

MANHATTAN-ELWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT BOARD MINUTES

240 Whitson Street * Manhattan * IL * 60442

BOARD MEETING

April 27, 2026

Call to Order Monthly Board Meeting – Meeting called to order at 4:30PM by President Murray

ROLL CALL: Present: (voting members): Sharon Gill, Tom Murray, Amanda Dearing, Patti Blatti, Keri English

Library Staff: Ashley Hopper, Director; Marcy Juarez, Business/HR Manager

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS: None.

MINUTES: Minutes from March 23, 2026, meeting were approved as amended. The motion to accept was made by Trustee Blatti and seconded by Trustee English. The motion was passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

FINANCIAL REPORTS: March 2026 financials were approved as presented. The motion was made by Trustee English, seconded by Trustee Gill. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

PAYMENT OF SPECIAL BILLS: None.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Given by Director Hopper.

COMMITTEES:

- **IL Library Standards** (formerly Serving Our Public)- reviewed chapters 3-5 together.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Annexation Updates-**

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Executive Session- 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)** –Discussion of probable or imminent litigation. A motion was made to move to executive session at 5:03PM by Trustee Blatti and seconded by Trustee English. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.
 - ***Return to Open Session-** A motion was made to return to open session at 5:27PM by Trustee Blatti, seconded by Trustee English. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.
- *A motion was made to approve having the library director act on attorney advice up to the May 18th deadline for filing a petition. The motion was made by Trustee English, seconded by Trustee Gill. The Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.
- **Bylaws Review and Revisions** – minor updates to include Elwood address and committee changes. Will review next month.
- **Working Budget Draft** – to be revised and reviewed next month.
- **Community Survey Participation** – table until after village community meeting to see if more details are available.
- **Capital Improvements** – Director Hopper presented new furniture for tech office to include workstations, shelving and cabinets. A motion was made to approve the purchase of new furniture for staff by Trustee Blatti, seconded by Trustee English. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.
- **Trustee Library Visit Discussion** – A library visit was presented by Trustee Blatti.

Board Comments:

LACONI trustee banquet discussion- attended by Trustee Blatti. Suggested publicizing strategic plan, documenting success stories and dual language newsletters.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Blatti and seconded by Trustee English at 6:50 PM.

Respectively submitted,
Marcy Juarez, Business/HR Manager