



Minutes of the Gloversville Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting June 20, 2023

The Gloversville Public Library Board of Trustees held their regular Board meeting June 20, 2023. President Charles “Ren” Reed noted that the following Trustees were present: Vice President Merry Dunn-Brown, Vice President of Finance Greg Niforos, Sue Shrader, Richard Carlson, Caren Pepper, and John Mazur. Library Director Valerie Acklin and Library Treasurer Michael Frank were also present.

Noting that a quorum of the Library Board of Trustees was present, Mr. Reed called the meeting to order at 6 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mr. Reed agreed to serve as Secretary Pro Tempore, in the absence of Mr. Rohrs.

Mr. Reed asked if there was any public comment. There was none.

Mr. Reed asked if there was any discussion regarding the April minutes. It was noted that there was a small error in which “pie sale” was presented as “pie ale”. Mr. Mazur made a motion to approve the amended minutes which was seconded by Mr. Niforos. The Board unanimously approved the minutes with a vote of “aye”.

Mr. Reed asked Mr. Frank to deliver the Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Frank noted that, as of June 20, 2023, all the funds that had been invested in US Treasury Bills, were back in Library’s accounts. Mr. Frank informed the Board that a full accounting of the US Treasury Bills investments will be presented at the July Board meeting. Ms. Pepper made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, which was seconded by Ms. Dunn-Brown. The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer’s Report with a vote of “aye”.

Mr. Frank distributed the Warrants List for May 2023, which was audited by John Blackmon, our Claims Auditor. Mr. Blackmon found all claims to be legitimate claims for monies due from the Gloversville Public Library and recommended payment of same. Mr. Niforos made a motion to approve the Warrants List and to have Mr. Frank, our Treasurer, prepare checks for payment of these claims, which was seconded by Mr. Carlson. The Board unanimously approved the Warrants List with a vote of “aye”.

Mr. Niforos informed the Board that there was no Budget and Finance Committee Report. However, he recommended that the Board approve a 50-cent to 75-cent cost-of-living hourly wage increase for all staff except for Ms. Lanza, Mr. Emden, Ms. Peto, Ms. Hauser (whose raises were approved at an earlier meeting) and Ms. Acklin for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. After much discussion, Mr. Niforos made a motion to approve a 75-cent hourly wage for said staff, which was seconded by Mr. Mazur. The Board unanimously approved with a vote of “aye”. Mr. Niforos then recommended that the Board approve the \$2,000 raise for the Library Director, Ms. Acklin, which had been budgeted for in the 2023-2024 operating budget. Ms. Pepper made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Shrader. The Board unanimously approved with a vote of “aye”. Mr. Niforos then recommended that the Board consider using a payroll service for the biweekly payroll. After some discussion, Mr. Reed announced the formation of an ad hoc Payroll Service Committee to gather information, and appointed himself, Mr. Niforos, and Ms. Shrader to the committee. It was noted that the cost of a payroll service was not budgeted for in the 2023-2024 annual budget.

Mr. Frank informed the Trustees that the Gloversville Library Foundation Board had not met since their last Board meeting and that there was no report.

Mr. Reed delivered Mrs. Jean LaPorta’s Friends of the Gloversville Public Library Report. Mr. Reed also said that he would organize the Board’s raffle basket contribution for this year’s Friends annual Raffle Basket Auction in the fall.

Mr. Reed presented his President’s Report for the month.

Mr. Carlson presented his monthly report. He explained the pros and cons of each of the three options outlined in his report, involving two capital projects: the new parking lot on E. Fulton St. and the Library’s dome. After some debate, Ms. Dunn-Brown made a motion to move ahead with the third option, which was seconded by Ms. Shrader. The Board unanimously approved the option with a vote of “aye”.

Valerie Acklin
Library Director

2022-2023
Board of Trustees

Merry Dunn Brown

Richard Carlson

John Mazur

Greg Niforos

Caren Pepper

Christine Pesses

Charles Reed

Christian Rohrs

Susan Shrader

Mr. Reed delivered Ms. Pesses's Local History Room Committee Report.

Ms. Dunn-Brown gave the Outreach Committee Report.

Ms. Shrader presented to the Board the results of the annual evaluation of the Library Director, Ms. Acklin. It was noted that Ms. Acklin received high marks in all areas of the evaluation. Ms. Pepper made a motion to accept the Personnel Committee's annual evaluation of the Library Director, Ms. Acklin, which was seconded by Mr. Carlson. The Board unanimously approved the motion with a vote of "aye".

Mr. Reed reported that there was no Plan of Service Ad Hoc Committee Report.

Ms. Acklin reported that there was no Policy Committee Report.

Ms. Pepper informed the Board that there was no Program Committee Report.

Mr. Mazur indicated that there was no Public Relations Committee report.

Ms. Acklin delivered her Director's Report to the Board. She gave the Board a preview of the Library's new website. She also informed the Board that all libraries in MVLS will eventually be required to hold an insurance policy to financially protect libraries in the event of a cyber-attack. Ms. Acklin encouraged the Board to consider getting such a policy sooner than later. Ms. Acklin indicated that she will be presenting the Board with more information at a future time.

The Librarians' reports were recognized by the Board.

Under old business, Ms. Acklin presented the agreement between the Library and Ms. Jade Weiss, as it relates to the Free Food Fridge program that will hopefully start in late summer.

At 7:51 PM, Mr. Reed requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Shrader made the motion, seconded by Ms. Dunn-Brown. The Board unanimously approved with a vote of "aye".

Respectfully submitted,

Charles "Ren" Reed, Secretary Pro Tempore