

HERRICK DISTRICT LIBRARY BUDGET HEARING

May 28, 2026 | Holland, Michigan | 4:30 PM

Members Present

Marroquin, Becker, Hallam, Kleinheksel, Petzak, VanAllsburg

Members Absent

Hillen, Kool

Staff

Union Steward Vredevelde, Business Office Specialist Smith

2026-46 | Called to Order

Following a roll call, the hearing was called to order at 4:30 PM

2026-47 | Public Comments

There was no public comment

2026-48 | Adjournment

The hearing was adjourned at 4:31 PM

HERRICK DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES

May 28, 2026 | Holland, Michigan | 4:35 PM

Members Present

Marroquin, Becker, Hallam, Kleinheksel, Petzak, VanAllsburg

Members Absent

Hillen, Kool

Staff

Union Steward Vredeveld, Business Office Specialist Smith

2026-49 | Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Becker, 2nd by Petzak, a motion carried to approve the agenda, calling the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.

2026-50 | Consent Agenda

Upon a motion by Kleinheksel, 2nd by Petzak, a motion carried to approve the consent agenda.

2026-51 | Citizen's Comments

Hunter Retcho (also known as Artemis Nyx) gave public comment as part of appealing of his current six-month ban.

2026-52 | Friends of Herrick District Library

Community Relations Manager DeVries reminded trustees of the upcoming annual book sale dates and times.

2026-53 | Director's Report

Staff Updates

Heidi Rantz has been promoted to Library Aide (Part Time A) for Collections and Digital Resources. Casey Kaye was also promoted to Circulation Aide (Part Time A). Congratulations to these amazing staff members and much appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

Over the past two months, I have found an opportunity to individually meet with most of the staff. This has been a very valuable and reassuring process. I continue to be amazed and inspired really by the commitment demonstrated by the people who make Herrick happen. In addition to being a great opportunity to learn and listen, it has been fun to get to know the staff.

Board Membership

Laketown Township resident Philip Hallam has been appointed to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Dewey's recent resignation. Mr. Hallam is a Hope alum and works in the engineering field. He also is an elections volunteer.

Community Engagement

I did an interview on Talk of the Town (WHTC-AM) about my new role at Herrick. The plan is to appear quarterly to share about the work happening at the Library and answer questions from the community.

I met with Kristin Meyer, Dean of Libraries, from Hope College last week to talk about upcoming collaborations and to consider new ways of partnering with Hope through strategic initiatives, programming and collaboration.

I am meeting with the Executive Director of Community Action House, Scott Rumpasa, to learn more about Herrick's partnership with the organization and gain a more in-depth understanding of some of the social issues and challenges facing members of our community.

Library of Michigan

I met with Karren Reish from the Library of Michigan and the LSTA Advisory Committee. This is my final year on the committee and will once again read grant proposals and make recommendations for funding. LSTA grants are great opportunities made available to libraries annually. They foster collaboration, innovation and community engagement.

Lakeland Library Cooperative

The Lakeland board (Herrick is a permanent member) will vote on the ILS question next month. Lakeland sought pricing from one company, and it is the only vendor who is presently being considered.

2026-54 | Assistant Director's Report

Service Awards

In May, we recognize significant staff anniversaries. There is a monetary award given as a bonus through payroll and we will be taking staff out to lunch next week at Anna's House. Staff celebrating 2025 milestones include Thomas Hammelman, Annaka Koster, and Allison Kavanaugh for five years; Erin Benzenberg, Liz Hegg, and Erik Parsons for ten years; and Chris Abma and Sandie Ferguson for twenty-five years.

Spring Clean

Our month-long, library-wide Spring Clean project is officially complete. Staff worked collaboratively to tidy workrooms, public spaces, and digital storage areas. Items were sorted, discarded, and donated. As a result, many of our shared spaces feel lighter, more organized, and ready for what comes next.

Hatching Guinea Fowl

Our guinea fowl hatching project was a success, with four chicks hatched at the library. In partnership with Shenanigans Petting Zoo, we also hosted educational opportunities for all ages centered on the hatching process and animal care. Once the project concluded, staff from Shenanigans Petting Zoo came to collect the guinea fowl chicks on May 16.

Rescuing Ducklings

In other baby bird news, staff worked with City Streets and Sanitation and Holland Police to rescue 11 ducklings that fell into the storm drain at 13th and River. After more than an hour of rescue efforts, seven ducklings were safely removed and placed with a local duck rehabilitation home. Later in the day, police rescued several more and reunited them with their mother, and the final duckling was saved by a neighbor, completing a remarkable community effort.

Maintenance

Important projects this month included working with:

- Lakewood Construction and Custer to repair broken tiles in the main-floor women's restroom
- Custer to remove tile damaged by spring rain in the maintenance office
- Bosch's to remove downed trees at North Branch
- Hollandia to remove dead bushes at North Branch

Community Impact

On Wednesday, May 13, the library participated in Community Impact Day by hosting two volunteer groups, one at Main Library and one at North Branch, to help with landscaping and hauling woodchips. Special thanks to our maintenance staff Tom and David for their hard work in hosting and hauling.

Summer Reading Challenge

This year's Summer Reading Challenge runs June 8-August 8. Our theme is *Explore the Shore*. We are partnering with BPW, ODC, Ottawa County Parks, and City of Holland Parks and Recreation. *Explore the Shore* invites participants to step beyond the familiar and dip your toe into something new. The Programming Committee has planned an entire summer of fun and meaningful events and opportunities to play and learn.

2026-55 | Committee Reports

Finance Committee met on May 7, 2026, next meeting is August 13, 2026;
Policy/Personnel meets on July 9, 2026.

2026-56 | Resolution to Adopt Budget

Upon a motion by VanAllsburg, 2nd by Becker, a motion carried to approve the budget for the upcoming fiscal year as presented.

2026-57 | Authorized Trustee for West Michigan Health Insurance Pool

Upon a motion by Kleinheksel, 2nd by Petzak, a motion carried to authorize new director Suszek as a designee for HDL's health insurance

2026-58 | Gifts

Upon a motion by Becker, 2nd by Hallam, a motion carried to approve with thanks the gifts to the library from the previous month.

2026-59 | Adjournment

Upon a motion by VanAllsburg, 2nd by Hallam, a motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:59 PM

Submitted by Sara DeVries, Board Clerk