

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OSSINING PUBLIC LIBRARY
Regular Meeting
November 13, 2023
2nd Floor Conference Room
53 Croton Ave., Ossining, NY;

In Attendance

In-Person: Amanda Curley, Philip Rice, Shandi Speller, Meghan Huppuch, Alice Joselow, Karen LaRocca-Fels, Dennis Neuberger, Devante Richards, Leroy Chimilio, Jess Vecchiarelli, Niketa Mohler, Ignayra Lopez, Madelyn Robinson-Lapolla, Evangeline Rohlf, Lucy Vecchiarelli, Abigail Hackett, Chaiton Chimilio, Ava Mohler, Sophia Robinson-Lapolla, Leah Robinson, Tania Randolph, Sarika Rohlf

Remote: Molly Robbins

Absent: Cecilia Quintero, Althema Goodson

Draft Minutes

Call to Order

At 7:01 PM President Amanda Curley called the November 13, 2023 Regular Meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

OPL Mission and Vision

The Ossining Public Library enriches, connects, and inspires our community. The Ossining Public Library will be the community's center for lifelong learning.

Recognition of the Ossining Public Library Battle of the Books Participants

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Amanda Curley congratulated the student members of the two teams – Ossining Artifacts and the Capybaras Laying In The Grass Eating Gummy Worms Watching Cocomelon – that participated in the October 14, 2023, Battle of the Books.

Amanda Curley recognized the parents and caregivers who supported the students' participation and the library staff who made the event possible, including Ignayra Lopez, Suzy Zavarella, James Johnson, and Tiffany Paovella.

Amanda Curley also thanked the library staff and trustees who assisted with the Battle on October 14: Karen LaRocca-Fels, Suzy Zavarella, James Johnson, Sarath Nair, Tiffany Paovella, Alice Joselow, Cecilia Quintero, and Amanda Curley.

Amanda Curley then asked the Battle of the Books team members present: If you wanted the adults here to know you better and to understand the worlds books offer you, which of the books that you read for this Battle would you recommend that we read? Team CLITGEGWWC overwhelmingly recommended Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston, and Maizy Chen's Last Chance by Lisa Yee. The Ossining Artifacts recommended The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes and I Must Betray You by Ruta

Sepetys.

Amanda Curley and Alice Joselow then called each participant up to receive a medal in recognition and celebration of their participation.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Alice Joselow made a motion to accept the Minutes of the October 16, 2023 Regular Meeting. Shandi Speller seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Meghan Huppuch made a motion to accept the Minutes of the November 2, 2023 Work Session. Philip Rice seconded. Amanda Curley requested the minutes be amended to include Meghan Huppuch's attendance. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comment

Friends of the Ossining Public Library Update, Dennis Neuberger, President

- Dennis Neuberger shared that the Etsy holiday sale will take place on November 25 and the book sale is scheduled for December 9. The Friends will meet to determine the Friends board for 2024 and clarify required roles per their bylaws. Dennis is exploring the possibility of coordinating a show of artwork by residents of the Sunshine Children's Home.

Ossining Library Foundation Update, Leslie Allen, Chair

- Leslie Allen did not attend the meeting. Amanda Curley shared that the Foundation sent out its first annual appeal letter and Leslie will share the response at a future meeting.

Westchester Library System Update, Alice Joselow, Board Trustee, District 2

- No comment.

Devante Richards shared that he is looking forward to the holiday book sale and is hoping it earns a lot of money for the library's improvements.

Director's Report and Personnel Report

- Alice Joselow requested more information about the meetings the school district has been holding at the library. Karen LaRocca-Fels shared that the school district had generally been using the theater and/or the second-floor conference room but now use will be limited to four times within a six-month period like all other groups. The library will also continue to be cognizant about not booking large meetings when there is a need for parking driven by library programming.
- Amanda Curley observed that Jefferson Quituisaca, Library Assistant in Patron Services – is helping with lots of different things. Karen LaRocca-Fels affirmed that Jefferson frequently offers to support when help is needed, speaks Spanish and helps with translations, and came up with the idea for the This Week at the Library brochure. The library is so happy to have him!
- Alice Joselow observed that Tiffany Paovella, Library Monitor, is also contributing meaningfully in many ways – helping with the Battle of the Books, supporting a

meeting Alice hosted, and is generally making meaningful contributions. Karen LaRocca-Fels agreed and shared that Tiffany is also pursuing library school.

- Shandi Speller shared that having to get a master's in library science can be a barrier to a more diverse workforce of librarians. Shandi suggested some advocacy at the university level for fellowships and recognition of experience towards expertise in order to be able to diversify the field as is needed.
- Shandi Speller asked Karen LaRocca-Fels to share more about what staff got out of the recent diversity learning circle sessions. Karen LaRocca-Fels shared that in each session there were multiple media to engage with – podcasts, readings, videos – and in each session, there tended to be one that resonated most and sparked meaningful discussion. During the last session a TED Talk about “Oppression at Work” discussed expectations about how to dress and behave at work and what judgments are made based on that. Hummingbird also sent a survey to the participants and Karen offered to share those comments with the Board.
- Shandi Speller mentioned that the news about library card applications in the report made her think about the potential for a limited-edition library card relevant to Ossining. Yonkers Public Library recently had a special edition library card celebrating the 50th anniversary of hip-hop.
- Amanda Curley commented on the impressive level of detail in the report and the number of programs the library is holding. Amanda asked Karen LaRocca-Fels whether this is typical of public libraries. Karen shared that this is typical of libraries that are responsive to their communities and are ready and willing to try new things out.
- Amanda Curley noticed that the nonfiction audit has been a big undertaking and explains the money being spent on new books to refresh and diversify the collection. She expressed curiosity about how the auditing tool applies to sciences. Karen LaRocca-Fels explained that every single book will not tick one or more of the boxes but many do. Karen is interested to see how the fiction audit goes.

Operating Budget and Revenue Report

- Karen LaRocca-Fels shared that she didn't have anything in particular to highlight for the Board about financials – for the most part, we'll see the same variation in the same categories as we reviewed together last month. For example, the budget continues to be underspent in the personnel lines until staff positions are filled.

Committee Reports

President's Report

- Battle of the Books was Amanda Curley's report for this month

Policy, Bylaws, and Personnel Committee

- Policies are on the agenda for approval.
- In December we'll review the meeting room use policy and the code of conduct.

Finance Committee

- Meeting needs to be scheduled.

Building and Grounds Committee

- Karen LaRocca Fels provided the update due to connection issues with Molly Robbins who joined remotely.
- There is a committee meeting this Thursday at 5 PM where SGH will provide an update on potential mitigations. They will provide pricing in the following weeks.
- Molly Robbins talked with Kathleen to review all that we're waiting for from Lothrop and will meet with Kathleen tomorrow to tighten things up (pricing for scenarios) prior to the committee meeting.
- As seen in the resolutions, there is a need to replace tables that are falling apart.
- Molly completed the LJ3 form for civil service and is waiting for them to classify the position and advise on the title.
- Reminder that the new conference room on the first floor is currently only available for library programming. The new small meeting rooms on the second floor have been well-used so far (ex. county health department, one-on-one meetings, tutoring, quiet study space, and microfiche). Reservations are made via calendar on the website or in-person with staff.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #27 Approval of the Unlawful Harassment Policy and Reporting Form
RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the Unlawful Harassment Policy and Unlawful Harassment Reporting Form.

RESOLUTION #28 Approval of the Revised Social Media Policy
RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the Revised Social Media Policy.

RESOLUTION #29 Approval of the Purchase of Furniture
RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the purchase of furniture from Proftech/Hon, proposal dated 10/30/2023, in the amount of \$12,861.06.

The Board read through the resolutions. Alice Joselow moved to pass resolutions #27, 28, and 29 as a group. Shandi Speller seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Old Business

Remote meetings – sound system

- We have new equipment and Allison Robbins and Karen LaRocca-Fels are still working out the bugs. Shandi Speller shared her happiness that it was taken care of quickly.
- Alice Joselow requested a cheat sheet for the system in the theater and explained the need to have a separate one for the computer and the sound system.

Board of Trustees 2023-2024 goals

- Meghan Huppuch shared that revisions have been made and suggested that we move a check-in on the goals to a work session so that we can continue to move things forward.

SharePoint training

- Meghan Huppuch explained that she is working with Allison Robbins on setting up the Board's SharePoint. Philip Rice expressed concerns about how it will be maintained after being set up. Meghan Huppuch suggested that the Board's SharePoint represents an expansion of the Board secretary's role since it will be used for organizing, archiving, and dating different versions of documents.

New Business

Deaccessioning of Adult Music CD Collection

- Mallory Marinaro and Karen LaRocca-Fels are still looking at use statistics. So far they show that the majority of use is not by Ossining patrons. This decision may not be popular with everyone but Karen plans to give plenty of notice to library patrons and hopes to be able to pass some of the collection along to organizations and individuals that will use them.

Shandi Speller recently attended the Central Westchester Community Network and shared ideas about potential library programming related to supporting youth – pro-social groups intended to prevent substance abuse and parent education related to risky youth behavior. Alice Joselow suggested – in her professional capacity – that Communities That Care could potentially hold parent education events at the library.

Public Comment

Devante Richards thanked everyone for voting in the recent election and encouraged everyone to enjoy Thanksgiving, Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday.

Dennis Neuberger emphasized that he loves bringing people to the library and that what the library has done for the groups he's involved in is amazing.

Alice Joselow made a motion to close the public meeting. Shandi Speller seconded. Motion passed 5-0 at 8:29 PM.

Executive Session

Alice Joselow made a motion to enter executive session. Meghan Huppuch seconded. Motion passed 5-0 at 8:29 PM.

Meghan Huppuch made a motion to leave executive session. Alice Joselow seconded. Motion passed 5-0 at 8:39 PM.

Adjournment

Alice Joselow moved to adjourn the meeting. Shandi Speller seconded. Motion passed 5-0 at 8:39 PM.