

## **Onondaga County Public Library – Board of Trustees Draft 2026 Board Priorities & Q1 Committee Charges**

### **Purpose (2026)**

In 2026, the Board will focus on strengthening governance, aligning its work with the strategic plan, and supporting the Executive Director and the system through clear structures, reporting, and partnerships.

### **2026 Board Priorities (High-Level)**

1. **Strategic Plan Implementation & Oversight** (Amanda provides regular updates)  
Ensure regular, structured reporting on progress against the four core strategic pathway sections, with Board oversight and insight, where appropriate, into major initiatives, risks, and accomplishments.
2. **Policy Review & AI/Technology Policy** (Policy Committee work)  
Establish a 5-year policy review schedule and prioritize development of an AI/technology-related policy that addresses usage, privacy, and risk.
3. **Website & Communications Alignment** (Amanda provides regular updates)  
Support a thoughtfully planned website refresh and related communications that align with the strategic plan and serve city and suburban libraries well.
4. **Financial Stewardship & Trustee Funds Oversight** (Finance Committee work, supported by staff reporting)  
Strengthen transparency and stewardship of trustee funds and other Board-controlled resources through routine financial reporting, grant balance visibility, and periodic review of investment alignment with risk, return, and liquidity needs.
5. **Pilot Funding & Budget Requests** (*Board work*)  
Encourage the Executive Director to bring forward pilot initiatives tied to the strategic plan, accompanied by clear and timely budget requests for Board consideration.
6. **Government Relations & Advocacy** (Government Relations Committee work)  
Clarify key messages, priorities, and materials (e.g., legislative packets) for engagement with elected officials and other external stakeholders.
7. **Friends / FOCL Relationship** (Board leadership work)  
Strengthen coordination with Friends of Central Library (FOCL) as an independent fundraising partner, clarifying roles and expectations between FOCL, the Board, and staff.

## **Committees for 2026 (Draft)**

- **Executive Committee**
  - Members: Sam (President), Mary (VP), Tim (Secretary), Brianah (Treasurer)
- **Finance Committee**
  - Chair: Brianah
  - Members: Tim
- **Policy Committee**
  - Chair: Mary
  - Members: Jill, Ellen
- **Government Relations Committee**
  - Members: Ed, Svetlana, Esteban, Ellen

*(Membership can be adjusted at the December meeting.)*

## **Q1 2026 Committee Charges (Jan–Mar)**

### **Executive Committee**

- Review and provide feedback on the current Director's monthly report format, including metrics, strategic plan progress, recommendations, and decisions needed from the Board.
- Propose a strategic plan reporting cadence and format (e.g., quarterly updates on each of the four pathways).
- Design the framework and timeline for the Executive Director's one-year performance review, to be conducted in early 2026 in coordination with executive coaching support.

### **Finance Committee**

- Recommend a standard format for routine financial reporting to the Board (e.g., balance sheet, activity vs. budget, cash summary).
- Propose a monthly grant and restricted-funds overview showing remaining balances and high-level spending constraints.
- Clarify how pilot initiatives will be budgeted and presented for Board approval.
- Recommend timing and scope for a check-in with the investment advisor to confirm portfolio alignment with Board risk/return and liquidity goals.

### **Policy Committee**

- Organize and consolidate existing policy documents into a consistent, streamlined template.
- Develop a 5-year rolling policy review schedule.
- Bring forward one priority policy for Q1 work, with a focus on an AI/technology-related policy draft or outline.

### **Government Relations Committee**

- Draft a 1-page government relations plan for 2026 (key messages, target audiences, timing).
- Draft an outline for legislative/government relations packets (contents, recipients, and timing).
- Identify a preliminary list of elected officials and key stakeholders for 2026 engagement.

### **FOCL / Friends Engagement (Board Leadership)**

- The Board President and Treasurer will schedule an introductory meeting with FOCL's new Executive Director in early 2026 to strengthen alignment and clarify roles at a governance level.
- A brief update and any proposed next steps will be brought back to the Board in Q2 2026.