

APPROVED 12/14/99

**GREAT NECK LIBRARY**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Tuesday, November 16, 1999**  
**8:00 PM**

The regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library was held on Tuesday, November 16, 1999, at the Main Building, Community Room, 159 Bayview Avenue, NY 11023. (Agenda attached.)

The following Trustees were present constituting a quorum:

Mischa Schwartz, President  
Elayne Bernstein, Vice President  
Marietta DiCamillo, Secretary  
Catherine Moore, Treasurer  
Steve Glaser, Assistant Treasurer  
Joyce Klein  
Bette Weidman

Also present:

Christine Salita, Library Director  
Neil Zitofsky, Business Manager

### **CALL TO ORDER**

President Mischa Schwartz called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. and welcomed those present. In response to a request made by Judi Bosworth, President of the Great Neck Board of Education, the Library Board has made the list of "Decision Makers on Charter Schools" available to the public. President Schwartz commented about the newly renovated Children's Room of the Main Library and specifically thanked Trustee Glaser for his efforts on this project. President Schwartz presented Trustee Glaser with the display copy of the Children's Room renovation floor plan.

### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the October 14<sup>th</sup> and October 26<sup>th</sup> meetings will appear on the December agenda.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Ralene Adler to the Board of Trustees, dated November 2, 1999.  
Ralene Adler to the Board of Trustees, dated November 4, 1999.  
Mrs. Adler spoke to her correspondence regarding the Open Meetings Law, mass mailing of proxies, and the Main Library survey.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

During the month of October 1999, revenue received was \$39,500.23. Total expenses were \$483,878.10

At the close of business, October 31, 1999, total operating fund holdings were \$1,651,428.38 which were on deposit at Marine Midland Bank and The Bank of New York, in U.S. Treasury Bills, and in Petty Cash funds at Main and the Branches. The sum includes \$46,696.08 in reserves designated for renovations to the Parkville and Lakeville branches.

Additionally, the balance of the Main Building and Special Services fund was \$1,066,466.34; the Automated Library fund was \$118,569.42; the Restricted Gift fund was \$11,315.57; the Branch and Special Services fund \$192,529.52. These funds totaled \$1,388,880.85 on October 31, 1999.

Upon motion by Catherine Moore, seconded by Bette Weidman, and after discussion, it was,

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library accept the November 16, 1999, Treasurer's Report with the Personnel Changes of October 27 through November 16, 1999.

**VOTE:** Yes - 7 (Bernstein, DiCamillo, Glaser, Klein, Moore, Schwartz, Weidman)  
*Motion Carried Unanimously*

Upon motion by Catherine Moore, seconded by Joyce Klein, and after discussion, it was,

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library authorize the Treasurer to pay the persons named in the Check Register presented at the November 1999 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, dated October 23, 1999, through November 10, 1999, Paid-Checks numbered 1027 and 18246 through 18312, and To-Be-Paid Checks numbered 18313 through 18403, the sums set against their respective names for a total amount of two hundred six thousand, eight hundred eighty-nine dollars and forty seven cents (\$206,889.47).

**VOTE:** Yes - 7 (Bernstein, DiCamillo, Glaser, Klein, Moore, Schwartz, Weidman)  
*Motion Carried Unanimously*

## REPORTS

### Director's Report: (Attached hereto)

Secretary DiCamillo asked how many library card holders have re-registered to date.

### Public Comment:

Ralene Adler inquired as to what the number (re-registrants) meant to the library usage.

### Branch Committee

Elayne Bernstein, Chairperson, asked the Director to summarize the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Station Branch Advisory Committee. Ms. Salita gave an overview of the meeting.

### Main Library "Ad Hoc" Committee

The Director reported that the Committee will visit the Northport – East Northport Library on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Northport library is relevant because they experienced a renovation/expansion at their main two years ago. More library site visits are expected in the new year.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Insurance: Directors and Officers

Upon motion by Steve Glaser, seconded by Catherine Moore, and after discussion, it was,

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library authorize the purchase of a Directors and Officers Insurance Policy from Legion Indemnity Company for a three year period to commence on November 28, 1999, and end on November 28, 2002, at a cost of \$16,705 to be charged to the insurance budget line, and amortized over the three year period.

Assistant Treasurer Glaser cautioned the Director and Business Manager to be certain that they have reported all potential claims to the carrier to ensure protection from any potential liability to the Library. He also requested that Standard & Poors be checked for a rating of Legion Indemnity Company.

**VOTE:** Yes - 7 (Bernstein, DiCamillo, Glaser, Klein, Moore, Schwartz, Weidman)  
*Motion Carried Unanimously*

#### Nassau Library System Plan of Service Relating to Regulation 90.3 Compliance

Upon motion by Bette Weidman, seconded by Joyce Klein, and after discussion, it was,

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library approve the Nassau Library System Plan of Service Relating to Regulation 90.3 Compliance, along with the withholding of 30% (thirty percent) of calendar year 2000 LLSA (Local Library Services Aid) as a reserve to cover the cost of State-mandated Regulation 90.3 Compliance, as defined in documents distributed by Nassau Library System dated November 2, 1999; furthermore, the Library Director is hereby authorized to apply for such variances as may be applicable to the Great Neck Library as are contained in the Nassau Library System Plan of Service Relating to Regulation 90.3 Compliance. [Copy attached]

Director Salita explained the history of the 90.3 Regulation and highlighted the provisions of the Nassau Library System Plan of Service Relating to Regulation 90.3 Compliance.

#### Public Comment:

Ralene Adler commented that the Library Board should consider the inequity in the annual fee charged to out-of-district/county library card purchasers when compared to the taxes paid by the Great Neck Library district. She added that the Board should consider increasing the fee.

**VOTE:** Yes - 7 (Bernstein, DiCamillo, Glaser, Klein, Moore, Schwartz, Weidman)  
*Motion Carried Unanimously*

#### Meeting of the Nassau Library System

President Schwartz announced that on November 18<sup>th</sup>, the Great Neck Library will host the Annual Meeting of the Nassau Library System. On the agenda is the election of two NLS trustees.

Upon motion by Marietta DiCamillo, seconded by Bette Weidman, and after discussion, it was,

**RESOLVED**, that at the Nassau Library System Annual Meeting, the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library, cast its vote for Edward Oppenheimer to the Area One seat, which is uncontested. [Area One represents Baldwin, Freeport, Island Park, Lakeview, Long Beach, Oceanside and Rockville Centre.]

**VOTE:** Yes - 7 (Bernstein, DiCamillo, Glaser, Klein, Moore, Schwartz, Weidman)  
*Motion Carried Unanimously*

President Schwartz announced that the Area Three seat, representing Bellmore, Merrick, North Bellmore, North Merrick, Roosevelt, and Uniondale, is contested. The candidates were Daniel McDonnell and Donald Gaynor.

Votes were cast as follows:

For Daniel McDonnell:	Bernstein, Klein, Moore, Schwartz, Weidman
For Donald Gaynor:	DiCamillo
Abstained:	Glaser

The Great Neck Library will cast its vote for Daniel McDonnell at the Nassau Library System Annual Meeting.

#### Lease Station Branch

Upon motion by Elayne Bernstein, seconded by Marietta DiCamillo, and after discussion, it was,

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library approve the lease agreement with Great Neck Plaza, L.P., for the site occupied by the Station Branch of the Great Neck Library, in accordance with the terms contained in the appended agreement, subject to further minor modifications in language as approved by the Library's legal counsel and the Library Director; furthermore, the President or Vice President is authorized to execute said lease in a form approved by legal counsel.

The Director summarized the essential provisions of the Station Branch lease which will be in effect from February 1, 2000, to January 31, 2010. Trustee Glaser asked if the Library received a "bonus" for signing the lease.

**VOTE:** Yes - 7 (Bernstein, DiCamillo, Glaser, Klein, Moore, Schwartz, Weidman)  
*Motion Carried Unanimously*

December Board Meeting – Change of Date

President Schwartz announced that the December Board meeting would be held on December 14, 1999, instead of December 21, 1999. All trustees agreed to the change of date.

Petition: Bylaws Amendment to Change the Library Voting Date

President Schwartz announced that a petition to amend the Bylaws to change the library voting date from the last consecutive Monday and Tuesday in January to the third consecutive Tuesday and Wednesday in May was filed on November 9, 1999, with a cover letter from Ralene Adler.

Upon motion by President Mischa Schwartz, seconded by Marietta DiCamillo, and after discussion, it was,

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library, having determined that the Petition submitted on November 9, 1999, is in acceptable form and contains the requisite number of signatures specified in the Bylaws, place the petition-generated proposal for a Bylaws amendment to change the date of the Annual Meeting before the Great Neck Library Association membership at the January, 2000, Annual Meeting. The text of said petition is annexed hereto.

**VOTE:** Yes - 7 (Bernstein, DiCamillo, Glaser, Klein, Moore, Schwartz, Weidman)  
*Motion Carried Unanimously*

Upon motion by Elayne Bernstein, seconded by Bette Weidman, the following resolution was offered:

A petition to amend the Bylaws of the Great Neck Library by changing the date of the Annual Meeting from the fourth consecutive Monday and Tuesday in January to the third consecutive Tuesday and Wednesday in May has been received. Pursuant to the resolution just enacted, this proposed amendment shall be put before the membership of the Great Neck Library Association at the January 2000, Annual Meeting. This is in accordance with Article X of the Bylaws.

I recommend that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library go on record as opposing this petition-generated Bylaws amendment and urge all Library Association members to vote "No" on this proposed amendment for the following reasons:

- The proposed change of voting date will not result in any cost savings to the taxpayers. A separate library election for trustees and members of the Nominating Committee must still be held.
- The proposed voting date coincides with the State mandated school district voting date in May. New York State law does not empower a school district to conduct the election of an association library; therefore, two separate elections would be held on the same date.
- The school district and library elections would be held at different sites. The school district election has two polling sites (the two schools). The Library has four polling sites (the four library facilities).
- The voter qualifications for the school and library elections are different. Some people could vote in both elections; others could vote in one or the other, but not both. In essence, there would be three electorates voting at different sites on the same day: citizens who are not members of the Library Association could only vote in the school district election at its polling places; non-citizens who are members of the Library Association could only vote in the library election at its polling places; citizens who are members of the Library Association could vote in both elections but at two separate polling places. To say that confusion would be the result is an understatement.
- To further compound the complexity, library issues are involved in both elections. The school district contracts with the library to provide library service to all the residents of the school district. The school district is empowered ~~with~~ by law to conduct the budget vote of an association library as this budget is the amount of the contract between the school district and the library. The school district has no authority to conduct a vote concerned with the election of library trustees, nominating committee members, or other business as may be conducted by an association library.

- Because of the complexities and confusion outlined above, it is very possible that voter turnout for both the school and library elections will be reduced. This is not in the interest of the public good.

For these reasons, the Board of Trustees urges the defeat of this proposed Bylaws amendment.

**VOTE:** Yes - 5 (Bernstein, Klein, Moore, Schwartz, Weidman)  
No - 1 (DiCamillo)  
Abstain - 1 (Glaser)

*Motion Carried*

Public Comment:

Gladys Ross asked why we couldn't have people vote on a spring election without a date specified.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Secretary DiCamillo noting an article in local newspaper asked when the Library Board decided not to mass mail proxy ballots. President Schwartz responded that the Policy and ByLaws Committee not having made a recommendation to mass mail proxy ballots, therefore the topic did not appear on a Board Agenda; no action was needed.

Public Comment:

Ralene Adler identified the newspaper, the *Great Neck News*; wanted to know if a mass mailing of proxies will take place.

William Morrill added that there was no vote to mass mail proxy ballots, it should be understood that standard practice is not to mass mail proxies.

Karen Rubin as author of the article in question did not recall that the article stated that a mass mailing of proxies would not take place.

**OPEN TIME:**

President Schwartz discussed the community survey to be sent to the Library Association members in spring.

Ralene Adler asked when was the decision not to mail to all taxpayers of the district made.



Director Salita stated it was part of the resolution adopted at the August 2, 1999, Board Meeting to engage the services of Dr. London.

Marianna Wohlgemuth stated that she felt every taxpayer should be sent a survey.

William Morrill commented that sending a survey to Association members is more inclusive than to taxpayers alone since the residents of apartments and co-ops are not taxpayers of record.

President Schwartz reiterated that the survey would be sent to Library Association members (approximately 26,000 persons); his President's letter in the Newsletter clearly states that non-Association members will receive a survey upon request.

Marianna Wohlgemuth feels that the Library should also survey non-users of the Library.

Trustee Weidman recalled that the consultant said that interviewing non-users was "irrelevant" for the purpose of this particular survey since these persons would have no familiarity with the Main Library and could not provide useful comments.

Director Salita re: a non-user survey serving a completely different purpose than the current one relating to the future of the Main Library.

Gladys Ross feels that all newsletter recipients should receive a survey.

Ralene Adler re: commending the Board for having such an open discussion this evening.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Upon motion by Bette Weidman, seconded by Marietta DiCamillo, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marietta DiCamillo  
Secretary