



BYLAWS

Article I NAME AND FISCAL YEAR

1. The Guilderland Public Library (the "Library"), formerly known as the Guilderland Free Library, granted by the Regents of the State of New York on June 26, 1959, is an organization as per the Absolute Charter Number 2000-326, granted by the Regents of the State of New York on September 16, 1988, and amended on September 14, 2010, and November 14, 2023. The Library is governed by the laws of New York State and the regulations of the Commissioner of Education.
2. The Library's fiscal year shall run from July 1 through June 30.

Article II MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Guilderland Public Library is to provide equal access to materials, programs, and services to our community for lifelong learning, cultural enrichment, and enjoyment.

Article III BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. Size of Board:

The business and affairs of the Library shall be governed by the Board of Trustees (the "Board"), consisting of nine (9) members/trustees that are elected by the voters of the Guilderland Central School District. The elected Board member will serve for three (3) years. In accordance with the Library's charter, the Board can set, by amendment, the number of trustees that constitute a full Board at any single number that is not more than eleven (11) and not less than five (5).

2. Eligibility:

Eligibility for office shall be limited to United States citizens eighteen (18) years of age or older residing within the geographical limits of the Guilderland Central School District.

3. Terms of Office:

- a. The term of office shall be for three (3) years.
- b. The term of office shall begin on July 1st in the year of election and shall end on June 30th of the third year following election, unless a trustee shall have resigned or otherwise terminated membership on the Board.
- c. In the event of an incomplete term, the Nominating Committee shall solicit interest from eligible persons for the vacant trustee position and select and present a candidate to the Board for discussion and approval. If the Nominating Committee's candidate is not approved by the Board, any member of the Board may nominate another candidate. If a candidate is approved by the Board, that individual shall be eligible to serve until the end of the current fiscal year.
- d. At any election where more than one (1) trustee vacancy is being filled, and where one (1) or more persons are to be elected for a full term or terms and one (1) or more persons are to be elected for the unexpired portion of a term or terms, the candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be entitled to the longest term and the candidates receiving the next highest number of votes shall be entitled, in decreasing order of the respective number of votes, to the several vacancies, in decreasing order of the length of such terms or unexpired portions of terms.

ARTICLE IV DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. Oversight:

- a. The Board shall oversee the affairs of the Guilderland Public Library.
- b. The Board shall set the goals and objectives for the Library and shall establish the policies for Library management.
- c. The Board shall appoint a library director, who shall be the chief executive and administrative officer of the Library.
- d. The Board shall review and approve an annual budget.
- e. The Board shall approve the annual report prepared by the director for the Division of Library Development.
- f. The Board shall review and accept the annual audit subject to the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

- g. The Board shall charge the Personnel Committee to conduct an annual performance evaluation of the library director and present its recommendation to the Board for consideration for approval.

2. Meeting Attendance:

- a. Each trustee shall attend Board meetings and, with the exception of the president, shall be a member of at least one (1) of its standing committees, excluding the Nominations Committee (*standing committees and their duties can be found in Article VII, Sections 1 and 2*). Such attendance may be in person or by any other legal means as defined in the NYS Open Meetings Law.
- b. Any Trustee who will be unable to attend a Board or committee meeting is expected to notify the president or committee chair of the anticipated absence at the earliest practical time.
- c. After any trustee fails to attend three (3) consecutive Board meetings, the president shall offer the trustee an opportunity to provide an excuse for the absences. At the next meeting of the Board, a motion may be made to excuse one or more absences by a vote of the Board. If such a vote fails or no such vote is taken, the president shall announce that the seat is deemed vacant, in accordance with applicable law. The vacancy shall be filled pursuant to Article III, Section 3(c). A trustee who has been removed shall be ineligible for election to the Board for a period of one (1) year from the date of removal.

3. Limitations on Trustee Authority:

- a. No trustee, other than the president or vice-president when the president is unavailable, shall act on behalf of the Board, without prior authorization by the Board.
- b. The president is authorized to make public statements on behalf of the Board. The president is authorized to act on behalf of the Board, subject to the Board's later ratification, when time-sensitive decisions are required and convening the Board is impossible or impractical. The vice president may exercise the president's authority when the president is unavailable.
- c. Neither the Board nor any individual trustee shall exercise administrative responsibility with respect to the Library nor direct the performance of any Library employee, with the exception of an administrative assistant specifically tasked to assist the Board.

4. Trustee Removal:

The Board may remove or suspend a Trustee for misconduct, incapacity, or neglect of duty, as provided in Education Law § 226(8).

ARTICLE V OFFICERS: NOMINATION, TERM AND DUTIES

1. Officers:

The officers of the Library shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

2. Nomination of Officers:

- a. Immediately following the annual trustee election, the Nominating Committee (Article VII, Section 2(e)) shall nominate one individual for each executive office.
- b. The nominees for office shall be made known to the Board at least one (1) week prior to the annual meeting of the Board.

3. Election of Officers:

- a. Election of officers shall take place at the first meeting of the newly seated Board. In the event two or more trustees are nominated for the same office, the vote shall be made by a majority of the Board.
- b. All officers must be members of the Board, except the treasurer who shall be appointed by the Board annually. The treasurer may not be a member of the Board.
- c. Except for the office of the president (see Article V, Section 5(a)), vacancies among the officers shall be filled by election at a regular meeting, by a vote of the Board, as defined in Article VI, Section 4. At least one (1) week prior notice of such election must have been sent to each trustee.

4. Terms of Officers:

- a. Officers shall serve a one-year term or a partial year term if appointed to fill a vacancy pursuant to Article V, Section 3 (c), commencing from the date of the meeting at which they are elected until their successors are duly elected pursuant

to Article V, Section 3 (a).

- b. No officer shall serve in the same capacity for more than three (3) consecutive terms or partial terms, except the treasurer who shall serve at the discretion of the Board.

5. Duties of Officers:

- a. The president shall prepare an agenda for and preside at all Board meetings, solicit Board members to serve on committees, present potential committee members for Board approval, and serve as a voting ex-officio trustee of all committees, except the Nominating Committee (Refer to Article VII, Section 1), execute documents authorized by the Board, and perform all the duties associated with that office. The president shall also be a member of the staff Labor-Management Committee, and if unable to attend, shall designate another Trustee in their absence.
- b. In the event of the vacancy of the presidency, the vice-president shall assume the role of president for the remainder of the term and the vice-presidency shall be deemed vacant. An election shall be held pursuant to Article V, Section 3(c) to fill the position of vice-president.
- c. The secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the official record (the "Minutes") of Board meetings and shall perform such other duties as are generally associated with that office. Minutes shall consist of, but not be limited to, official motions voted upon at Board meetings and each trustee's voting record.
- d. The treasurer shall provide independent fiscal oversight of the Library separate from the Library's accounting functions as conducted by the fiscal officer. The treasurer shall submit the account books to the external auditors in order for them to conduct the annual audit. Once completed, the treasurer shall review the audit and then submit it to the board for acceptance. The treasurer's duties shall also include but are not limited to: presentation of monthly analysis and summary within the treasurer's report of financial statements, investments, and the check register; review of bank reconciliations and audit reports; consultation with the Library's fiscal officer concerning investments; and attendance at Finance Committee meetings.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

The Board shall meet a minimum of six (6) times per year in addition to an annual

organizational meeting.

1. Notice:

Written notice of each Board meeting with date, time, and place shall be e-mailed to each trustee between five (5) and ten (10) days prior to such regular meetings. In accordance with New York State Open Meetings Law, public notice will be provided as follows:

- a. Regular meetings which are scheduled more than two (2) weeks in advance will be announced to the public at least one (1) week in advance of the meeting. Regular meetings which are scheduled more than one (1) week in advance will be announced to the public at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting. Notice will be provided via the following: notification to news media, posting on the Library's website, and conspicuous public posting in the Library.
- b. Special meetings may lawfully convene less than one (1) week in advance with less than seventy-two (72) hour notice, provided that to the extent practicable public notice will be given as described in Article VI, Section 1(a).

2. Open to the Public:

Pursuant to the New York State Open Meetings Law, all meetings of the Board shall be open to the public (Refer to Article VI, Section 1(a)).

3. Quorum:

A quorum for taking action of any meeting of the Board shall consist of five (5) trustees.

4. Presiding

The president shall preside at Board meetings. The vice-president shall preside at Board meetings whenever the president is absent. If the president and vice-president are both absent, the Board shall select a trustee to preside over the meeting by majority vote.

5. Majority Vote:

Only trustees shall have a vote in conducting Board business. All Board action requiring approval shall be by a majority vote of the Board. A majority vote is defined as a majority of the nine (9) member Board and as such five (5) or more affirmative votes are required for a measure to pass, unless otherwise stated in these Bylaws. The Board will follow New York State Open Meetings Law regarding remote meeting participation by trustees.

6. Special Meetings:

Special meetings of the Board may be held at the call of the president, or at the

request of at least three (3) trustees, for the transaction of business as stated in the call for the special meeting. No business may be transacted at such a special meeting except the stated business. Advance notice shall be made as early as possible to each trustee stating the purpose, time, and place of such meeting. Public notice shall be provided for these meetings in accordance with New York State Open Meetings Law and as specified in Article VI, Section 1(b).

7. Executive Sessions:

Executive sessions of the Board shall be held when necessary and such sessions shall be confined to discussion of matters as allowed by New York State Open Meetings Law. No votes shall be taken during the Executive session.

8. The Annual Organizational Meeting:

The annual organizational meeting of the Board shall include: swearing in of new trustees, election of new Board officers, annual board authorizations and resolutions, annual policy adoptions and reaffirmations, annual committee reports, and any other business required by the Board. The annual organizational meeting shall be held in July, with notice of the date, time, and place posted in the Library and on the Library's website and shared with the news media two (2) weeks prior to the date and time of the meeting. An administrative assistant to the Board shall open the meeting, swear in new trustees, and preside until the election of the president.

9. Attendance of Director:

The director, or the director's designee, shall attend all meetings including executive sessions unless the Board decides otherwise and may participate in the discussions and offer professional advice, but shall not have a vote.

ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES

1. Standing Committees:

The Board shall function with the following standing committees: finance, personnel, facilities, governance and nominating. The president shall appoint members for each standing committee, including a provisional chair to preside until the committee's first meeting, and assignments shall be approved by the Board no later than the September meeting.

a. Term of Committee Chair:

Each committee shall select and appoint a trustee chair from its membership at the first meeting of the year. A trustee may not serve as chair of a committee for more than three (3) consecutive years.

b. Size of Committees:

Standing committees, except the Nominating Committee, shall consist of at least two (2), but not more than four (4) trustees (excluding an ex-officio Board member) and shall be considered discharged upon the completion of the term of office of the president. Membership on these committees is open to all trustees on a continuing basis subject to the aforementioned limitations. Up to two (2) non-voting, non-trustees may be appointed to positions on such committees to bring special capabilities to the functions of the committee.

2. Duties of Standing Committees:

Standing Committees, working with the director, or the director's designee, will fulfill their particular duties as follows:

- a. The Finance Committee: shall work with the director, the treasurer, and the fiscal officer to provide general oversight of the financial affairs of the Library and to assist with the preparation of the annual budget . The Committee shall review the monthly financial statements as well as participate in the annual audit and recommend acceptance of the annual audit to the Board if warranted.
- b. The Personnel Committee: shall meet periodically with the director regarding personnel issues and union contract negotiations to be approved by the Board. The Committee shall also manage the selection process of a new Library Director when necessary and present an annual performance report of the director to the Board within the first quarter of each calendar year.
- c. The Facilities Committee: shall meet periodically with the director to provide general oversight of the physical plant and grounds of the Library. Additionally, the Committee shall make recommendations to the Board for substantive changes to the building and grounds.
- d. The Governance Committee: shall work with the director to formulate and periodically evaluate any written policies necessary for the operations of the Library and review the Bylaws and Employee Handbook on a regular basis. The Committee shall present recommendations to the Board for evaluation and adoption of policies and amendments to the Bylaws or Employee Handbook.
- e. The Nominating Committee: shall nominate one (1) individual for each executive office and three (3) persons to comprise the succeeding nominating committee pursuant to Article V, Section 2(a) at which time their duties have been fulfilled. The Committee shall recommend to the

Board individuals to fill vacant trustee positions.

3. Ad Hoc Committees:

The president may appoint ad hoc committees with the approval of the Board as the business of the Board may require. Ad hoc committees shall consist of at least two (2), but not more than four (4) trustees. Up to two (2) non-trustee members may be appointed to either voting or non-voting positions on such committees to bring special capabilities to the functions of the committee. An ad hoc committee may be discharged by a vote of the Board or shall be considered discharged upon the completion of the term of office of the president.

ARTICLE VIII COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. Notice:

All committees shall follow New York State Open Meetings Law in the conduct of their business. Announcements shall follow public notice procedures per Article VI, Section I.

2. Open to the Public:

All committee meetings shall be open to the public.

3. Committee Quorum:

A committee quorum shall be a majority of its Trustee members (excluding an ex-officio Board member): three (3) for a committee of four (4) Trustees, two (2) for a committee of two (2) or three (3) Trustees.

4. Committee Vote:

A majority vote of the voting members of the Committee (excluding an ex-officio Board member) is needed to make a recommendation to the Board.

Recommendations are subject to Board approval. In the event of a tie vote, an ex officio Board member may cast the deciding vote.

5. Minutes: All committee chairs shall submit committee meeting minutes to the Board. Committee minutes shall consist of attendance, absences, actions voted upon, each member's voting record, and a concise summary of main points, issues, and processes. Minutes shall be made available within two (2) weeks of the committee meeting. All committee actions are subject to approval by the Board and no committee shall have other than advisory powers unless the Board has delegated specific power to act upon its behalf.

- a. Committee minutes, which adhere to the above Open Meetings Law requirements, may constitute a progress report to the Board. A progress report summary shall be given to the Board at the end of the fiscal year.

6. Executive Sessions:

Executive sessions of Board Committees shall be held when necessary and such sessions shall be confined to discussion of matters as allowed by New York State Open Meetings Law. No votes shall be taken during the Executive session.

ARTICLE IX PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The Board and its appointed standing and ad hoc committees shall be governed by: all federal, state, and local laws; the Library Bylaws; and Robert's Rules of Order; in that order of precedence.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

1. These Bylaws may be repealed, amended, or added to by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board.
2. Proposed changes must be presented in writing at least one (1) Board meeting prior to the meeting at which action on such change is to be taken.
3. Any rule or resolution of the Board, whether contained in these Bylaws or otherwise, may be suspended temporarily in connection with business at hand by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board.

Citations Adopted: 1/09/90

Revised: 3/14/96, 9/14/00, 2/08/01, 5/10/07, 2/12/09, 5/14/15, 12/10/15, 5/11/17, 4/15/2021, 11/16/2023, 7/18/2024, 5/28/2025, 7/8/2026