Judge C.J. Williams, author of [A Monster in Mt. Pleasant](#)

Joa:

- Spring break extras
- Lots of applications and interviewing for the PT position
- Working on processes and workflow of new meeting rooms
- BOB (Battle of the Books) will be kicking off!

E. Director's Report:

- Working on accreditation
- Many budget meetings!
- Working with Katie in prep for interim position
- Sarah and Katie visited Grimes Library to look at furniture

F. Budget Discussion:

The City Council has cut \$125,000 from the FY27 budget (one half of the former library levy). Some budget reductions will include:

- Elimination of advertising for library director search
- Lawn mowing (city will take over)
- Cancellation of all magazines except "Consumer Reports"
- No travel
- Public will now pay credit card fees
- Reduction of library book purchases
- Cancellation of some databases
- Close some days around holidays
- Reduction of adult AND youth programming and outreach
- Public Services Manager will serve as interim director for seven months from November 2026 - June 2027
- Savings from retirement of Director and Reference Librarian
- Caution! Will lose funds from the state and ME Tye Foundation if library hours fall lower than 55 hours/week and 6 days a week.

It was moved/seconded (Gaffney/Morrison) to approve the plan for budget cuts. Passed.

G. Calendar Update:

The following five closures will be added to the **2026** calendar:

- July 5
- The Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving
- The Saturday and Sunday after Christmas

It was moved/seconded (Beek/Hall) to approve the calendar update. Passed.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 17 at 5:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.