STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025, @ 6:30 P.M.
HYBRID MEETING IN CARNEGIE ROOM
& VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Phil Caravello, City Council Representative; Lora Klitzke, President; Jean Ligocki, Vice President (virtual); Brandon Maly; Christine Melland (virtual); Libby Phillips, Student Trustee; Trista Richards (virtual); Katie Roberts (virtual); Mande Shecterle, Stoughton Area School District Representative

ABSENT: Sharon Meilahn Bartlett

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Ramsey, Library Director; Sarah Monette, Administrative Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER. 6:30 P.M. by President Lora Klitzke.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA & CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS LAW.

III. CONSENT AGENDA. ***Maly*** *moved to approve and was seconded by* ***Richards****. Vote: 8-0.*

IV. FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT. No report this month.

V. RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES. None.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD. None.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE. Ramsey shared a thank you from St. Ann's to Mary Ostrander, Children's Services Librarian and a story relayed by Amanda Bosky, Adult Services Librarian, from a patron who made use of one of the blood pressure cuffs from the Library's Library of Things.

VIII. EDUCATION UPDATES. Melland spoke about the Trustee Training webinar on using narrative to advocate for your library: "Library Advocacy and Storymaking: the Hero's Journey from Community to Page (and Beyond)." Roberts described a documentary on librarians and book banning.

IX. BOARD IN-SERVICE: UPDATE ON CURRENT STATUS OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES. Ramsey presented. Congress will make a decision about funding for IMLS in September and the agency is up for Congressional reauthorization in October.

X. DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

A. Statistics for August 2025. Ramsey presented.

B. Administration report. In addition to his written report, Ramsey shared that:

1. The Library is hiring for a part-time Library Assistant for the Children's Services Department. There were 45 applications. The ad hoc hiring committee chose 4 to interview. One was disqualified because of her WRS status. They interviewed 3. They made an offer, but the candidate was unable to accept due to scheduling problems. They made an offer to their second choice, who *also* was unable to accept due to scheduling problems. The committee regrouped and has reached out to a new round of candidates.

2. The Management Team spoke with SCLS's space needs consultant, Deb Haeffner on Sept. 17; she is working on a report.

3. The Mayor's budget for 2026 should be finalized soon.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

A. Finance: did not meet.
B. Personnel: did not meet.
C. Planning: Melland has graciously volunteered to be committee chair. The committee is working on its goal for 2025. They have reviewed the Library's programs for 2024-25 and have questions. Melland shared her own positive experience with a Library program. The committee meets again in November. They want to find ways to use patrons' stories to advocate for the Library, as discussed in the Trustee Training webinar mentioned in item VIII.
D. Policies: did not meet.

XII. OLD BUSINESS. None.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS.

A. Recommendation to City Council of resolution regarding exemption from the county library tax. Ramsey presented. ***Richards*** *moved that the resolution be recommended to the City Council and was seconded by* ***Ligocki****. Vote: 8-0.*
B. Approval of 2026 closed dates. Ligocki asked if the Board wanted to consider being closed the weekend after Christmas, Christmas falling on a Friday in 2026, and there was some discussion. Ramsey noted that, operationally, it would be extremely difficult for the Library to be closed 4 days in a row. The consensus of the Board was that being closed the weekend after Christmas was not in the best interests of the Library or its patrons. ***Maly*** *moved to approve the calendar for 2026 as presented and was seconded by* ***Richards****. Vote: 8-0.*

XIV. PENDING AGENDA ITEMS.

A. Reminder for standing committees to review, and possibly report on, their progress toward the annual Board Goals throughout the year. Ramsey remarked that he would be scheduling the Finance Committee to meet very soon. They will discuss the 2026 operating budget and the committee's goal for 2025.
B. Discussion of additional funding sources for library programming and operations.
C. Discussion of General Fund balance.

XV. ADJOURNMENT. ***Ligocki*** *made the motion to adjourn at 7:05 P.M. She was seconded by* ***Maly****. Vote:* 8-0.

Minutes taken by Sarah Monette.