

Working with the library director and staff: golden guidelines for public library boards

(Adapted from the Washington State Library public library trustees wiki)

- Boards should not try to run or manage their libraries; they should provide oversight (or advice, in the case of advisory boards). Micromanaging is a temptation board members must avoid.
- Individual board members have no authority; authority lies with the board as a whole.
- Boards should always support the library director and library staff in public.
- Boards should not disregard advice or suggestions from the library director out of hand.
- Boards should never serve as a communication link between the staff and the director; the community and the staff; the jurisdictional government and the library. These are all the responsibility of the library director.

The board should not try to dominate the director; the director should not try to dominate the board. Neither should try to undermine the other. It is not a competition. Both parties should remember their ultimate purpose - to serve the needs of their community.