



HCLS Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2026 ♦ 7 pm
Central Branch

Board members present were: Rob Mentz, Chair; Antonia Watts, Treasurer; Elizabeth Banach; Abby Glassberg; Dawn Popp; and Kelly Smith. Also present were staff members/citizens including, Tanvi Anand, Isha Ande, Dorna Anderson, Lew Belfont, Tony Blount, Angela Brade, Mary Brosenne, Kelly Clark, Vera Davies, Stacey Fields, Kathleen Klebba, Christie Lassen, Jessica Lee, Steve Lewicky, Tanya Malveaux, and Stephanie Shane.

Rob Mentz called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Tanvi Anand and Isha Ande provided public comment. Their testimony is attached at the end of the minutes.

Stephanie Shane gave an update of the Friends & Foundation of HCLS, on behalf of Friends Chair Nana Owusu. She related that the Friends are 83% to their annual goal of \$188,700. Compared to this time last year, this represents a 38% year-over-year increase. Friends have received \$34,500 in grants. Special campaigns like the Bauder Adult BOB netted almost \$10,000 with the merchandise store bringing in over \$2,000 and Better World Books over \$1,000 so far. Upcoming fundraisers include Branch Raffles, which are tied to Evening in the Stacks, and Books N Brews at Oscar's Ale House and Tavern Talk at Backwater Books – both slated for April.

The Board unanimously approved the Board meeting minutes for December 9.

Tonya introduced Ashley Ashman-Woodson, Community Outreach Coordinator, who provided an update on Library on the Go!, which is comprised of four staff members. Ashley showcased On the Road to Kindergarten visits as well as Library on the Go! requests. She noted that the team successfully reached out to family and children's entities interested in receiving service and that the team is managing to fulfill 50% of requests. She closed by highlighting an event at the Stevens Forest Judy Center.

Christie presented upcoming signature events, including Evening in the Stacks on February 28, HCLS Spelling Bee on March 14, a Bauder BOB Author Event on April 11, and Battle of the Books on April 24.

I explained that we have not received any other information from the Department of State regarding HCLS provision of passport services. However, we continue to work with our federal representatives and Representative Elfreth has signed onto forthcoming legislation out of Pennsylvania reverse the ban on passport services at libraries.

I presented the FY26 operating budget to-date, showing where we are with budget expenditures, further explaining that we keep pace quarter by quarter.

Angela summarized capital project activities, comprised of the Lakefront project, whose programming charettes are upcoming, and the Glenwood Branch, whose roof has been completed with the installation of solar panels next up. Regarding the Glenwood entrance, the County has switched firms and we anticipate the project will begin soon. Additional facilities projects like the replacement of carpet at Miller and the Elkridge Branch expansion have been pushed out. I related that the County sent an email expressing interest in purchasing property in the Maple Lawn area for a proposed Southwest Branch. This project is likely to be pushed out a couple of years in the capital budget timeline.

I presented the proposed FY 2027 Operating Budget, which remains unchanged from the December 9 Board meeting and factors in the possibility of lost revenue from passport services. The Board approved the FY 2027 Operating Budget proposal. We will present any modifications to the Board based on meetings with the County Executive. Stacey Fields will follow up on a healthcare question from the Board.

We anticipate presenting an FY 2027 Capital Budget proposal to the Board in April.

Rob adjourned the meeting at 7:32 pm to convene in closed session.

Below is a summary of the closed session held on January 21, 2026.

1. Statement of the time, place, and purpose of the closed session:
 - a. Time of closed session: 7:35 pm – 8:02 pm
 - b. Place (location) of closed session: Central Branch
 - c. Purpose of the closed session: to discuss personnel matters, obtain legal advice, and discuss collective bargaining
2. Record of the vote of each member as to closing the session:
 - a. Names of members voting aye: Elizabeth Banach, Abby Glassberg, Rob Mentz, Dawn Popp, Kelly Smith, and Antonia Watts
 - b. Members opposed: none
 - c. Members Abstaining: none
3. Statutory authority to close session: This meeting was closed under the following provisions of General Provisions Art. § 3-305(b)(1) § 3-305(b) (7) & § 3-305(b) (9) (add others as needed)
4. Listing of each topic actually discussed, persons present, and each action taken in the session:
 - a. Topic description: To discuss personnel matters, legal advice and collective bargaining
 - b. Persons present for discussion: Tonya Aikens, Dorna Anderson, Elizabeth Banach, Angela Brade, Stacey Fields, Abby Glassberg, Christie Lassen, Steve Lewicky, Rob Mentz, Dawn Popp, Kelly Smith, and Antonia Watts.
 - c. Action Taken/Each Recorded: The board discussed the Collective Bargaining Agreement, along with personnel matters and legal advice.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on **Wed., March 18, 2026**, at the Savage Branch.

Respectfully submitted,



Tonya Aikens
President & CEO

Isha: Hello Board of Trustees Members, My name is Isha Ande and my name is Tanvi Anand and we are members of the MHHS period club.

Tanvi: We are here today to propose an initiative to you all that we have been working hard to manage for the past 4 months: supplying all 6 of your branches with menstrual products. However, our contributions may not be sustainable forever. We would like to request that period products in bathrooms are included in the budget going forward. We started this project because we wanted to give people who menstruate access to the products they needed in a space that was accessible to the members of our community. Libraries are public spaces that are used by people of all ages, genders, and classes, meaning that many people there might need access to menstrual products.

Isha: We raised money to purchase pads, tampons, and baskets that we placed in women's and family restrooms, requesting that they were restocked when needed. Next to our baskets, we placed a QR code for members of the community to give their feedback on the products:

Tanvi: Our respondents wrote:

Isha: "Love that these are freely available in the restroom! I saw a quote once that if (cis) men had periods all restrooms would have free period products. They're a necessity for a lot of people and it's weird that most places only have paid access in public restrooms. I don't have to pay to use toilet paper in a public restroom."

Tanvi: "This is a fantastic way to help people who are caught out when their period arrives! I'm always happy to see this basket on the counter, especially for the younger girls, who might be embarrassed to ask for a pad, or tampon."

Isha: Additionally, one of the questions on our survey is "Can you easily access menstrual products every month?" and unfortunately, we saw that 30% of our respondents answered "no" making it clear that this issue is pressing.

As far as the numbers go, HCPSS's distributor, which is where we purchased the products, gave us 250 pads for \$56 and 500 tampons for \$95. Our initial purchase included one order of tampons and two orders of pads for each branch which lasted the branches around 3 months. We spent a total of \$1475 for 6 branches, or 82 dollars per branch per month. Calculating the cost for the whole year, supplying all 6 branches with menstrual products for the full fiscal year would cost \$5,900. We understand that the FY 2026 budget for HCLS is \$27.3 million and we are asking for a mere 0.02% of your budget to provide a necessity for a significant portion of our community.

Tanvi: HCLS Board of Trustees, we implore you to consider funding menstrual products in bathrooms. As we already know, this change has made an immense positive impact on our county and community and you can continue it for years to come.