

Trustee Nomination Policy

Trustees of the Catskill Public Library are elected by the Catskill Board of Education as provided by the Library Charter. While the Board of Education is not bound by the Library Board's recommendation, it has customarily followed those recommendations. Accordingly, the Library Board has adopted the following policies for nomination of candidates for consideration by the Board of Education. These policies will also apply to consideration of candidates to fill unexpired terms in the event of vacancies.

Solicitation of interested persons

When the Board needs additional members, it may solicit new members through notices posted at each library location and on the library website. The Board may use other methods of publication including:

1. News releases through various media announcing the process and inviting interested people to submit applications (forms available at library);
2. Solicitation of referrals from current Board members and staff;
3. Contact with community agencies, boards and organizations.

While a broad search may often be helpful, the Board may elect to conclude its search at any point.

Procedure

In the event of a vacancy, the Board and staff will publicize the search for trustees as set forth above;

1. The President may appoint a committee to assist in the search for and evaluation of candidates and to make recommendations to the Board;
2. The Board or library staff will make a trustee handbook available to all interested persons;
3. Prior to consideration, any candidate must attend a minimum of two Board meetings;
4. Candidates should submit the attached application, together with a personal resume; and
5. The Board or a committee may elect to interview candidates; and
6. The Board may enter executive session to determine what candidate or candidates to nominate, as this concerns a personnel matter.

Criteria

In considering candidates for nomination, the Board shall take into account the following:

1. Their commitment to the Library's mission and recognition of the library's importance as a center of information, community culture, recreation, and continuing education. A commitment to intellectual freedom is essential:
2. Their willingness to devote time and effort to carrying out Board duties (with the understanding that family, work, and other commitments should not bar a motivated candidate from nomination);
3. Their interest in the work of the public library, a commitment to its goals, the ability to work as a team member, and a willingness to ask questions, offer criticism and make suggestions. They should also have the courage to plan creatively, and to withstand pressures, prejudices and provincialism.
4. The balance of the Board including a diversity of interests, viewpoints, and backgrounds to result in a balance of age, sex, ethnic background and socio-economic levels. Local residency is important; and
5. The collective knowledge and experience of the Board in a range of fields such as library science, education, social work, law, business, building maintenance, technology, and other matters relevant to accomplishing the Library's mission.

Resolution: Adopted on January 18, 2023 by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees of the Catskill Public Library