



Minutes of the Gloversville Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting March 19, 2024 at 6 PM

The Gloversville Public Library Board of Trustees held its regular monthly Board meeting on March 19, 2024. President Greg Niforos noted that the following Trustees were present: Vice President Merry Dunn Brown, Vice President of Finance Charles "Ren" Reed, Susan Shrader, Richard Carlson, Caren Pepper, Charlotte Will, and Jonathan Federman. Library Director Valerie Acklin was also present.

Announcing that a quorum of the Library Board of Trustees was present, Mr. Niforos called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and everyone rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Reed agreed to serve as Secretary Pro Tempore.

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

Mr. Niforos asked for a motion to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of the February 20, 2024 meeting of the Trustees as well as the Special Meeting Minutes of the March 5, 2024 meeting of the Trustees. After minor corrections were noted, Mr. Carlson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dunn Brown. The Trustees all approved this motion with a vote of "aye".

Mr. Frank delivered his Treasurer's Report for February 2024. Mr. Niforos requested a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Pepper made the motion, seconded by Ms. Shrader. The Board unanimously approved with a vote of "aye".

Mr. Frank distributed the Warrants for March 2024. Mr. Niforos requested a motion to accept the Warrants and approve payment of the Warrants. Ms. Dunn Brown made the motion, seconded by Ms. Shrader. The Board unanimously approved with a vote of "aye".

Mr. Reed delivered the Budget and Finance Report. Mr. Reed then led a discussion about a number of "talking points" that the Trustees could employ to support the budget vote in May. The scheduled 2024-2025 Budget Hearing was postponed until the Board's April meeting.

There was no report from the Gloversville Library Foundation.

Mr. Niforos presented the Friends of the Gloversville Public Library Report on behalf of Mrs. Jean LaPorta.

There was no President's Report.

Mr. Carlson presented the Building and Grounds Committee Report.

There was no Local History Room Committee Report.

Ms. Dunn Brown indicated that there was no Outreach Committee Report but said that the Committee would be meeting once a number of its members returned from vacation.

Ms. Shrader presented the Personnel Committee Report.

Mr. Niforos dissolved the Plan of Service ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Niforos thanked Ms. Pepper and Mr. Reed for co-chairing this committee.

Ms. Wills turned the discussion of the new Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy and the revised Board of Trustees Bylaws over to Ms. Acklin. After a second reading of the new Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy, Mr. Niforos asked for a motion to approve this new policy. Ms. Dunn Brown made the motion, seconded by Ms. Pepper. The Trustees all approved this motion with a vote of "aye". After a second reading of the new Board of Trustees Bylaws, Mr. Niforos asked for a motion to approve this new policy. Ms. Wills made the motion, seconded by Mr. Carlson. The Board unanimously approved with a vote of "aye".

Valerie Acklin
Library Director

2023-2024
Board of Trustees

Merry Dunn Brown

Richard Carlson

Jonathan Federman

John Mazur

Greg Niforos

Caren Pepper

Christine Pesses

Charles Reed

Susan Shrader

Charlotte Will

Ms. Pepper presented the Program Committee Report.

Mr. Niforos presented the Public Relations Committee Report on behalf of Mr. Mazur.

Mr. Niforos dissolved the Trustee Appointment ad Hoc Committee. The Gloversville Public Library Board of Trustees once again has nine members.

Ms. Acklin presented the Library Director's Report as well as the Librarians' Reports and the monthly Library statistics.

Mr. Niforos asked if there was any Old Business. Ms. Dunn Brown reported that the staff lunch, that she organized and that the Trustees personally funded, went well and was appreciated by the staff.

Ms. Acklin reported that she had spoken with the Library's counsel about legality of hiring a current employee as the Board's Recording Secretary. This position would be a completely separate position from the employee's position with the Library and would be paid as an independent contractor – much like the Board's Treasurer. The Board asked Ms. Acklin to clarify some points with the Library counsel and to report back at the next regular meeting.

The MVLS/JA update in the agenda under Old Business was addressed in Ms. Acklin's Library Director's Report.

Mr. Niforos asked if there was any New Business. Mr. Carlson made a motion to authorize Mr. Niforos to sign the agreement between the Mohawk Valley Library System (MVLS) and the Southern Adirondack Library System (SALS) Joint Automation Project on behalf of the Gloversville Public Library. The Trustees all approved this motion with a vote of "aye".

Ms. Acklin asked the Board to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel duties. At 7:55 PM, Ms. Dunn Brown made the motion to enter Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Pepper. At 8:35 PM, Ms. Dunn Brown made the motion to leave Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Federman. The Board unanimously approved with a vote of "aye".

At 8:36 PM, Mr. Niforos requested a motion to adjourn. Ms. Shrader made the motion, seconded by Ms. Pepper. The Board unanimously approved with a vote of "aye".

Respectfully submitted,

Charles "Ren" Reed, Secretary Pro Tempore