

# Glen Ellyn Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting of January 19, 2026

## 3rd Floor Board Room

### CALL TO ORDER

President Volk called the meeting to order at 7 pm

### ROLL CALL

#### Trustees Present

President: Karen Volk

Vice President: Kathy Slovick

Treasurer: Andrew Savikas

Trustee: Chris Crawford

Trustee: Kay Fillingham

Trustee: Beth Murin

#### Trustees Absent

Secretary: Richard Jones

#### Staff Present

Dawn Bussey, Executive Director

Maria Shackles, Youth Director

Maria Tachna, Assistant Director

### AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

**Sarah Zagotta**, Young Adult Librarian, gave a brief presentation to the Board. Sarah has been with GEPL for eight months and has focused on learning about the community and improving access to young adult materials and services.

Key accomplishments include launching teen gaming, with over 68 hours of use in September alone; improving collection accessibility; and creating a dedicated monthly

Young Adult display space outside the High School Room. Over the past four months, Young Adult circulation has increased by 18%. Since May, 348 titles have circulated from the “dead” list and 111 from the “dead on arrival” list, with 771 of the new 1,086 titles circulating in the past year.

Short-term goals include implementing the Xbox 360 in the High School Room, rolling out the Teen Guides collection, and continuing to fine-tune Young Adult programming. Long-term goals include relocating Young Adult fiction out of the High School Room and revamping teen volunteer opportunities to better align with teen interests and library goals.

**Beth Kirchenberg**, Middle School Librarian, gave a brief presentation to the Board with updates from The Middle. Beth highlighted personal accomplishments, including 60 hours of professional development, hosting over 30 programs, and attending 18 outreach events. She is serving on the Caudill Award nomination committee for an additional three years, helping select outstanding Illinois titles for grades 5–8. Beth has established a strong library presence in local schools, supporting programs such as TAB, PRISM, gaming, and Art Club, and met with all 6th- and 7<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms prior to Summer Reading.

Within the Library, she serves on the Haunted Library, MakerFest, and Summer Reading committees. In Summer Reading 2025, 273 middle schoolers registered, 162 logged reading, and 76 completed the program—a 50% increase over 2024. Beth also shared updates on 100 Books Before High School, launched in September 2024, which currently has 106 participants, three completions, and 1,194 books read. Beth offers an average of three programs per month for grades 6–8, plus one quarterly collaboration with the YA Librarian. In 2025, she completed a diversity audit of over 300 titles, confirming the collection reflects community demographics, and strengthened school partnerships through classroom visits, County Wide Institute Day participation, and Hadley Curriculum Night. Upcoming projects include refreshing The Middle space with increased face-out shelving, improved collection visibility, and prepared grab-and-go or study-break activities for students.

**Maria Tachna**, Assistant Director, gave a brief presentation on turnover and HR highlights. In 2024, the library experienced a 33.2% turnover rate with 24 terminations, primarily within the Adult Department and Library Services. Maria outlined several retention efforts implemented in 2025, including increased staff events through the Social Committee, the addition of full-time positions in Library Services, staff engagement prompts on the staff whiteboard, and the development and rollout of a new evaluation document. In 2025, turnover decreased to 16.3%, with 12 total terminations. Library Services had the highest turnover with four employees; however, two of these were internal transfers to other

departments for growth opportunities. In 2026, Maria will collaborate with Rachael to develop pulse surveys to gather data on employee engagement and satisfaction.

## MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Treasurer Savikas **moved to accept the minutes of the regular Library Board Meeting on December 15, 2025. Motion Seconded and Carried – Voice Vote - Unanimous.**

## COMMUNICATIONS

The Board reviewed the monthly communications.

## OFFICERS REPORT

President Volk presented talking points related to her visit with the Village. She will attend the Village Board meeting on Monday, January 26th. Following discussion, additional talking points were identified and added.

Treasurer Savikas reported on the financials this month. Of particular note, \$2,350.95 was paid to LL Bean for fleece jackets for new staff, \$25,708 was paid to Library Furniture International for furniture for the first floor refresh, \$2,200.50 was paid to Latitude Signage + Design for replacement signage for the 1st floor, \$119,938.81 was paid to SMC Construction Services for construction progress, \$4,177 was paid to American Bankers Insurance for annual flood insurance, and \$15,840 was paid to Outfront Media, LLC for a joint media campaign with other libraries. We will be reimbursed \$14,260 from other libraries participating in the campaign.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer Savikas **moved to authorize expenditures for goods and services totaling \$451,453.30 as listed in the January 2026 Expenditure Approval List. Motion Seconded and Carried – Roll Call Vote - Unanimous.**

Treasurer Savikas **moved to accept the December 2025 Revenue and Balance Sheet, and the December 2025 Final and January 2026 Expenditure Report. Motion Seconded and Carried – Voice Vote - Unanimous.**

## STAFF REPORTS

Director Bussey reported on monthly statistics, noting positive trends across several service areas. Registered cardholders increased by 11% year-to-date. Visits to the library increased 5% for the year, adult database usage grew by 9%, driven primarily by Morningstar, The New York Times, and digital yearbook searches, youth database usage

increased 26% for the month, 55% for the year, and overall program attendance increased 47% for the month and 14% for the year.

The Youth department has made some progress; however, the back corner, one of the busiest areas and frequently used by younger children, is not yet complete. The play structure has presented additional challenges. Our superintendent from Shales visited the facility where the play structure is being fabricated and confirmed that it is currently in progress. Although it was originally expected to be ready by the 16th, that timeline was not met. He is actively following up with the vendor to keep the project moving forward.

The Foundation will be meeting tomorrow evening. Director Bussey will be formally requesting funding for a giant Lite-Brite, as well as an interactive tree and bush for the back area.

All participating libraries have formally joined the Metra campaign. Our library will serve as the paying agent for the project, with all other libraries reimbursing us accordingly. Key staff met with the advertising company last week and confirmed that library specific messaging is not feasible due to the number of libraries involved. Clark County, Nevada previously implemented a countywide advertising campaign using varied imagery, and that model was shared with the vendor. The campaign will focus on general public library awareness. Advertising will run quarterly, appearing in train vestibules and in 60 train cars during each campaign month.

Director Bussey concluded with three items to share: 1. The Youth area is not quite complete, especially in the back play corner; 2. 2025 was a great year and we've been busy serving the community; 3. We are planning an all-ages silent dance party; and 4. This year, 79 book clubs read 577 titles and checked out over 5,740 books.

## NEW BUSINESS

Non-Resident Card Participation: Trustee Crawford **moved to participate in the non-resident cards. Motion Seconded and Carried – Roll Call Vote – Unanimous.**

Release of Executive Session Minutes: Trustee Crawford **moved to release the minutes dated November 16, 2015, and June 16, 2025, and destroying all executive session recordings from June 2024 back to January 2024. Motion Seconded and Carried – Voice Vote – Unanimous.**

Review Chapters 7-12 of the Illinois Public Library Standards, for the 2026 Per Capita Grant: The Board reviewed Chapters 7-12 of the Illinois Public Library Standards and discussed the checklists associated with each chapter. FY2026 Per Capita Grant: Treasurer Savikas

**moved to approve the FY2026 Per Capita Grant. Motion Seconded and Carried – Roll Call Vote – Unanimous.**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Review Economic Disclosure Statements From DuPage County Clerk: The Board reviewed the economic disclosure statements. Director Bussey went over a couple important dates.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:45, Trustee Crawford **moved to adjourn the Regular Library Board Meeting. Motion Seconded and Carried – Voice Vote – Unanimous.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:46.

Maria Tachna, Assistant Director