



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

Minutes of the Gloversville Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting June 18, 2024 at 6 PM

The Gloversville Public Library Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. Present were President, Gregory Niforos; Vice-President, Merry Dunn-Brown, Library Director, Valerie Acklin; Vice President of Finance, Charles Reed; Treasurer, Michael Frank, Board members: Caren Pepper, John Mazur, John Federman, Richard Carlson, and Charlotte Will; Sue Shrader was not in attendance. Also present were Recording Secretary Sally Ostrander, two members of the public, and Wade from MVLS.

Mr. Niforos called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Mr. Niforos opened the meeting by leading the Trustees in the Pledge to the Flag.

Mr. Niforos started the meeting by welcoming the public to the meeting, stating they would be allowed 3 minutes each to speak. Dan Kiernan of Gloversville began by presenting the Library with the glove that his father, Peter Kiernan, designed for the 2018 Winter Olympic Games held in China. He asked that the glove be displayed in an area for public viewing. The Board thanked him and his family for their generosity.

Pam Sproule of Gloversville then spoke, and presented the Board with written questions to which she was requesting answers. She stated that when she attended the Books and Brews program, she was upset to find out it was being discontinued along with other programs. She also wanted more information provided to the public about the Library being closed for re-organization for two weeks. The Board thanked her for her comments and said she would hear back from the Library regarding her questions in a timely manner.

Mr. Niforos asked for a show of hands to allow Wade Abbot from MVLS, who is not a GESD resident, to speak. A majority of the Board agreed. HE stated that he understands the Board and the Library are upset about the recent setbacks. He praised the Board for all the hard work they have done and said they were a strong and active Board from a very resilient community. He talked about the Library's vision statement, "Strengthening our roots and cultivating community growth". He stated that MVLS realizes that the recent setback will make it more difficult and take us longer to reach our vision statement, but they have faith we will reach our goals. MVLS provided the Board members with a treat of ice cream as a thank you for their hard work. The Board thanked Mr. Abbot and MVLS for the kind words and ice cream.

Mr Niforos asked for a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes of May 21, 2024, and of the special meeting of June 3, 2024. Mr. Federman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pepper. Mr. Niforos asked if there were comments regarding these meetings. There were none. The Board approved this motion with a unanimous vote of "aye."

Mr. Frank delivered his Treasurer's Report for May 2024. Mr. Niforos asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Dunn-Brown made a motion to accept, seconded by Mr. Carlson. The Board approved this motion. Mr. Mazur abstained from voting as he was not present for the report discussion.

Mr. Frank distributed the Warrants for June 2024. After allowing time for Board members to review the Warrant list, Mr. Niforos asked for a motion to accept the Warrant list. Ms. Dunn-Brown made a motion to accept, seconded by Ms. Pepper. The Board approved this motion with a unanimous vote of "aye."

Mr. Reed delivered the Budget and Finance Report. There was discussion about transferring approximately \$33,000 from the fund balance to the operating fund for fiscal year 2024-2025. Mr. Niforos asked for a motion to transfer these funds. Mr. Reed made the motion, seconded by Mr. Carlson. The Board approved this motion with a unanimous vote of "aye."

Mr. Frank stated there was no Foundation Report.

Mr. Noforos gave the Friends of the Library Report, as submitted by Ms. LaPorta.

Mr. Carlson presented the Building and Grounds Committee report, discussing Phase 2 of the auxiliary parking lot and the dome restoration. He also mentioned that grant funding is being sought for the security camera project. He stated that the Committee did their annual walk-around of the exterior of the building and the adjacent parking lot to identify issues and items that need follow-up. They will do a similar walk-through of the interior of the building later this year to identify issues that need attention.

There was no Local History Room Committee Report or Outreach Committee Report.

Ms. Shrader's Personnel Committee Report was presented by Mr. Niforos. Mr. Niforos asked for a motion to abolish two vacant Library Clerk positions, effective July 1, 2024. Mr. Federman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Will. The Board approved this motion with a unanimous vote of "aye".

Ms. Will stated there was no Policy Committee Report.

Mr. Niforos presented the President's Report. He thanked Valerie, Nicole, and Barb for figuring out how to operate under an austerity budget. He stated how he and Valerie met with staff on June 7, 2024 to discuss changes to operations and staffing. He stated that next year a contingency budget would be prepared. This will be done every year and become part of the budget process.

Ms. Pepper stated that there was no Program Committee Report, but a meeting is planned for late June.

Mr. Mazur stated there was no report from the Public Relations Committee.

Ms. Acklin presented the Librarian's Report. She stated how proud she was of the staff for doing their jobs under uncertain circumstances, and of Barb and Nicole who assisted her in working out a plan involving cuts, but also allowing the Library to continue to provide service to the public and work towards our original goals. She explained that MVLS/JA concerns have escalated, and the State and the Division of Library Development (DLD) are now involved in the discussions. All are working on figuring out what's best for member libraries left in MVLS.

During new business, Mr. Mazur said he'd resign as of June 30, 2024. Mr. Frank stated that payroll was changing so that all staff (full and part-time) would be on the same payroll period, with a one-week lag.

At 6:47 PM, Mr. Niforos asked for a motion to go into executive session. Mr. Mazur made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlson. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote of "aye". Mr. Reed made a motion to exit Executive Session at 7:24 PM, seconded by Ms. Dunn-Brown. The Board approved with a vote of "aye."

Ms. Dunn-Brown made a motion, seconded by Ms. Will, to allow DB to make up, up to 6 hours of work time in the next fiscal year. The Board approved with a vote of "aye". Mr. Federman made a motion to allow VA to carry over 9 days of previously scheduled leave time to the next fiscal year, seconded by Mr. Carlson. The Board approved this motion with a unanimous vote of "aye".

At 7:30 PM, Mr. Niforos asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mazur made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reed. This was approved by a unanimous vote of "aye".

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Ostrander, Recording Secretary