

**Belleville Area District Library
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2025**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Sharon Peters called the meeting to order at 7:41 pm.
2. **Swearing in of Newly Elected Members:** The Honorable Judge Lisa Martin of the 34th District Court swore in Joy Cichewicz, Alma Hughes-Grubbs, and Dr. Maria Jackson-Smith, who were elected/re-elected to the board in November.
3. **Roll Call:** The following board members were present: Joy Cichewicz, Dan Fleming, Alma Hughes-Grubbs, Maria Jackson-Smith, Sharon Peters, Linda Priest, and Tanya Stoudemire. Also present: Library Director Mary Jo Suchy.
4. **Selection of 2025 Board Officers:** Motion by Fleming, seconded by Cichewicz, to nominate the following slate of officers: Sharon Peters, Chair; Linda Priest, Vice-Chair, Alma Hughes-Grubbs, Secretary, and Tanya Stoudemire, Treasurer. There were no other nominations. The motion carried unanimously.
5. **Approve Agenda:**
Motion by Priest, seconded by Cichewicz, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
6. **Approve December 10, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes:** Motion by Stoudemire, seconded by Priest, to approve the December 10, 2024, minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
7. **Public Comments:** None.
8. **Approval to work towards a penal fine settlement solution with the Library of Michigan:** Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Stoudemire, to participate in a settlement solution facilitated by the Library of Michigan that addresses the miscalculation of penal fines by Wayne County, provided that:
 - Wayne County agrees to pay for an independent auditor to review all payments to the Wayne County Treasurer from the Courts and all payments to the Wayne County Libraries to determine the accurate penal fine disbursement numbers from 2014-2024;
 - And to provide copies of the completed audit to the Wayne County Libraries and to the Library of Michigan.The motion carried unanimously.
9. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Building:** The circular stair treads have been replaced.
 - B. **Bylaws:** No report.
 - C. **Finance:** The library received a clean audit for 2023-24. Revenues were higher than budgeted and expenditures were lower than budgeted. The audit reflects the money

that the board assigned for future capital projects as well and the money required by GASB 54 for use in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

D. **Marketing:** No report.

E. **Personnel:** Priest summarized the director's evaluation. Suchy received outstanding scores in all categories. Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Stoudemire, to give Suchy a 3.5% salary increase. The motion carried unanimously. Motion by Priest, seconded by Stoudemire to increase the maximum salary range for the Director and Librarian positions by 5% and to approve an upper range of \$18/hour for the Intern position. The motion carried unanimously.

F. **Policy:** No report.

G. **Art:** The current artist on display is Danielle Whitehead.

10. Approve Accounts Payable: Motion by Stoudemire, seconded by Priest, to approve the accounts payable as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Director's Report: See attached.

12. Trustee Comments:

Jackson-Smith – Thanked Mary Jo for her tour of the library.

Stoudemire – Thanked Dr. Maria for joining the board and congratulated Alma and Joy who are returning board members.

Cichewicz – Echoed Tanya's comments.

Fleming – Appreciates the background that everyone brings to the board.

Priest – She brought her 5-year-old grandson to the library twice while he was visiting.

Hughes-Grubbs – Wished everyone a happy new year and congratulated the newly elected board members.

13. Chair Comments:

Priest – Encouraged everyone to attend the Friends Annual Meeting on January 25.

14. Adjournment:

Motion by Stoudemire, seconded by Fleming, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.