

Ypsilanti District Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Minutes, January 28, 2026  
(Approved February 25, 2026)

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Bethany Kennedy called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Trustees Present: Trustee Bethany Kennedy, Trustee Theresa M. Maddix, Trustee Patricia Horne McGee, Trustee Chris Tebbens, and Trustee Jean Winborn formed a quorum. Trustee Kristy Cooper arrived at 6:33pm. Trustee Brian Steimel has resigned effective January 21, 2026.

Also present: Director Lisa Hoenig, Assistant Director Julianne Smith, and Business Office Manager Andrew Hamilton.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Director Lisa Hoenig asked that Old Business be moved to the end after New Business for the Closed Session, as well as a short break before the Closed Session to collect the necessary signature changes for the bank. Trustee Winborn asked that a question regarding the heating of Whittaker be added to the Facilities report. President Kennedy asked to add President's Comments after the Public Comment. Trustee Maddix moved to approve the agenda with the additions from above, and Trustee Horne McGee supported this motion.

Vote: Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Motion: Passed  
Absent: 2

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Elizabeth Getty – Prefaced her comments by providing a listing of co-workers who wanted their names to be shared; Kelly Peterson Scott, Takima Banks, Olivia Snelling, Shayla Card-Nolin, Daishayanea Jackson, Nicole Walley, Pat Harris, Drew Eaddy, Stacey Palazzolo, Lewander Davis, Monique Lopez-Geiman, and Kallista Walker. She also thanked the Board for implementing and collecting the staff survey, as well as the recent email expressing gratitude from President Kennedy to the staff. She expressed appreciation for the solicitation of staff input on the pending Security Coordinator position, which led her into an overview of the high frequency of incident reports among the branches in recent days. She referenced internal training from February of 2024 (Supporting YDL staff: a Reflective Practice Approach) and shared some of the data and takeaways from that training along with a packet she provided to the Board. She mentioned the need for support then as well as now, and requested the help of the Board as elected officials and YDL stakeholders.

Mani Brito – Provided a statement in appreciation of their workplace, but mentioned they know we may do better, and sees this as an opportunity to collaborate as we build a better system. They see this interaction around the Security Coordinator position as a desire to work collectively towards the library's mission to build community. They brought up various aspects of concern regarding security practices at YDL and pointed to recent incidents of profoundly disturbing behavior. They asked for reflection on YDL's security practices and how they affect the community as a whole. They also asked for staff to feel safe and supported when dealing with and reporting incidents at all locations.

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Kat Layton – Advised part of the reason she was brought in was to support staff due to the burnout many staff were expressing. She sees staff still encountering crisis on a regular basis and not being able to process the secondary trauma, and that the current reflective trauma practices are not frequent enough to provide the necessary support. She believes there is a need to refine the patron behavior policy and the way suspension and trespass notices are executed. She would like to remove any discretionary enforcement and provide some sort of restorative practice. She also mentioned a high concern among community and staff with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE). She encouraged staff and the Board to attend the upcoming trainings in February.

Nicole Russell – Advised this is her first library job, feels that this is the best job she has ever had, and she plans to retire with this organization. She brought up the recent number of incidents at each location and the need to train employees to handle stressful situations. She stated that we can not fix the community, but we may offer them respite and a place that is safe. Libraries provide warmth, food resources and the community come to us for assistance and knowledge. She advised that if we cannot do these things due to behavior issues with individuals seeking assistance then we need more help.

Sienna Higgins – Feels that there is a disparity in how the library system holds patrons accountable for their actions. She provided several examples from recent incidents, and asked that the Board and administration think about why there are these disparities in punishments. She hopes that these decisions in the future are made with checked biases to ensure that the library is a fair place for everyone.

Shayla Card-Nowlin – Expressed her concern with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement in her community and how difficult the Visa process is for community members to navigate. She also expressed concern with the current security procedures and the need for more training to enhance that process. However, she cannot turn a blind-eye to actions and decisions she may no longer excuse.

Stephanie Pocsi-Morrison – Advised the Board that the employees are asking for help. Explained how difficult it is to work everyday and guess what behaviors patrons may exhibit. Expressed a need from the employees to have contact and communication with the Board members so they may have a more holistic approach to keep the branches safe for everyone. Brought up several examples of incidents and how they affected her as well as patrons. Expressed a need for a better system to discuss and de-brief after incidents occur and she came to the meeting tonight to state formally a need for help from the Board.

Hailey Burns – Asked the Board for counsel and advice on how to provide timely information and messaging to the community in regards to ICE. She provided an example from a Chicago library system and is looking for guidance on how her department may do the same.

#### **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

President Kennedy advised that Trustee Steimel resigned from the Board effective January 21, 2026. Advised at the next meeting the Board will need to go through the job description for a trustee and solicit a candidate to fill in until the next election cycle. The group also agreed to provide a statement to honor Trustee Steimel's many years of service and his efforts on behalf of the library, the staff, and the community.

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**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Election of Officers:**

President Kennedy opened the floor for the nominations of officers. Director Hoenig advised of the need to elect all four officers as this is an annual task. She also stated the current President and Secretary are term-limited and the previous Vice President is no longer a Board member. President Kennedy asked if there were any interested individuals in any particular order who are willing to serve. Chris Tebbens volunteered to remain in the Treasurer's office, and President Kennedy confirmed there were no challengers. Trustee Winborn inquired of Trustee Cooper if she would like to run for the President's office and she was willing. Trustee Winborn inquired of Trustee Maddix if she would like to run for the Vice President's office, and she was willing. Trustee Winborn asked President Kennedy if she was willing to serve as Secretary, and she was amiable to that as long as there were no challengers. There were none.

President Kennedy then advised the slate of nominations for the positions would be as follows, unless there were any challengers:

President – Kristy Cooper  
Vice-President – Theresa M. Maddix  
Treasurer – Chris Tebbens  
Secretary – Bethany Kennedy

Trustee Winborn moved to elect the officers via the slate for the 2026 Board Positions, and Trustee Horne McGee seconded this motion.

Vote: Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0  
Motion: Passed  
Absent: 1

**APPROVAL OF 2026 BOARD MEETING DATES**

Trustee Cooper asked if more meetings could be held at the branch locations and the Board was agreeable to that. Director Hoenig advised she would add more branch location meetings. Trustee Tebbens moved to approve the 2026 Schedule of Library Board Meetings. Trustee Winborn seconded this motion. Notice enclosed.

Vote: Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0  
Motion: Passed  
Absent: 1

**YDL 2026 BOARD COMMITTEES**

Trustee Kennedy asked to postpone all committee assignments until the February 2026 meeting, except for the Personnel Committee, which will be composed of Trustee Kennedy, Trustee Horne McGee and

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Trustee Winborn. The Board was agreeable to that. President Cooper appointed the 2026 Personnel Committee as proposed.

Vote: Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0  
Motion: Passed  
Absent: 1

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Trustee Winborn moved to approve consent agenda (November 19, 2025 Budget and Regular meeting minutes and November and December 2025 Financials and Check Registers). Trustee Maddix supported this motion.

Vote: Ayes: 6  
Nays: 0  
Motion: Passed  
Absent: 1

**COMMUNICATION**

Director Hoenig spoke about an email she received noting YDL is a recipient of a \$10,000.00 gift from the Carnegie Libraries in celebration of the United States 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She highlighted an article that discussed whether audiobooks qualify as reading, and she agreed with the article that listening to audiobooks does qualify as reading. Next she pointed out an article from the US Government Accountability Office that addresses the fact that many of the nation's public libraries have facilities in poor condition with a need for maintenance. She felt this was something this Board knows well and has been addressing in the budgets. She moved on to a nice comment from a patron as well as a communication from the City of Ypsilanti impacting properties within the Historic District. She closed with information regarding the passing of State Librarian Randy Riley and the impacts from this.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Facilities Committee – Director Hoenig highlighted the information from the Superior Charter Township Planning Commission which is considering changes to the Township Zoning Ordinance. She was interested to know the specifics of the change made to the property housing the Superior branch location and surrounding properties. Director Hoenig addressed Trustee Winborn's earlier question regarding the heat at Whittaker Road. She advised that the HVAC contractor is actively working to repair many of the VAV boxes that regulate the airflow to rooms. The contractor is also updating the wires that connect the system between the VAV boxes.

Fundraising Committee – Director Hoenig discussed the Annual Appeal and showed the Board an example of a marketing piece to fundraise for the Bookmobile. She also discussed a façade grant offered by the City of Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority. YDL's application would propose to remediate water incursions as well as beautify the façade on the west side of the Michigan Avenue branch along Adams Street. She advised they are also working on a possible grant with the Washtenaw County Office of Economic Development. One of the grant objectives would fund qualified individuals to to debrief library staff after incidents occur. Trustee Maddix asked follow-up questions regarding the

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annual appeal and the cost and expected longevity of the next bookmobile. Trustee Tebbens suggested a more collaborative committee process this year in regards to fundraising.

Friends of the Library Committee – The most recent meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

**REPORT OF THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Director Hoenig mentioned that all the new security desks have been installed and electrical has been completed. At the moment signage for these desks is the last pending item. She said that the art committee met for Michigan Avenue and there is a plan to acquire the Juneteenth mural, as well as two other artists who will be commissioned for pieces for the study rooms. She next discussed the work by Mende Engineering which will address the humidity issues at the Michigan Avenue branch and a report is expected in the next two months. She feels strongly that this investigation will lead to a solution which will address both the humidification and de-humidification of that location. She next discussed the Strategic Plan Progress report included in the packet as well as the Dashboards.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Resolutions to authorize new signers for YDL with financial institutions

YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-2

January 28, 2026

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PERSONS TO SIGN CHECKS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD that:

The following persons are authorized to sign signature cards with financial institutions for deposit or expenditure of YDL funds, including disbursements, sales and transfers of YDL funds:

1. YDL Director: Lisa Hoenig
2. YDL Board of Trustees Treasurer: Chris Tebbens
3. YDL Board of Trustees President: Kristy Cooper
4. YDL Board of Trustees Secretary: Bethany Kennedy

Two signatures are required for any financial transaction. Signature may be by facsimile. This resolution supersedes any previous such resolution.

OFFERED BY: Trustee Cooper

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SUPPORTED BY: Trustee Horne McGee

YES: 6      NO: 0      ABSENT: 1      VOTE: 6-0 Passed

Trustee Cooper moved to accept Resolution 2026-3 Bank of Ann Arbors' Resolution of Lodge, Association or Other Similar Organization signature changes as written in the form. Trustee Tebbens seconded this motion. (Resolution 2026-3 appended at the end of the minutes.)

OFFERED BY: Trustee Cooper

SUPPORTED BY: Trustee Tebbens

YES: 6      NO: 0      ABSENT: 1      VOTE: 6-0 Passed

B. Approval of MACC grant submission for Noise Permit 2026

YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-4

January 28, 2026

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF A MACC GRANT APPLICATION

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD that:

The grant application prepared by YDL staff in support of Noise Permit 2026 is approved for submission to the Michigan Arts and Culture Council.

OFFERED BY: Trustee Winborn

SUPPORTED BY: Trustee Maddix

YES: 6      NO: 0      ABSENT: 1      VOTE: 6-0 Passed

C. Consideration of a proposal to replace the sump pump at YDL-Michigan Avenue

YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-5

January 28, 2026

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CAMPBELL, INC. TO REPLACE THE SUMP PUMP AT  
YDL-MICHIGAN AVENUE

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Whereas, the sump pump in the Michigan Avenue basement runs regularly, and is vital to keep water from infiltrating the building, and

Whereas, Campbell, Inc. recommends replacement, as the existing sump pump has nearly reached end of life, and

Whereas, Campbell, Inc. has provided a proposal to replace the sump pump with an equivalent new model, Now Therefore

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD that:

The attached proposal from Campbell, Inc. to replace the Michigan Avenue sump pump at a cost of \$6,899.00 is approved.

OFFERED BY: Trustee Maddix

SUPPORTED BY: Trustee Tebbens

YES: 6      NO: 0      ABSENT: 1      VOTE: 6-0 Passed

D. Consideration of a proposal to refurbish an HVAC motor for the YDL-Whittaker chiller

YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-6

January 28, 2026

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CAMPBELL, INC. TO REFURBISH AN AIR HANDLER  
MOTOR TO SUPPORT THE HVAC SYSTEM AT WHITTAKER ROAD

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Whereas, the Whittaker Road heating, ventilating and air conditioning system is 22 years old and its aging parts are beginning to fail, and

Whereas, an air handler motor was replaced last year, and the old motor can be refurbished to use as a spare if or when needed, and

Whereas, Facilities Manager Jim Reed advises this would be prudent in the unfortunate case of a summer failure of our chiller, and

Whereas, Campbell, Inc. has provided a proposal to rebuild the old motor, Now Therefore

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD that:

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The attached proposal from Campbell, Inc. to refurbish the spare motor for the Whittaker Road HVAC system at a cost of \$6,876.00 is approved.

OFFERED BY: Trustee Horne McGee

SUPPORTED BY: Trustee Winborn

YES: 6      NO: 0      ABSENT: 1      VOTE: 6-0 Passed

E. Discussion: Immigration enforcement and public libraries

The Board engaged in a robust discussion regarding immigration enforcement and recent events surrounding this topic that affect the community. The Board offered a motion to support the January 21, 2026, resolution by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. The Board also agreed to further discussion to refine policy and communicate with staff and the community.

OFFERED BY: Trustee Cooper

SUPPORTED BY: Trustee Tebbens

YES: 6      NO: 0      ABSENT: 1      VOTE: 6-0 Passed

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

| <b>Trustee</b>      | <b>Comment</b>   |
|---------------------|--|
| Trustee Cooper      | Thanked Brian Steimel for his efforts as a trustee and advised that he will be missed. She also thanked the staff for coming to the meeting and sharing their thoughts and concerns.       |
| Trustee Steimel     | Absent/Resigned.   |
| Trustee Winborn     | Thanked the staff for their efforts. Also voiced appreciation for Brian Steimel's many efforts and expressed how much he will be missed.   |
| Trustee Maddix      | Thanked Brian Steimel for his efforts as a trustee and advised that he will be missed.   |
| Trustee Tebbens     | Thanked the staff for being participants in the meeting as well as for their daily efforts. Also thanked Brian Steimel for his years of service to the library and that he will be missed. |
| Trustee Kennedy     | No comment.  |
| Trustee Horne McGee | She truly appreciates the staff for coming to the meeting and speaking openly about their need and concerns.   |

**OLD BUSINESS**

A. Closed session for Director evaluation (continued from November 2025)

Trustee Maddix motioned to move into a closed session to discuss the Director evaluation at 8:39 pm. Trustee Cooper seconded this motion. Trustee Winborn moved to end the closed session at 9:24 pm, and Trustee Maddix seconded this motion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Maddix moved to adjourn at 9:24 p.m.