Purpose of the Board

Policy Number:	**GOV- 008**
Policy Category:	Board Manual
Approved by:	OPL Board
Accountability:	Chief Executive Officer
Approval Date:	January 19, 2023
Effective date:	January 20, 2023
Next Review Date:	2028
Supersedes:	June 27, 2013

Purpose:

The purpose of the Oakville Public Library Board is to manage and control the affairs of the public library in service to the community in accordance with the Public Libraries Act, RSO 1990, C 44. This policy sets out the work of the board and the ways in which the board achieves its purpose.

Scope:

This policy applies to all current OPL Board members.

Policy:

1. The Board oversees the development of an inclusive, comprehensive and efficient public library service by:

   a) expressing the library's philosophy and values
   b) articulating the library's mission, vision, values and priorities
   c) evaluating outcomes
   d) approving policies on governance and service
   e) developing, approving and monitoring all short and long range plans of the library and the strategies to implement them

f) monitoring the financial affairs of the library and ensuring that the organization operates on an ethical and sound financial basis

g) appointing the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who will have "general supervision over and direction of the operations of the public library and its staff" (s.15(2), Public Libraries Act) and evaluating her/his performance

h) planning for further library development of library services

i) securing the resources to achieve the intended results and setting budget priorities

j) advocating for library service

2. The Board governs effectively by:

a) representing the interests of the community,

b) engaging with the community as needed

c) respecting diversity of viewpoints and promoting inclusive library services

d) acting as a bridge between the library and the council

e) working collaboratively with the CEO and the council

f) setting an annual board agenda that reflects current goals and strategic issues

g) participating in Board development and training

h) working proactively and making decisions that focus on the library's future and place in the community

i) evaluating the board's performance

j) managing risk