

**Public Hearing:
Proposed Menands Public Library
Transaction**

March 10, 2025

Purpose of Public Hearing

- District seeks voter approval to gift the building and property at 4 N Lyons to the Menands Public Library
- Proposition on the Ballot
- Vote Information:
 - May 20, 2025
 - Noon to 8pm
 - 19 Wards Lane - School District Office

Library and School District Relationship

- **Menands Public Library is designated a school district library**
 - **public library** that is established by a **school district**, rather than a municipality, county, or other entity.
 - operates independently from the school system.
 - serves the **entire community**, including students, faculty, and the general public.
- **Governance and Funding**
 - governed by an **elected board of trustees** that oversees operations, policies, and budget management
 - library board is **separate from the school board** but may work in collaboration with school officials
 - Funded primarily through **local property taxes**, with the school district serving as the taxing authority

Library and School District Relationship Cont.

- **Collaboration**
 - librarians **work on joint projects** to support the community
 - **support each other** in growing professionally
 - share resources
 - **volunteer** and participation in activities

- **Property and Building**
 - **owned** by school district
 - **maintained** by the library

Property and Building Transaction

- The library is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the building and property.
- It operates with an independent budget and is governed by its own Board of Trustees.
- The library manages the building autonomously, ensuring its efficient operation.
- In 1982, the school was gifted the property and building explicitly for the purpose of housing and operating the library.

Options for Transfer of Ownership

- **Transfer by Gift (Education Law §405).**
 - Permits a Board of Education to convey unneeded property, with or without consideration, to another public corporation (library).
 - Real property continues to be used for the same purposes (i.e., as a public library) or for other “public purposes.”
 - Voter approval is required.
 - The same applies to the library ownership is transferred otherwise the property would revert back to the District by operation of law.
- **Transfer by Sale (Education Law §1709[11]).**
 - The District may sell its real property for consideration.
 - Voter approval is required.
 - Requires the District to take reasonable steps to ascertain the value of the property and/or utilize a method of sale that is apt to bring in the best price.

Proposed Action and Public Impact

- Transfer by Gift - \$1
 - Legally binding contract requires a dollar

- Public Impact
 - No change to library services
 - No change to operating procedures
 - Relationship remains the same - school and public library
 - Tax collection and budget process remains the district's responsibility

Public Question and Comment