



MINUTES OF THE MARYSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 21, 2026

In Attendance: Laura Zureich (via ZOOM), Elizabeth Yendrek, Bill Forgette, Josh Rice, Abigail Anderton, Jay Riley

Absent: Erin McIntosh

Guests: Rebecca Thomas, Dave Irish, Martin Herrmann

Staff: Nieca Nowels (Director), Michael Schmenk (via ZOOM), Erica Heberling, Casey Rhine, Jessica Smith, Hannah Grim

CALL TO ORDER

President Zureich called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Jay Riley stands before Director Nieca Nowels who recites the Oath of Office to be a member of the Board of Trustees. Jay responds, "I will." He signs, Nowels signs, and then Nowels notarizes the document.

Casey Rhine stands before Director Nieca Nowels and takes his oath to be a Deputy Fiscal Officer for Marysville Public Library for 2026. Casey states, "I swear." He signs the document. Nowels follows and notarizes.

Erica Heberling then stands before Director Nowels and takes her oath to also be a Deputy Fiscal Officer for Marysville Public Library for 2026. Erica states "I swear." She signs and Nowels signs after. Nowels notarizes the document.

Bill Forgette enters the meeting at 5:05 pm.

Director Nowels then informs the room of the following:

Mike Schmenk is to take his Oath of Office as Fiscal Officer of Marysville Public Library in Colorado and have it notarized. He will then send it to Nieca once complete.

Laura confirms with Mike that he will get this done in Colorado and notarized.

ORGANIZATIONAL PROCESS- (Specifically Voting Format)

President Zureich discusses how the Board has been voting at meetings. All members voice that they'd like to continue voting in the format of "All in favor say 'aye', those opposed same sign." (wording). Rather than roll call vote.

Zureich then discusses Robert's Rules of Order. She states she will not vote, only in the matter of a tie.

She establishes that the order in which motions will happen from now on- motion first, then discuss, then vote. All members are in agreement.

VICE PRESIDENT APPOINTMENT

Nowels shares that Board Member Erin McIntosh is leaving the MPL Board as she was appointed to the Marysville School Board.

Bill Forgette and Josh Rice are both interested in the position of Vice President.

Josh states that he was interested last year when the position was available, but Erin had seemed very excited to take on the role, so he stepped back.

Bill then states that he would like to be the VP but doesn't have to. He does, however, have ideas in training and manager education. As well as different ideas for transition of fiscal officer and education for "newbies." He had been pondering ideas to work toward.

In hearing Bill's thoughts, Josh decides to allow Bill to fulfill the position.

Bill offers to have Josh "shadow" him.

President Zureich asked for a motion to accept the nomination and elect Bill Forgette as 2026 Marysville Public Library Board of Trustees Vice President.

Motion 1-26

Elizabeth Yendrek moved approval of Bill Forgette as the MPL Board of Trustees Vice President, as presented, seconded by Abigail Anderton.

The motion passes unanimously.

Bill Forgette was elected Vice President as presented.

With Bill's election, the room discusses the revised committee slate below:

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Operations and Finance Committee

Josh Rice (Chair), (Vacant), Jay Riley

Planning and External Relations Committee

Abigail Anderton (Chair), Bill Forgette, Elizabeth Yendrek

Executive Committee

Bill Forgette (VP), Josh Rice, Abigail Anderton

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Zureich asked if there were any corrections regarding the minutes from the December 17, 2025 meeting.

Motion 2-26

Abigail Anderton moved approval of the minutes of December 17, 2025, as presented, seconded by Bill Forgette.

The motion passes unanimously.

Minutes were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Zureich asked for approval of the January 21, 2026 agenda.

President Zureich and Nieca note the change of order of the agenda, "Organizational Process" was moved to the beginning on the meeting.

Motion 3-26

Jay Riley moved to approve the January 21, 2026 agenda as amended, seconded by Elizabeth Yendrek.

The motion passes unanimously.

Agenda approved as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPDATE

Rebecca Thomas shared that the Grinch event held at the Avalon was wonderful. There were 50-60 attendees. They were able to raise \$100. She thanks Nieca for coming to read to the attendees. Rebecca informs that there have been no operations changes within the Friends. She then turns it over to Dave Irish.

Dave is delighted to report that they had a record month up over 16.5% for the endowment contributions. Their financials are doing well.

Dave, Rebecca, and Martin then present a check for \$23,161.35 to Marysville Public Library.

Continuing, Dave informs that their membership drive started in January and encourages the Board members to join. The Friends meet quarterly and discuss over lunch.

The FOL members, Nieca, and Board members gather around the donation check for a photo.

The Board and Nieca thank the Friends for their time and generosity. The Friends then exit.

FINANCIAL REPORT

President Zureich asks for a motion to approve the December 2025 Financial Report as presented.

Motion 4-26

Josh Rice moves to approve the December 2025 Financial Report as presented, seconded by Elizabeth Yendrek.

Fiscal Officer Mike Schmenk gave the financial report remotely via ZOOM.

Mike shares that due to the building renovations, things were under where they were, but overall revenue was positive. With movement of funds, it supported a positive financial position for the

year. Nothing in the report is out of the ordinary. He notes the grant money was received and reimbursed some of the cost of the summer lunches. In all, everything looks good.

Bill voices concern about the property tax legislation, and if property taxes get eliminated. Mike responds that he is not concerned about the matter, at least for this year's financials.

Jay mentions that in his experience, he has become accustomed to a capital budget. He inquires about placeholders in the budget for future expenses, such as replacement of the elevator, bookmobile, etc. The Board and Nieca discuss meeting with Ron to get ideas for items, amounts, and timeframes to create a capital budget for the library. Nieca agrees to reach out to Ron and set this up.

The motion passes unanimously.

The December 2025 Financial Report was approved as presented.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Nowels shares a couple updates:

STRATEGIC PLAN

Nowels says last month there was a request for strategic plan update. She reached out to managers and received information from each group leader. Michelle, focused on Raymond. That group plans to meet the first week of March to reflect on hours and attendance, what adding programming could do, building flow? Casey, who oversees "stable workforce" reports doing much work in alignment and some accomplishments, improvement in benefits as well as a strengthened relationship with benefits provider. There has been progress in employee compensation and morale and retention; wages are now competitive. Regarding the timekeeping and scheduling program progressing, Casey is hopeful for full onboard in 1st quarter 2026. Leah updated that collection development to meet next week. She attached her groups page that showed their progress. Ali- reported committee meeting next week as well, update to come, added 3 new members. Lauren reported that the Efficient Building team had met. They would like the Board to consider hiring an architect for space design. Our staff has done what we can internally, but we really need a professional eye to make better use of the space we have. Nieca offers to share their notes. Discussion of what bringing an architect in would look like. There were some tours last year (2) but not much from those, they were just getting an idea of the project to give us quotes. The tour with the consultant from the State Library was not helpful for making bigger changes. Jessica notes that they really want ideas for the teen space and Nieca indicated study room space is needed too. Times are changing and we need to redo the AV/basement area. There was discussion about movement of areas up and downstairs, Jessica feels this is beyond us. Bill voices nowhere for teens in town and would love to see our space reimaged for today's teens. Laura proposes meeting with Planning committee to start motion and ideas.

STAFFING

Nowels informs that she wanted to make all aware that Ron is planning to retire April 1, 2026. Very soon. Casey and Ron are meeting to discuss job description. Nieca, Ron, and Casey working on hiring process steps. Discussion on the matter.

Discussion of Biblio+, which is a streaming service now offered at MPL. After a comment from Bill about seeing our name on the list at OCLC for CloudLibrary, Nieca commented that it is a separate product that is affiliated with CloudLibrary but does not give us access to CloudLibrary.

Josh asks about cultural passes. Nieca says that is something under Leah's group, and that she can put him in touch with Leah. He'd like to see those added. Nieca shares that we often don't get offered things for free, as Columbus does. The group is looking into what we can get.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive – Erin McIntosh (Chair), Abigail Anderton, and Josh Rice – Did not meet.

Planning and External Relations – Abigail Anderton (Chair), Elizabeth Yendrek, and Bill Forgette --- Did not meet.

Operations and Finance – Josh Rice (Chair), Erin McIntosh, and Laura Zureich – Did not meet.

February Committee meetings or work sessions to be determined upon Board member search details.

Hannah and Jessica exit at 5:50.

Abigail mentions either needing to meet earlier in the day for February Committee meetings or a different day as she will be out of town. Nieca is to reach out to her via email if needed.

Josh mentions their meeting with Ron about the capital budget should occur prior to an Ops and Finance Committee meeting so they would be able to include this in their meeting's discussion.

Abigail exits the meeting at 5:52.

Nieca will work on setting up the meeting with Ron, Mike, and members of the Ops and Finance Committee so they may discuss expenses, planning, placeholders for a capital budget.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution for Advance Distribution of Tax Dollars

President Zureich asks the Board to consider a motion to approve the Resolution for authorization to have the County Auditor release advance distribution of tax dollars.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Marysville Public Library authorizes the Fiscal Officer of the Library, Michael F. Schmenk, on behalf of the Marysville Public Library, to receive tax advances and settlements from the Union County Auditor for the year 2026.

Motion 5-26

Jay Riley moved to approve the Resolution for authorization to have the County Auditor release advance distribution of tax dollars as presented and seconded by Josh Rice.

Motion passes unanimously.

The Resolution for advance distribution was approved as presented.

Board Member Search Progress

Laura shares that she spoke with Nieca and the Bylaws state they must advertise the opening. Nieca confirms that Ali posted the information today with a deadline of January 31st. One person has already applied. Nieca booked some meeting room times as placeholders to conduct interviews. The Board discusses their availability during proposed dates and times. All believe Tuesday, February 17th to be the best fit. Laura will attend via ZOOM. Bill will run the interviews in person as elected VP. Information of applicants, a schedule of interviews, and interview questions will be emailed to members.

RECOGNITION OF GIFTS

President Zureich asks for a motion to accept with appreciation the gifts presented.

\$30.05 - Donations in Donation Box
\$2.30 – Donations from Raymond Branch
\$150.00 – Donation from McCarthy & Cox
\$18.00 – Donation from Ruthann Rausch

Total Donations: \$200.35

Motion 6-26

Bill Forgette made a motion to accept with appreciation the gifts presented. This was seconded by Josh Rice.

The motion passed unanimously.

The motion to accept the gifts was passed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 27	Trivia at Boston's
February 6	Red Cross Blood Drive
February 14	Sweetheart Tea Party
February 16	Library Closed for Presidents Day

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Zureich asked for a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment of a library employee.

Motion 7-26

Josh Rice moved for the Board to enter Executive Session, seconded by Bill Forgette.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Riley	Aye	Forgette	Aye	Yendrek	Aye	Zureich	Aye
Rice	Aye	Anderton	Absent	McIntosh	Absent		

The motion to enter Executive Session was passed.

At 6:05 p.m. the Board entered Executive Session.

The Board exited Executive Session at 6:38 p.m.

RESOLUTION FOR FISCAL OFFICER'S SALARY

Resolution: Be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Marysville Public Library that the Fiscal Officer's salary for 2026 will be \$45,971.75. This is effective January 1, 2026.

Motion 8-26

Elizabeth Yendrek moved approval of accepting the Resolution for the Fiscal Officer's salary for 2026 as presented, seconded by Jay Riley.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Resolution for the Fiscal Officer's salary was approved as presented.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by President Laura Zureich at 6:41 p.m.

The next board meeting will be on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 5:00 pm at Main Library.

Laura Zureich, President

Abigail Anderton, Secretary

Minutes taken by:
Erica Heberling



MINUTES OF THE MARYSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 18, 2026

In Attendance: Laura Zureich (via ZOOM), Elizabeth Yendrek, Bill Forgette, Josh Rice, Abigail Anderton (via ZOOM), Jay Riley (via ZOOM)

Absent: Mike Schmenk

Guests:

Staff: Nieca Nowels (Director), Erica Heberling, Jennifer Evans

CALL TO ORDER

President Zureich called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

MEET THE STAFF

Jennifer Evans shares that she started in Youth Services as a reference assistant in July. Her first job was in a library and she is happy to be back to working in one. She has lived in Ohio her entire life. She attended college at Ohio Northern University. Loki is her sweet cat, and Luna is her mischievous dog. She has 4 published writings- 3 poems and 1 short story.

Abigail enters the meeting at 5:01.

Bill asks what her favorite part about working at the library is. She responds that she enjoys being surrounded by books. Seeing what is new and popular in youth interests her. Pleasant and enjoyable work environment. Bill then asks what the most inspirational book has been for her. She says that is a hard question. She reads a lot and enjoys horror most. Right now she is reading *The Road* and finds it to be inspirational. Beth inquires who her favorite writer is and she informs them it is Edgar Allan Poe.

There is brief discussion and the Board thanks her for coming and sharing. Nieca voices that it is nice to have her on our team and she brings stability to the Youth department.

They chat about pets and thank each other once more.

Jennifer exits at 5:05.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Zureich asked if there were any corrections regarding the minutes from the January 21, 2026 meeting.

Motion 10-26

Bill Forgette moved approval of the minutes of January 21, 2026, as presented, seconded by Elizabeth Yendrek.

The motion passes unanimously.

Minutes were approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Zureich asked for approval of the February 18, 2026 agenda.

Motion 11-26

Elizabeth Yendrek moved to approve the February 18, 2026 agenda as presented, seconded by Josh Rice.

The motion passes unanimously.

Agenda approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY UPDATE

The Friends are not present and no update was provided.

President Zureich reminds the Board members to become members of the Friends. Bill agrees they should support the FOL. The room discusses.

FINANCIAL REPORT

President Zureich asks for a motion to approve the January 2026 Financial Report as presented.

Motion 12-26

Bill Forgette moves to approve the January 2026 Financial Report as presented, seconded by Elizabeth Yendrek.

Fiscal Officer Mike Schmenk provided Director Nowels with a report to share.

She states that everything is good. Revenue is trending upward. Revenue is above budget and expenses are below where they were last year. The big expenditures at the beginning of the year are for consortium dues and the digital downloads library. That is normal at the beginning of the year. He is apologetic for not being able to attend the meeting, but encourages members to email him if they have any questions.

Bill asks about needing to be reauthorized for banking purposes now that he has been elected VP. Nieca responds that Mike is working on it. He has the minutes to establish Laura and with the passing of the minutes this evening, he will now have what he needs to get Bill approved as well. He will reach out to the officers when they need to go to the bank and sign.

Laura notes the state auditor contacted her for the Board's portion of the audit. Will be working on remainder in the next coming months.

The motion passes unanimously.

The January 2026 Financial Report was approved as presented.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Nowels shares a couple updates:

LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY

Nowels says this event is coming up on March 18th, the same day as next month's Board meeting. She explains that this is why they are voting on the Appropriations Budget tonight and why it is being suggested that March Board meeting be cancelled or rescheduled. She is unsure that she would be back in time from Columbus for the meeting.

She asks if any members of the Board are interested in attending Legislative Day with her. They consulted their schedules and the experience it offers. Jay says he is interested and is a maybe. Nieca says anyone who is interested please confirm with her one week before the deadline.

CORRESPONDENCE CONVERSATION

Nieca added this item to the agenda for Abigail. She turns the floor over to her.

Abigail informs the Board that she received an email before January's Board meeting to the MPL Board email. The person was requesting that they consider where certain books and LGBTQ+ materials are displayed during Pride Month. The email was respectful and just them expressing their concerns. Abigail responded that she appreciated her reaching out and would share with the Board. The members thank Abigail for sharing.

RAYMOND

Nowels states this item was a talking point for Laura.

Laura brings up how the Board used to conduct a Board meeting at the Raymond Branch each year. Many members optimize ZOOM now to attend, Raymond is not set up for this. Laura suggests that the Board members visit Raymond sometime, so they have reference for discussion of the branch.

The Board discussed ideas related to visiting the Raymond Branch.

CARNEGIE GIFT

Nieca is happy to report that we received the check from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. There was a brief hiccup with a misprint on the check, but after correction it is deposited. Jessica came to Nieca with the idea of purchasing new books to give away to Summer Reading Program participants. New books instead of older/donated titles would be nice for the young readers. They priced new books and thought it was an option. No exact plan for the donation has been determined yet. For the adult participants in Summer Reading, they thought maybe some small gift cards to Barnes and Noble would be appropriate.

MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Nieca turns to Bill for him to share about this proposition.

Bill states that over the years, managers come and go. Every person communicates differently. In the corporate world, they train staff on how to treat people and the different personalities on each team. The training offers an understanding of persona. Speaking to people differently accomplishes different goals. He feels it would be good for the management team at the library to have a training along these lines to communicate better. For the training, he recommends Elyse Wampler of the organization Leadership at Work. He talks about her many years of experience and the methods she uses. Her proposal was handed out to the Board. She does

tests and assessments, a session to understand the results, and a session on how to take these results/types and use it to work together, address needs, and how to adapt. She provides leadership training also. The proposal details what is included in the service Elyse is offering. There is an optional component for the Board to participate for a fee. More coaching sessions are available for an extra cost. Bill feels this training would benefit the management team. He recommends it for the team and any Board members interested.

Josh asks if there were any other options proposed. Any other vendors/services? Nieca replies that she thinks training would be beneficial but has not researched all options and methods out there. There is discussion in the room about different training types and their benefits. There was discussion about Bill's connection to Elyse through his own work, but he assures the members that he was actually headed in a different direction, and his manager recommended Leadership at Work based on Bill's presentation of the library's needs. Laura asks if anyone is opposed and would like to explore other options. If everyone understands and is in agreement with this option, she states it is okay to proceed with a motion.

Another part to training, Bill shares, is that he and Nieca are reading a book on crucial conversations that goes alongside the proposed management training. The book is about how to talk about difficult things.

Bill questions Nieca about an item on her report about an online autism spectrum disorder webinar she took part in. Nieca informs she was on the hunt for an informative opportunity since one of our patrons had difficulty at a storytime. She found the webinar beneficial and the management team is going to watch it together as well. It is from the perspective of person who works in library with autism.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive – Bill Forgette (Chair), Abigail Anderton, and Josh Rice– Did not meet.

Planning and External Relations – Abigail Anderton (Chair), Elizabeth Yendrek, and Bill Forgette --- Did not meet.

They will need to schedule a meeting. Discussion of varying availability. Potentially best to do ZOOM. Nieca will email members the items she has for review. Monday, March 9th at 5:00 pm is looking favorable for a ZOOM meeting with the committee. Nieca to send ZOOM link.

Operations and Finance – Josh Rice (Chair), Jay Riley, and Vacant Position– Did not meet.

Informal meeting with Ron, Nieca, and Jay. Jay shares the meeting was good and they discussed the items to look at in terms of future planning. The elevator was one big and costly item. They discussed a lot of building items for a Master Budget. Efforts in being proactive. The meeting was beneficial and a spreadsheet with years and placeholders is to come.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Appropriations Budget for 2026

President Zureich asks for approval of the Appropriations Budget for 2026.

Motion 13-26

Jay Riley moved to approve the Appropriations Budget for 2026 as presented, seconded by Elizabeth Yendrek.

The motion passes unanimously.

The Appropriations Budget for 2026 was approved as presented.

New Trustee Recommendation

President Zureich asks for a motion to recommend Taylor Tharp to the MEVSD School Board for appointment to the Marysville Public Library Board of Trustees as presented.

Motion 14-26

Josh Rice moved to recommend Taylor Tharp to the MEVSD School Board for appointment to the MPL Board of Trustees as presented and seconded by Bill Forgette.

Abigail shares that she worked with her at Wings and she is lovely. She is excited to work with her once again. Nieca informs the members that Taylor was excited when she called her to inform her she had been selected.

Motion passes unanimously.

The recommendation of Taylor Tharp was approved as presented.

March Meeting

President Zureich asks for a motion to cancel or reschedule the meeting of March 18th, 2026 due to Library Legislative Day being held the same day as presented.

Motion 15-26

Elizabeth Yendrek moved to cancel the meeting of March 18th, 2026 as presented and seconded by Josh Rice.

Discussion of being in favor to cancel the meeting. Nieca planned ahead and the Board passed the budget tonight, so nothing would be missed if the meeting in March were cancelled. The March Board meeting last year was also cancelled. All are in agreement to cancel.

Motion passes unanimously.

The cancelling of the Board meeting on March 18th, 2026 was approved as presented.

Management Training

President Zureich asks for a motion to utilize Leadership at Work (Elyse Wampler) for management training with the cost not to exceed \$6,000 as presented.

Motion 16-26

Josh Rice moved to use Elyse Wampler for management training as presented and seconded by Jay Riley.

Bill abstains his vote.

Motion passes unanimously.

Management training through Leadership at Work (Elyse Wampler), not to exceed \$6,000 was approved as presented.

Roof Work

President Zureich asked for a motion to approve the use of Monarch Roofing Co. for a project to replace the roof membrane, project not to exceed \$38,000 as presented.

Motion 17-26

Bill Forgette moved to approve the use of Monarch Roofing Co. for a roofing project as presented and seconded by Josh Rice.

Jay mentions they had talked with Ron in length about it. Keeping water out of the building is a priority. This is a good investment in the building.

Question about whether other quotes were obtained, but Nieca informs that Ron had not gotten other quotes as Monarch has been good to us and responsive in emergent situations and with questions. They are our typical roofing vendor. The project is under the bid threshold. Ron believes this is a good roofing maintenance option and is excited about the project.

Motion passes unanimously.

The approval to use Monarch Roofing Co. to complete a roofing project not to exceed \$38,000 was approved as presented.

RECOGNITION OF GIFTS

President Zureich asks for a motion to accept with appreciation the gifts presented.

\$13.18 - Donations in Donation Box

Total Donations: \$13.18

Motion 18-26

Elizabeth Yendrek made a motion to accept with appreciation the gifts presented. This was seconded by Josh Rice.

The motion passed unanimously.

The motion to accept the gifts was passed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 24	Trivia Night at Boston's
March 6	Red Cross Blood Drive
March 7	Dad and Daughter Hair Care
March 9	Japanese Storytime with Marysville High School's Japanese National Honor Society
March 15	Knit Together
March 21-23	Friends of the Library Book Sale

March 21

Eggstravaganza!

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by President Laura Zureich at 5:57 p.m.

The next board meeting will be on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 5:00 pm at Main Library.

Laura Zureich, President

Abigail Anderton, Secretary

Minutes taken by:
Erica Heberling

