

Setting up a Board Book Club

So you want to start a board book club Here's some tips.

1. Selecting a book: Work with your Chief Librarian/Library Director for appropriate book related to world of libraries, such as EDI, Indigenous authors, Freedom of speech, and/or your topic related to your strategic priorities.
 - ensure everyone has a copy with enough lead time.
2. Scheduling Generative discussion during board meeting: Divide into manageable chunks and follow guiding principles (same as for board meeting).
 - If you haven't incorporated generative discussions into regular agenda, start with a short article or video that trustees read/watch prior to the meeting.
 - 15 or 20 minutes works well if everyone stays focused.
 - Generative discussions are opportunities for discussion, for big, outside the box thinking, no motions or decisions.
3. Facilitation:
 - Establish guiding principles, or follow the Board's existing principles
Suggested Guiding principles – align with our library values (inclusive)
 - Group discussion is like a conversation; everyone takes part in it. ...
 - Listen thoughtfully to others. Try to understand the other person's point of view. ... contribute as feel comfortable.
 - Be brief! Share the discussion with others.
 - Share your viewpoint and experience. Stay on point.
 - Come with your own questions in mind!
 - A group discussion can be like a captivating, well-played volleyball game. As the leader, you serve the ball by asking a good question. Then someone answers, setting up the ball for someone else in the group to respond.
 - It takes practice, preparation and hard work to play an exciting game of volleyball, and the same is true of good group discussions.
 - If Chair is not the best person to lead discussion, ask a trustee with facilitation skills to take this on.
 - Chair or the designated facilitator summarizes the discussion – add this to meeting minutes.
4. What makes for effective discussion questions?
 - Start with Open-Ended Questions – these types of questions help begin a discussion because they encourage multiple viewpoints.

5. Format for a short time frame: 'Think/Pair or triad/ Share' activity: Small groups laser focus, leave enough time to report out to whole group.
3 min to pose question to discuss. Gives individuals time to think to themselves.
10 min Small groups of 2 or 3 in person. Breakout rooms work well if online on zoom.
7 min back in whole group to each summarize their a-ha's or key points.