

Mohawk Valley Library System  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
May 21, 2026

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Bill Bonner, Jane Borrelli, Katherine Hawkins, Susan London, Terry Pavoldi, Mary VanPatten, Kate Clingan, and Eric Trahan, Director.

**EXCUSED:** April Davies, Haileab Samuel

**GUESTS:** Yvonne Keller-Baker (SHO), Jesse Jensen (JA), Beth Rienti, Pat & Dave Gosda, Mary Carrier, Kim Zimmer (COB), Sharon O'Brien

**Call to Order** President Bill Bonner called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

**MOTION** To accept the agenda for the meeting.  
Hawkins/Borrelli. Ayes – All. Nays – None.

Introductions were made as we welcomed the new JA Project Manager, Jesse Jensen, to the meeting.

**Special Presentations** Mary Carrier attended the board meeting to give a brief demonstration of Niche Academy, our new training platform that offers a variety of on-demand tutorials. Mary encourages folks to take a look at all of the offerings available through Niche Academy. Library directors will send invitations out to their trustees and staff.

**Consent Agenda: Consideration of March Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's Reports, Statements of Financial Position for March and April, Payment Schedules #3 for \$105,182.48 and #4 for \$96,861.16**

**MOTION:** To approve the Consent Agenda.  
Borrelli/VanPatten. Ayes – All. Nays – None.

**Parish Ogunjana Resignation** Parish Ogunjana has sent a letter of resignation to Bill, indicating that her work situation is interfering with her ability to continue as a trustee. We now need to find and appoint another MVLS trustee from Montgomery County, to a partial term ending 12/31/2029.

**MOTION** To accept the resignation of Parish Ogunjana.  
Hawkins/VanPatten. Ayes – All. Nays – None.

**Foundation Update: Election of Trustees** Two trustees on the Foundation Board have terms that are expiring in June. Both are eligible to run again and have expressed interest in serving new three-year terms.

**MOTION** To appoint April Davies and Paul O'Brien to new three-year terms on the MVLS Foundation Board, ending June 2029.  
Borrelli/London. Ayes – All. Nays – None.

**Joint Automation Business:** Project Manager Jesse Jensen presented on Joint Automation business. The JA team is still working to wrap up the final 2025 group order. The team is also working on the first 2026 group order and dealing with the pricing fallout from chip shortages. Moving forward with group orders, JA will be expanding the vendors they work with in order to help find the best pricing.

**Vega Discover** Vega Discover is live, even though the deadline for the ADA implementations was pushed back to 2027. JA staff welcomes feedback from library staff and patrons on the public catalog so that they can continue to make improvements and work for a better patron experience. They are aware of a few issues already with cookies, patron saved title lists, and e-content.

**Polaris** We are a couple of versions behind in Polaris and there are improvements that have been made that Jesse would like to see us be able to take advantage of. In order to make these updates, the e-content issues with Discover must be resolved, so that is a focus right now. Recently there have been some outages with Polaris due to bot activity, so JA implemented geofencing to limit access to the catalog to North America.

**Vega Mobile** The goal is to be able to deliver Vega Mobile by the end of 2026. However, this update needs to wait until both the e-content issues with Vega Discover are resolved and Polaris has been updated.

**Security** Since the security issue back in February, JA has taken a number of steps to increase security. JA implemented Microsoft Defender, which supplies JA with email alerts when there is a suspected intrusion, giving JA the ability to stop suspicious IP addresses across the organization very quickly. JA also eliminated a major security gap by blocking legacy authentication logins and implementing stricter authentication policies. They are looking to deploy advanced browser defense with ThreatDown, which is currently being tested by a small number of staff.

Katherine asks if any security alerts could be sent to trustee lists. Jesse says that is something he will look into.

Terry asks how many group orders there will be this year – we are sticking with two per year for now.

Bill asks if all JA policies and procedures leading up to the incident in February were followed, and if not, how can those be updated? Jesse says he would have to do a bit of research on that and get back to him.

**New JA Policy** JA is working to update their Privacy Policy. There may be a need for the executive committee to act in the interim between MVLS board meetings, so the board should consider empowering them to do so. The policy would be sent out to the full board beforehand so they could voice any concerns.

**MOTION** To empower the MVLS Board Executive Committee to approve a new JA Privacy Policy when it is available from JA Council.

VanPatten/Hawkins. Ayes – Five. Nays – None. Abstentions – One (London).

**Governance Structure Review Committee** Bill set a virtual meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup> for the GSRC. Stay tuned for updated information.

**Planning Process** Step 1 in the MVLS Planning Process, meeting with each individual library, is complete. We'll be looking at the information gathered from those meetings to develop action items for MVLS going forward.

**Spring Symposium** The Spring Symposium took place on May 6<sup>th</sup> in Middleburgh. This year we expanded the program to 3 hours, which was very positively received.

**Advocacy Update** Eric attended NYLA's Spring on the Hill this week. Currently, there is still not a state budget and the legislative session ends in a few weeks. This kind of a schedule means that all of the non-budgetary bills that libraries have been supporting are unlikely to happen this year, which is unfortunate. At Spring on the Hill, there was a lot of interest within the education community to still push these bills like Freedom to Read and library e-content legislation. NOVELNY and the Cultural Education Fee funding have all been agreed upon by the governor and both houses, so we do have some positive news on those fronts.

**Trustee Election Process** The Nominating Advisory Committee has been re-convened. They are still in need of one member each from Fulton and Montgomery Counties. Later this week, Eric will be sending a message out to the Montgomery County libraries to try and identify a potential trustee to fill Parish's seat.

The **Director's Report** for March and April was distributed before the meeting. As usual, Eric organized his report around the goals that were set during our last plan of service process:

1. **Empower Libraries with the Vision & Knowledge for Secure Futures** – Seven of our libraries held significant budget votes this week, and they all passed with resounding margins. It is great to have this confirmation that our communities support their libraries. The more of these positive experiences we have, the more it encourages libraries to ask their communities for what they need. It is also renewal season for NYLA memberships, which MVLS funds for our member libraries.
2. **Empower Libraries with the Skills, Tools, and Resources for Serving All** – Central Library money is being used for a lot of shared resources such as Niche Academy, Educate Station, and Comics Plus. The Central Library Committee will be reconvening soon.
3. **Empower Libraries with Collaboration for Outstanding Library Services** – The Symposium is a good example of how our libraries can collaborate with each other. MVLS has also applied for an LSTA grant for a collaborative project between our libraries about food literacy.
4. **Empower Libraries with Inspiration & Methods for Telling the Library Story** – At Spring on the Hill, Eric learned about Our Story Bridge, an organization collects and shares “digital short-form oral histories” about current moments in history. He recommends checking out [Ourstorybridgelistsens.org](http://Ourstorybridgelistsens.org).

Terry asks if directors can be involved in the negotiations with Arnoff for the new contract. Yes, Eric will reach out for their input ahead of that process beginning this summer/fall.

**Directors Council Report** Terry reached out to directors to see if there was anything they'd like to share. Right now is a busy time for everyone as they prepare for Summer Reading. Kim at COB is interested in bringing in social worker interns to some member libraries; Terry says this has been a discussion among the Schoharie County libraries in the past. COB also has a couple of programs they'd like to promote: Don LaPlant is doing an adult story time on May 28<sup>th</sup> and COB is holding a Teen Info Dump on May 26<sup>th</sup> where teens can sign up to give a five-minute presentation on something that they are passionate about. Bill asks Kim to please report on the Teen Info Dump afterwards so that the board can hear about it. Yvonne shared that she really appreciated Eric's help with the Annual Report, especially with the quick turnaround time this year.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** No further reports from committees

**Announcements** Katherine shares that she has been published in the Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society. She shared copies of her article for anyone interested.

**MOTION** To adjourn the meeting at 10:48am  
Hawkins/VanPatten. Ayes – All. Nays – None.

**Next Regular Board Meeting:**

Thursday, July 16, 2026

MVLS Service Center