

April 16, 2025
MVPL Board of Trustees Meeting

Good evening Trustees, staff and fellow citizens, my name is Tamara Stewart.

Last week, Axel Ebermann put a post on NextDoor telling the community about your plan to have the school district obtain a \$1.7 million bond to buy 101 Summit Avenue for this library. There were over 300 comments about Mr. Ebermann's post in less than a week, and the community was overwhelmingly against this "dumb idea." But rather than believe the public, Trustee Marable argued with everyone who didn't agree with her, and cursed at Mr. Ebermann in print in a message sent from her library email. Are you all comfortable with that brand of leadership? If not, what will you do about it?

On April 7th, New York State Librarian Lauren Moore wrote a letter to this board expressing her concerns about reports she has been receiving regarding some of your actions. Ms. Moore is concerned about people being refused petition forms, the requirement for people to have to sign up and provide the subject of their public expression, and required pre-registration for the library's budget presentation on May 7th.

The response from this board was Trustee Marable chiding Ms. Moore's decision to make the letter public on NextDoor, and then writing a response to Ms. Moore justifying the problematic behavior. Did Trustee Marable consult all of you before speaking on your behalf? Do you agree with what she wrote?

A responsible board and Director would have heeded the State Librarian's warning and made some changes; unfortunately, you have not. You are still denying people petitions, you are still requiring people to sign up for public expression and the budget hearing, and you are still violating Open Meetings Law. I hope that the public continues reporting your illegal actions to the State Librarian and Board of Regents; they have removed Mount Vernon Public Library trustees before, and they can do so again.

I promise this community that I will be a far better trustee than most of you are being. I will help restore transparency, accountability, and respect for all of the laws that govern this library. Like most Mount Vernon taxpayers, I'm opposed to the purchase of 101 Summit Avenue, and I'm against the renaming of the Grace Baker Greene Community Room without first consulting this community. It is time for the people to take our library back from you. Vote for Tamara Stewart and Jonathan Davis as library trustees on May 20th, and vote NO for the bond resolution.