

SOLS Council

Trustee Meeting

03 November / 9:30 AM / Whitby Public Library, Brooklin Branch

ATTENDEES

Douro Dummer Representative: Heather Watson (Trustee Council 5)

Representation from a number of libraries include Selwyn, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Whitby, Aurora, Cobourg, Clarington, Whitchurch Stouffville, East Gwillimbury, Oshawa, Georgina,

AGENDA

The agenda shared with the Council

<https://www.sols.org/index.php/tcm-fall-2018-agenda>

SOLS Board Update Report

Discussion about who SOLS delivers services to and who owns SOLS... mandate is to serve public libraries vs. boards. They are reframing their mandate and definition based on the context

SOLS has not had a funding increase in 30 years or more, increased costs are putting stress on their operations. There is concern moving forward about the ongoing services that SOLS provides including inter-library loans which is getting increased usage and reference and consulting services.

SOLS and FOPL Report

- Both organizations have been working diligently to lobby the new government to put public libraries front and centre
- The current Minister is supportive and aware of the role public libraries

- Superconference is ramping up with the theme “Power of the People”. There is a [bursary available](#) to offset the costs for board members to attend. **[Application Deadline is November 15](#)**
- Discussions about working with Councillors following the election. Suggestions included inviting Councillors to tour the library, meeting with them regularly to discuss library issues and the importance of building support.
- SOLS is adding new documents for Board Transition and Training section of their [website](#). There are a lot of resources here that can be helpful. It should all be there by the end of November, early December.
- Training opportunities for incoming board members
 - OLA Bootcamp (this is also usually recorded if people are unable to attend)
 - There will be webinars in Feb/March
 - Regional orientation sessions will be held in April/May ... they will be looking for larger venues for hosting, we can volunteer to host a 1-day event Topic: Governance Principles and Best Practices
- SOLS will be putting a lot of energy into working with CEOs on governance with support documentation, support etc.

Roundtable Discussions Report

THEME: What does board orientation look like?

- Many new Boards are also working with new CEO Librarians so the information is overwhelming
- First meeting was an Orientation Meeting followed by Superconference Bootcamp
- Simplify the onboarding process with emphasis on making them feel welcome
- Returning board members doing board member interviews

- Tour new board members and council of library to meet staff and learn about programming and the facility
- “Cut to the Chase” resource was helpful
- Started the strategic plan process quickly which helped to gel the team and for the new board to get on the same page
- Great overview presentation: [Planning the Transition to a New Board](#)
- Regular guest speakers at board meetings that represents a partnership with the town
- Succession planning, board evaluation, board self-evaluation, reviewing terms of reference, policy review at every meeting, consent agenda at each meeting, clarify the difference between operations and governance, plans to get in front of Council more to share success stories

NEXT MEETING

Spring 2019 between April 27 and May 11)