



TO: SCPL Board

FROM: MVLS Board

RE: SCPL Executive Director's Letter of August 29, 2024

September 9, 2024

To the Board:

The MVLS board has received and paid deep attention to the SCPL Executive Director's letter of August 29, 2024.

We note that the letter states that the opinions expressed are "personal" and do not reflect the opinion of the SCPL Board of Trustees; it then makes many serious accusations, which MVLS will address carefully.

However, we also note that the letter ends with an unequivocal request from the Executive Director of the Schenectady County Public Library for the Mohawk Valley Library System to develop a proposal for Library and the System to "part ways."

The Board of MVLS firmly believes that the time and resources needed to develop such a "Removal Proposal" could, even at this stage of matters, be put to better use exploring a more positive resolution of the current situation. We also believe such exploration would be consistent with our obligations to our served communities.

So, prior to the MVLS Board responding to the entirety of the Executive Director's letter, the MVLS Board asks the SCPL Board: is this request by SCPL Executive Director to prepare a Removal Proposal consistent with your instructions as a governing board?

If this request is consistent with a directive by the Schenectady County Public Library Board of Trustees, the Mohawk Valley Board of Trustees will instruct the System leadership to connect with the Division of Library Development to explore the viability of such a plan.

If, however, the request is NOT consistent with an instruction from the SCPL Board, MVLS will develop a proposal for a process of collaborative problem-solving through mediation, using a mutually selected neutral mediator (selected by both SCPL and MVLS), and offer that to the SCPL Board by the end of September.



This request for clarity and offer of neutral mediation is to ensure our boards are communicating directly, and that both have been provided with the time and information needed to fully assess this matter in a way that serves our communities.

Please direct your reply to the MVLS Board via MVLS, 858 Duanesburg Rd., Schenectady, NY, 12306 or via email to Eric Trahan at etrahan@mvls.info.

If further discussion is warranted prior to a written reply, please request a board-to-board meeting from MVLS Board President Mary VanPatten at mvanpatten@gmail.com.

Thank you. We look forward to our boards working together in a spirit of service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary B. Van Patten". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary VanPatten, President
MVLS Board

cc: Lauren Moore, Division of Library Development
Sara Dallas, Southern Adirondack Library System