

January 2024 Board President Report

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Welcome and Thanks: Happy New Year to all! Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Board President. I also extend my gratitude to Jill for her exemplary service in this role and for guiding the transition process. My thanks to Dawn for her partnership; I am excited to work together. I appreciate the continued service and support of the Board for the Onondaga County Library System. A special thanks to our staff for their dedication - interacting with the system, both in-person and digitally (Libby is one of my most-used apps!), is always a pleasure.

Priorities: We are at an exciting juncture for our community, where OCPL plays a pivotal role. As dictated by the Trustee handbook, our board responsibilities include setting a budget, ensuring efficient and effective financial spending, and hiring and evaluating the Executive Director. I have discussed my priority areas with Dawn:

- 1. Strategic Planning Initiative:** We will actively engage in and support the strategic planning initiative, aiming to implement its recommendations. This involvement will require investing our time and resources, guiding the Board and Dawn in setting objectives and goals for OCPL. Our focus will be on evaluating our strengths, identifying areas needing more investment, and determining aspects to discontinue - all aligned with our budget development and financial management goals.

What we need from you: Please review the strategic planning RFP and the response from Stillwater Consulting. We have numerous volunteer opportunities in this process, and your participation is vital. Let me know if you're interested.
- 2. Supporting Dawn's Vision and Succession Planning:** Dawn's vision for OCPL is inspiring, and her proactive approach to potential opportunities and challenges is invaluable. It's crucial to ensure organizational continuity beyond Dawn's tenure. I've discussed this with Dawn, and she not only supports it but has already initiated steps in this direction.

What we need from you: Continue providing your support, guidance, and partnership. Dawn is focused on achieving short-term progress while preparing the organization for the long term.
- 3. Enhancing Relationships with Community Partners and Stakeholders:** Our Board's diverse experience and perspectives are assets in supporting OCPL, especially as we navigate the strategic plan. A short-term focus is to fill vacant board seats, enhancing our board's capabilities.

What we need from you: Share ideas for collaboration that align with Dawn's priorities and engage in discussions.

I firmly believe in the power of data and setting ambitious yet achievable goals. As Board President, I will advocate for this approach, helping us fulfill our board responsibilities effectively.