

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT
MARCH 11, 2008
Meeting Room A, Mt. Lebanon Public Library
Mt. LEBANON, PA

MINUTES-APPROVED

Present:

Kathryn Stephanoff, Vice Chair
David Belanger
Sara Jane Cate
Dr. Robert Gallivan
Helen Miller
David Mitchell
Cynthia K. Richey

Ex-Officio

M. Clare Zales, Deputy Secretary & Commissioner for Commonwealth Libraries

Office of
Commonwealth

Caryn Carr, Director, Bureau of State Library
James Hollinger, Director, Bureau of Library Development
Rita Jones, Executive Secretary, Office of Commonwealth Libraries

Guests

Sharon Bruni, Director, South Park Public Library
Connie Galbraith, District Consultant, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
William Lewis, Treasurer, Mt. Lebanon Public Library
Christine McIntosh, Director, Bethel Park Public Library
Beth Mellor, Allegheny County Library Association
Karen Rossi, Branch Manager, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Sheri Rowe, Chief, Division of School District Planning & Continuous Improvement
Debi Ryder, Allegheny County Library Association

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Stephanoff welcomed the Council and began the meeting at 10:00 AM. Stephanoff thanked Cynthia Richey for hosting this meeting and requested that she introduce the guests that were in attendance. Richey introduced the local guests to the Council.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2008 MEETING

First action item was the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting held on January 8, 2008. A motion was made by Gallivan to approve the minutes as submitted which was seconded by Richey. All were in favor and the minutes were adopted by the Council.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Due to the absence of Matthew Flynn, Stephanoff delivered the Chair's report. Stephanoff reminded Council that three terms have expired as of January 2008: Matthew Flynn, David Belanger, and Francenia Emery. Emery has elected not to seek reappointment. A letter will be sent from Council to Emery formally thanking her for her years of service to the full library community as a member of the Council. Zales requested that all Council members seek out an individual to fill this vacancy and forward to Zales at the Office of Commonwealth Libraries.

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION/COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Zales stated that the Commissioner's report is in print and made available to everyone in attendance at the meeting. Zales called Council's attention to a letter written by Glenn Miller regarding the Governor's budget which summarized the state aid subsidy appropriations at an increase of 2%. This increase is too small to allow the formula to be run this year which makes it the sixth consecutive year without the formula. A consequence is that there is not an incentive and stagnancy exists when the standards are not imposed. J. Hollinger and M. Kane are working with the library community in order to help them maintain standards. Libraries must be prepared for the possibility the formula may not be run for eight years. In order to move forward, we must focus on several positives which include: the success of the POWER library, Access PA database, Ask Here PA, several national awards that were won by the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and awards attained by the One Book Program.

Comcast Newsmakers interview with Secretary Zahorchak on Graduation Competence Assessment

All those in attendance viewed an interview by Comcast newsmakers with the Secretary of Education, Dr. Gerald Zahorchak. Dr. Zahorchak explained the reality that a large percentage of high school graduates in Pennsylvania are graduating without a solid education. His goal is to ensure that all graduates are prepared for college and career expectations by demonstrating proficiency in the core academic areas of math, science, English and social studies. The new graduation competency requirements will go into effect starting with the graduating class of 2014. Rowe led the discussion following the broadcast. Two handouts "New High School Requirements: Fact vs. Fiction" and "Changing High School Graduation Requirements" were distributed and discussed. These summarize the new graduation competency assessments (GCA's) and dispel some misconceptions about the changes.

Helen Miller questioned whether any additional funding is needed for the new GCA's to be implemented. Rowe stated that the Department of Education has the necessary funds. Stephanoff questioned whether a significant difference was shown between urban versus suburban areas of the state. Rowe answered that challenges are seen along all areas. Mitchell expressed his desire to see these changes as it is very important to build a work force with current technical skills. In his area of Erie, for example, there are 150 jobs but employers cannot match up the skills needed with current graduates. He wondered whether or not the programs have considered a realistic view of the technical needs in today's workforce. Rowe explained that these changes are not about intelligence levels of graduating students, but rather the applicability of their knowledge. A discussion followed regarding the role high school libraries and public libraries can play in encouraging students to apply their learning and pursue technical subjects in addition to the typical high school subjects. Rowe concluded with the announcement that Lynn Moses has been selected to serve on a statewide competency team.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rare Collections Library-Robert Gallivan

Gallivan reported that the Advisory Panel met January 25, 26, & 27, 2008 at The Lt. Governor's residence at Ft. Indiantown Gap. Attendees included: Neal Rusnov, Glen Ruzicka, Monona Rossol, Dr. Bob Gallivan, Dr. John Baty, Dr. Chandru Shahani, and Mark Ormsby. Dr. Maria Schiza and Dr. Ed Shane, research partners from Millersville University; Scott Mingus, research partner from Glatfelter Paper; Jeanne Metcalf and Mary Clare Zales, grant partners from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries; and Tom Claeson, grant partner from PALINET. Representatives from the Office of the Lt. Governor included: Lt. Governor Catherine Baker Knoll, Honorary Chair; Keith Malzi, Intern; and Barbara Brothers-Vayo, Liaison.

A full agenda of technical matters as well as an extended tour of the new facilities at the State Library was included in the panel meeting. The panel also discussed the technical challenges faced in the project. The timely completions of air sampling and smoothing out other glitches have caused some delays in the rare

collections move into the different environments. Gallivan reported that the books of various grades and types of paper will be assembled for the long term study.

Knowledge Initiative-David Mitchell

Mitchell explained that the Knowledge Initiative is the idea of contracting for the purchase of technical and biotechnical databases and making these resources available to small businesses as a tool for economic development. The project development is a slow process and he is currently meeting with higher education representatives. Mitchell is hoping that funding for the program will fit into next year's budget.

Zales provided Council with a presentation of Power Point slides to explain the project in greater detail. The Power Library would be used as a model for the Knowledge Initiative Project which would provide a common denominator of resources for technical research for colleges and universities. Currently some businesses typically enlist an employee to register at a local college specifically to gain access to these higher level databases, thus proving the need for the availability of these resources. Zales noted how this initiative supports the Commonwealth's goal to keep graduates in Pennsylvania by providing highly technical jobs in expanding businesses. A survey of the small business community revealed 75% of businesses would locate or expand in PA if offered these databases. With appropriate funding, the project can be implemented in 90 days. Mitchell concluded by stating that he is continuing to build constituencies to foster support for the project.

System Distribution of Funds Committee-Cynthia Richey

Richey provided background on the purpose of the committee which was formed at the January 2008 Council meeting. The committee, made up of Kathryn Stephanoff, David Belanger, Cynthia Richey, and Jim Hollinger as liaison, met in Harrisburg on March 7, 2008 in order to begin discussing the development of guidelines on the distribution of state aid by federated public library systems. Matt Kane attended the meeting and was given the task of producing a spreadsheet of the existing formulas for use by the committee. The discussion began with commonalities among the methods and the development of a list of issues for consideration in the development of distribution formulas. The committee also developed a list of elements that the formulas should address (size of library, population served, particular local needs, standards, tied to the system's strategic plan, and incorporation of population, LFE, and performance factors). The goal is to develop three sample formulas based on those already in use by various systems. The committee's ideas and recommendations will then be sent to the APPLS formula review committees for feedback.

District Library Center Study Committee-Jim Hollinger

Hollinger provided Council with an update on the moving of the district center headquarters from the Bellefonte Library to the Schlow Library. The district library center is becoming stronger as well as a stronger local library. Hollinger reported a question that needs to be addressed is how to provide support for smaller libraries as they are struggling economically. As concluded by the Himmel-Wilson Study; these libraries should be considered individually to see if a change is necessary. Creative thinking must be employed when looking at situations that are most critical. Working with Bureau of Library Development staff district library centers were reviewed and those in need of most immediate attention were prioritized.

ACTION ITEMS

The first action item presented is a change to the guidelines on acceptable continuing education credit. Directors and library staff receive continuing education credits and the change offers more flexibility in the areas of learning. A motion was made by Richey to approve the change to the guidelines and Gallivan seconded the motion. March 11, 2008 was made the effective date of the approved change. The guidelines are made part of these minutes as Attachment A.

The second action item presented is the approval of a letter of commitment of Capitol Preservation Funds allocated to support the Rare Collections Library project in the amount of \$10,000. Zales explained the initial project funding and anticipates this will be the final letter for funding from Council and will conclude this phase of the project. A motion was made by Gallivan to approve the letter of commitment for \$10,000 and Cate seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Zales reported on an article published in Sunday's Pittsburgh Post-Gazette which included pictures of Neal Rusnov, project architect, and a description of the recent move of the rare collections. The article gave a background on the previous environment that housed these rare documents and contrasted the new "state of the art" vault the books were moved into. See Attachment B.

Bureau Reports

Move of the Rare Collections Library-Caryn Carr

Carr provided Council with an update on the Rare Collections move. The move is taking place under the supervision of George Friedline, Supervisor of Technical Services and Kurt Bodling, Rare Books Librarian. Carr reported that all rag paper has been moved without incident. The transitionally rare collection can be moved after some modifications which are needed on the basement level. Currently the newspaper collection is being inventoried and wrapped for transport. Carr also reported that a high volume of assistance has been given by many staff members including the Bureau of Library Development.

One Book Every Young Child-Jim Hollinger

Hollinger announced this year's book for the One Book Every Young Child project is titled: "Up Down & Around." This program is in its third year. The goal is to encourage young children and their parents and caregivers to read together. April 1, 2008 is the kick-off event which takes place at the State Capitol main rotunda in Harrisburg, from 4-6 pm. The Pennsylvania Library Association's Fifth Annual Early Learning Forum titled: "Learning Starts Here" will be held at the Harrisburg Hilton on April 2nd from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. Council was invited to attend both events.

Prepare the public library community for new opportunities-Jim Hollinger

Hollinger dispelled the myth that libraries are being put out of business by the internet when the reality is libraries are busier than ever. To respond to this demand and to pay greater attention to encouraging the 18-29 year old age range to visit their local libraries, Hollinger offered a three-prong approach: 1) Initiate a planning process with the public library community leadership 2) Maximize the LSTA Grant Funding 3) Explore open source software, an example of the use of this software is the state of Georgia has a statewide integrated library system run on Evergreen open source software. All libraries within the state came to an agreement on how to catalogue and loan materials. This would save Pennsylvania's local libraries money. Hollinger considers this worth pursuing and would like to discuss an overall plan at the upcoming District Library Center meeting. Council supported the approach.

School Library Services Report-Sheri Rowe

Rowe reported that since the last Council meeting, she and Jim Hollinger have had several meetings in order to continue the conversation of integrating libraries and education goals and standards. Rowe also announced that she has been invited to attend monthly bureau meetings which will further the bond. The goal is to observe the current status of integration strategies and monitor in order to update where necessary. Rowe reported that use of the POWER library and Access PA projects continue to grow and expand. A joint presentation was given for all staff within the Department of Education titled: "Classrooms for the Future." It presented everyone with a common knowledge base in order to understand current concepts and changes taking place within the educational system in Pennsylvania. Rowe also mentioned Project 720 and ED Hub which can be explained in greater depth on the department's website for those wanting further information.

ADJOURNMENT

Stephanoff thanked Ms. Rowe for traveling to the Mt. Lebanon Public Library in order to present her report. Stephanoff addressed the upcoming dates for Council Meetings in 2008. The next meeting will be an Open Forum in Hershey, PA on Friday May 2, 2008 during the PSLA Conference. A motion was made by Gallivan to adjourn. Belanger seconded the motion. Stephanoff adjourned the meeting at 11:56 am.

2008 Council Meetings

May 2, 2008 – Open Forum at PSLA at Hershey Lodge & Convention Center

June 10, 2008 – Council Meeting-Harrisburg

November 9-12, 2008 - Pennsylvania Library Association Annual Conference in Valley Forge, PA

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Jones, Executive Secretary
Office of Commonwealth Libraries