

# Glenview Public Library

## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 9:15 a.m.

Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St, Skokie, IL 60077

Radmacher Room

### **Board Members Present:**

Thomas Blanchard, M. David Johnson, Ruth Rosenblum, Jeff Rowitz, Carol Schmitt, Sara Spitz, Kathy Vega

### **Staff Members Present:**

Lindsey Dorfman – Executive Library Director, Christine Klimusko – Business & Finance Director, Emily Baker – Administrative Assistant

**Guests Present:** Becky Thalmann – Founder, Vivica Partners

### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

President Blanchard called the meeting to order at 9:22 a.m. and the roll was called.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. Long-Term Revenue & Service Sustainability Planning**

Executive Director Dorfman introduced Becky Thalmann, Owner and Founder of Vivica Partners, a Glenview-based leadership coaching and business strategy firm, who served as facilitator for the Board's workshop. Executive Director Dorfman noted that this workshop was intended to be the first in a series of annual Board workshops designed to provide Trustees with dedicated time for strategic discussion and long-range planning on issues important to the Library's future. These workshops are intended to support the Board's governance role by creating space for

thoughtful discussion of emerging trends, financial planning, and other topics that inform the Library's long-term direction.

Ms. Thalmann outlined the goals for this year's session, which included discussing the Library's approach to stewardship of public funds, reviewing the financial context affecting long-term planning, considering several options for sustaining the Library's services over time, and identifying potential next steps for the Board.

To begin the workshop, Ms. Thalmann invited Trustees to reflect on why planning for long-term funding has historically been complex for libraries. Trustees discussed the evolving role of public libraries and the need to balance responsible financial stewardship with responsiveness to changing community expectations. The conversation also acknowledged the importance of ongoing communication with municipal partners to ensure shared understanding of the Library's services, funding structure, and role within the broader civic landscape.

Trustees discussed the Library's spending philosophy and the responsibility to steward taxpayer resources thoughtfully and transparently. Board members emphasized that the Library's role is to invest available funds in ways that deliver meaningful value to Glenview residents through consistent delivery of programs, services, and resources aligned with the Library's mission of making the power of knowledge, information, and discovery accessible to all people. Trustees noted that maintaining high-quality service requires continual evaluation and responsiveness to community needs.

The Board also reviewed financial trends affecting the Library's long-term outlook. Trustees discussed the Library's reliance on property taxes as its primary revenue source and noted that operating costs — including staffing, technology, and library materials — have continued to increase over time. In particular, Trustees discussed the changing cost structure of library materials, including digital resources such as eBooks, which are typically priced differently for libraries than for individual consumers. The Board also reviewed the Library's recent efforts to manage costs through careful budgeting and operational adjustments while maintaining service levels for residents.

As part of the conversation, Trustees considered how the Library's services have evolved alongside changing community expectations. Examples discussed included the continued importance of access initiatives such as a bookmobile, increased demand for study and collaborative spaces reflecting remote work and learning trends, and the Library's role in helping residents navigate emerging technologies and information resources. Trustees emphasized that these developments reflect the Library's ongoing commitment to meeting residents where they are and ensuring equitable access to information and community

resources.

Trustees reviewed several financial scenarios designed to support the Library's ability to maintain services over time. These discussions included potential approaches related to levy strategy, the eventual transition of existing debt service funding once current obligations conclude, and continued attention to operational efficiency. The Board discussed the importance of balancing fiscal responsibility with the need for predictable and stable funding that supports consistent service delivery for residents.

Throughout the discussion, Trustees expressed a desire to continue working collaboratively with the Village of Glenview on matters related to the Library's long-term financial planning. Board members noted the value of maintaining open communication with Village leadership and sharing information about the Library's services, community impact, and financial outlook. Trustees agreed that early and ongoing dialogue will help support thoughtful planning and ensure the Library continues to serve Glenview residents effectively in the years ahead.

## **5. OTHER**

- a. Explore Skokie Public Library

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no additional business to be brought before the Board, President Blanchard requested a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION** Moved by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Rosenblum, to adjourn.

Voice vote.

Ayes: 7; Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Rosenblum, Secretary  
Glenview Public Library Board of Trustees