



May 27, 2020

Applicants Sought for Siuslaw Public Library District Board Vacancy

The Siuslaw Public Library District has a vacancy on its Board of Directors due to the resignation of current Board Member Mark Tilton. The Board will interview applicants and appoint a replacement at a regular meeting on June 17, 2020. The person who is selected by the Board as a replacement will be eligible to run for election in May 2021 at the end of Mark Tilton's current term.

"Mark Tilton served as the Vice President of our Board for two years, and was instrumental in the process for incorporating a new Siuslaw Public Library Foundation," according to Board President Jane Yecny. "He has served the District very well, and the District board and staff alike will miss his thoughtful voice. My hope is that we will find another dedicated and passionate library patron to serve in his place." Board Member Tilton is resigning to address needs at home.

The Library Board is composed of five residents of the District who are elected to four-year terms. In addition to residing in the Siuslaw Public Library District, members must be qualified electors. The responsibilities of the Board of Directors include setting library policies, approving the annual budget, and hiring and supervising the Library Director. All Siuslaw Public Library District board members serve without remuneration. Meetings are held on a monthly basis and additional meetings are scheduled as needed for planning or special purposes. Currently, meetings of the Board are being held via videoconferencing and/or telephonically.

Individuals interested in serving on the Library Board must submit a completed application and skill inventory form no later than 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2020 by email to ref@siuslawlibrary.org. Applications can also be mailed to arrive prior to the deadline to Siuslaw Public Library District, 1460 9th Street, Florence, OR 97439. Application packets are available online at the library's website: www.SiuslawLibrary.org. If a hardcopy of the application is needed, please email ref@siuslawlibrary.org or call 541-997-3132.

Siuslaw Public Library District Board of Directors Member Job Description

General Description

This is a volunteer position. The 5-person Library Board is the governing body for the Library district and as such sets policy, approves the annual budget, and selects and supervises the library director.

Abilities, Skills, and Knowledge

A strong interest in the communities served by the library district and in the mission of the library. This involves a willingness to be a "community expert," but does not require one to be a "library expert."

A willingness to take an active part in Board planning and policy-setting activities.

An awareness of the division of labor between the Board and the library director.

Adequate time to attend a monthly Board meetings as well as special planning and/or budget sessions. Board members should also allow sufficient time to prepare for these meetings by reading printed Board material prepared in advance by the library staff (e.g., minutes of meetings, departmental reports, etc.). All meetings of the Board of Directors are governed by Oregon's "Open Meetings Law" and public records law.

The courage to support the principles of intellectual freedom.

A willingness to attend annual training sessions.

Ability to abide by the "Duties and Responsibilities of the Siuslaw Public Library District Board Policy".

Qualifications

Library Board members must be qualified electors who reside within the library district's boundaries.

Have more questions about the responsibilities of serving on the Siuslaw Public Library District's Board of Directors? Contact Library Director Meg Spencer at 541-997-3132 x211 or by email at meg@siusawlibrary.org.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Siuslaw Public Library District Board

Meeting the Needs of the Siuslaw Public Library District

It is the policy of the Siuslaw Public Library District Board of Directors to exercise those powers granted to it, and to carry out those duties assigned to it by law, in such a way as to best meet the needs of the District.

Formulation and Interpretation of District Policy

Board members alone have the right and responsibility to participate in board meetings and vote on District matters as part of the Board. The most important activity of the Board in performing this responsibility is the formulation and interpretation of District policies. To this end, the Board shall establish policy, reserving to itself all authority and responsibility not directly assigned to other District officers and personnel.

Management and Communication between Board and Staff

The primary responsibility of the Board is to make policy level decisions for the District. Management of the daily operations and staff is the responsibility of the Library Director. Unless otherwise authorized by a quorum of the Board, no individual board member may direct or order a staff member on any matter that relates to the daily operations or administrative activities of the District. Moreover, unless otherwise authorized by the Board, no individual board member may order, direct, or conduct any review of personnel records of any staff member or any other record that is exempt under Public Records Law. Communications relative to District business should be directed to the Board President or Library Director.

Board Meeting Conduct

The president shall preside at Board meetings. In the President's absence, the Vice-President shall preside. If both the President and Vice-President are absent, any other member of the Board may preside. Board members shall be respectful of one another and follow the direction of the President. Board members should avoid personal attacks and keep discussions on policy, not individuals. Meetings shall be conducted in such a manner as to provide a full and fair opportunity for discussion of the issues in an efficient and timely manner. Any decision of the President or other presiding officer at the meeting may be overridden by a majority vote of the board. Meetings of the Siuslaw Public Library District's Board of Directors are convened with the sole purpose of conducting the District's business. If Board members would like to add items to a meeting agenda, they will contact the President of the Board ten days prior to the meeting or add the item during the addition/deletion portion of the meeting agenda.

Board Members Authorized By Official Board Action Only

Board members have no individual powers separate from the powers of the Board and have no authority to act individually without delegation of authority from a quorum of the Board. Likewise, no individual board member may speak for or on behalf of the Board or District, except as authorized to do so by official board action as recorded in the official minutes, guidelines, or policies of the District.

Ethical Standards

Board members act as representatives of the citizens of the District. Therefore, board members shall adhere to the highest ethical standards in the conduct of district business. As public officials board members are required to comply with Oregon ethics laws. Each board member will be provided with a copy of the Oregon Government Ethics Commissions Guide for Public Officials.

Board Member Education

In order to effectively carry out their duties, board members must be adequately informed. Members are required to attend an initial training, such as the Special District Association of Oregon's new board member training, and complete a minimum of 3 hours of annual training thereafter. Board members are additionally encouraged to attend such conferences and other training programs as the board may authorize.

Discipline

The Board has the right to enforce its rules and expect ethical and honorable conduct from its members. The Board will make every effort to resolve an issue by speaking to the individual privately. Should disciplinary action need to be taken, the following actions may be considered:

- A motion that the member must apologize;
- A motion that the member must leave for the remainder of the meeting;
- A motion to censure the member; or
- A motion to suspend a member's rights for a designated period of time.

Governance Responsibilities

Communications

The Board will work with the Library Director to formulate lines of communication between board members and staff as well as:

- 1.0) Set the tone/attitude for the District.
- 1.1) Encourage participation of staff members on appropriate committees.
- 1.2) Invite non-board members, other local governments, and groups to board or committee meetings or other types of board sponsored assemblies to explore and develop approaches to common concerns.
- 1.3) Recognize that certain information obtained during executive session may be non-public and confidential, making disclosure a breach of trust.
- 1.4) Respect the opinion of other members and accept the principle of majority rule in board decisions.
- 1.5) Be familiar with the Oregon Public Meetings Law.

Financial

- 2.0) Review and approve the annual budget.
- 2.1) Monitor District finances and the budget, setting policy or taking action to ensure the fiscal integrity of the organization.

Policies, Objectives, and Plans

The Board will become familiar with and abide by all laws and policies governing the operation of the District and:

- 3.0) Participate in the creation of the District's strategic plan.
- 3.1) Approve the District's strategic plan.
- 3.2) Suggest and approve policies for the District.
- 3.3) Recognize that the Library Director should have full administrative authority for properly discharging the duties of managing the operation within the limits of the established Board Policy. The Board's basic function is policy making, not administration.
- 3.4) Be aware of the changing needs of the District and propose new directions/ goals for the District as appropriate.
- 3.5) Review any significant departure from established plans or policy.
- 3.6) Receive and act on committee or other planning body recommendations.
- 3.7) Ensure that program objectives are assigned to the proper planning or implementing subgroups.
- 3.8) Where applicable, bring other local governments or community groups into the planning and decision-making process; actively seek collaboration within the community.
- 3.9) Annually review contract with auditor. Approve new contract with auditor as needed.

- 3.10) Annually review job description for and contract with Library Director. Approve job description for and contract with Library Director as needed.
- 3.11) Approve major changes in the district's organization or structure.
- 3.12) Create and approve board plans of action.
- 3.13) Pass district resolutions, or adopt ordinances.

Management

The Board will select the District President and other officers and:

- 4.0) Hire the Library Director.
- 4.1) Define the duties and responsibilities for the President, Library Director, officers, and major committee chairpersons.
- 4.2) Select legal counsel and consultants for the Board.
- 4.3) Authorize officers or board agents by resolution to enter into contracts or to sign other written instruments and to take financial actions.
- 4.4) Approve the plan, form, and amount of management compensation, that is, salaries, bonuses, vacation, travel, and so on.
- 4.5) Evaluate the performance of the Library Director annually.
- 4.6) Approve the form and amount of reimbursement for board members.
- 4.7) Approve programs for management development.
- 4.8) Provide advice and consultation to management on matters within the purview of the Board's responsibilities.

Employee Relations

- 5.0) Insist that personnel complaints go through a proper chain of command. If not resolved, only then should the board get involved.
- 5.1) Do not allow personnel problems, other than problems with the Library Director, to be brought into board consideration unless the problem rises to the level of legal action.

Control

The Board will identify types of information needed by the Board to analyze effectively the District's directions and achievement and:

- 6.0) Create a process for collecting and analyzing information.
- 6.1) Realize that the citizens within the boundaries of the district are the true "owners" of the District.
- 6.2) Annually review and assess the District's performance against objectives, resources, plans, policies, and services rendered.

- 6.3) Identify obstacles, sense changing needs, and propose new directions or goals for the District.
- 6.4) Ensure that the District is in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws.

Board of Directors

The Board will motivate its members to accept positions of leadership and responsibility and:

- 7.1) Appoint, change, or abolish committees of the Board.
- 7.2) Define powers and responsibilities of committees of the Board.
- 7.3) Not make commitments on any matter that should come before the Board as a whole.
- 7.4) Recognize that an individual board member has no legal status to act for the entire Board.
- 7.5) Realize that if a quorum of the Board meets to make a decision or to deliberate on a District matter, then the meeting is considered a public meeting and must comply with all of the requirements of the Oregon Public Meetings Law.
- 7.6) Support actions as approved by the Board, regardless of individual opinions; avoid public 'minority opinion' discussions.
- 7.7) Be on time, be prepared and be informed about the issues on the agenda.
- 7.8) Be aware that discussions on matters of overall policy outside of regular board meetings can violate the Oregon Public Meetings Law.

Public Accountability

The Board will be transparent; keep the public informed on all district matters (except those matters subject to Executive Sessions) and:

- 8.0) Make decisions based on the wishes and needs of the majority of District residents and actively solicit and consider public opinion when setting District policy.
- 8.1) Spend the District's money with prudence and trust.
- 8.2) Place the needs of the public above the ambitions of the Board or the District.

*Approved by the Siuslaw Public Library District Board: October 15, 2014
Revised by the Siuslaw Public Library District Board: July 18, 2018*