Marshalltown Public Library
Board of Trustees
Brucklacher Conference Room
October 20, 2026

Members Present: Sandy Bennett, Tonya Gaffney, Erik Hall, Lea Husak, Ronnie Manis
Absent: Ashtyn Beek, Ruzan Morrison
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 Joleen Ballard

Board Comment: There were no comments.

Approval of the Agenda: Moved/seconded (Gaffney/Manis) to approve the agenda. Passed.

Approval of the September 15, 2026 Minutes: Moved/seconded (Gaffney/Hall) to approve the minutes. Passed

Approval of Bills: Moved/seconded (Gaffney/Manis) to approve the bills. Passed.

Old Business:

- As requested, this is the first Library Board meeting to be streamed and available on YouTube.
- As requested, the board packets are now available online.
- Board members may still access the meeting via Zoom, please let Katie know if you need to attend the meeting virtually.

New Business:

A: Interior Renovation Update:

- The ribbon cutting is scheduled for Sunday, October 25 at 2:00pm.
- Since July, 2600 people have used the new spaces and 620 booking have been made.
- New signage includes the names of major donors
- The renovation was paid for by donors and the Friends of the Marshalltown Library
- Thanks to the City facilities staff for their services

B: Operating Calendar 2027:

- It was agreed to move the December 2027 Board meeting from December 21 to December 14.
  It was moved/seconded (Gaffney/Manis) to approve the 2027 calendar as amended. Passed.

C. Meeting Room Policy:

- Number 6 was added to the Meeting Room Policy and reads, “Rooms are not available to use as a regularly scheduled classroom or study space by educational institutions. Rooms are not available for personal social events such as birthday parties, showers, holiday parties, reunions and receptions.”
  It was moved/seconded (Manis/Gaffney) to approve the revised Meeting Room Policy. Passed.

D: E Rate:

- Due to high internet need and use in our community, it would make sense to apply for E Rate. There needs to be some kind of filtering system in place to apply. More information next month.

E: Imagination Library:

- The Marshalltown Library will offer the Imagination Library to Marshall County residents, resulting in a big impact to literacy in our community
- Every registered child, ages 0-5, will receive a free book every month
- The program will reach about 2400 children in Marshall County
- It is hoped to launch the program in January 2027
- This program is FULLY FUNDED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY.

F: Summer Reading Report:

- At a glance: --825 youth registered for the summer challenge
  --Kids entering 3rd grade were the biggest users
  --Beanstack records ages, grade levels and schools of those signed up
- Read "1000 Books Together" is another program with 915 registrations

G: Staff Reports:

Katie:

- The huge project labeling series with series title and number has been completed!!
- The Annual Report has been submitted to the State Library
- CIP projects for the next 5 years have been turned in:
  - Sidewalk repair
  - Book budget
  - Tuck pointing
  - Roof replacement (now out of warranty)
  - RTU replacements
  - Carpeting

Joa:

- A new AmeriCorps person will be working with teen volunteers
- EMERGE field trips have begun
- A big, fall author event is planned that will involve the library, MHS, Lenihan and Miller

Sarah:

- The ribbon cutting for the renovation will be Sunday, October 25
- Farewell party will be Sunday, November 1
- Many thanks to past and present Board members, co-workers and city personnel!!!
- Sarah's last day before retirement will be November 4.

The next meeting will be November 17 at 5:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.