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Orland Park library mum on trustee interviews



Old books are seen on a shelf. (DADO RUVIC / REUTERS / January 17, 2014)

Taylor W. Anderson Tribune reporter

5:27 p.m. CST, January 20, 2014

Orland Park library leaders held a closed-door session Jan. 13 and another is planned for Thursday to start chipping away at a list of 12 candidates to fill an open spot on the library board.

Board president Nancy Healy said she wouldn't provide any information on who made the board's short list.

"It was a closed session so I really can't disclose anything," said Healy, who was appointed to her position after Carole Hillman resigned Oct. 21 amid health issues.

A library spokesperson said the board plans to conduct interviews Thursday and vote on the new member during its Feb. 17 meeting.

The board is notifying those that made the short list, but it isn't saying who was cut.

"We're not certain we'll have someone in place (by Feb. 17). We hope to, but there are certainly no guarantees to this process," Healy said.

Board members have said they would await a new trustee before voting to keep or revise an Internet policy that allows library patrons to use adult computers to view anything legal — including pornography. The library spokesperson said the board fears a vote with its current six members would result in a tie.

Two patrons complained in October about the library district's controversial Internet policy. The debate hit its peak in November, when dozens of patrons packed a board meeting to debate the merits of unfiltered Internet access.

But the board has also been criticized for its shying away from the controversy and the delay in addressing the issue.

Linda Zec, a former library employee who said she once saw a man looking at porn in the computer section of the library, has been one of the library's harshest critics. Zec applied to be a new trustee on the hopes of creating strict policies against porn on library computers.

Jim Bokota confirmed Friday he had received a call from the library board asking him to interview. Others couldn't immediately be reached. Bokota said the board didn't give any other details about the interview process, which is treated much like a private sector hire until the current six-member board votes someone in.

Three of the library's current trustees were themselves appointed to the board, said Trustee Mary Ann Ahl, the longest serving member.