

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT
NOVEMBER 9, 2008
Pennsylvania Library Association Annual Conference
The Valley Forge Conference Center
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA

MINUTES-APPROVED

Present: Kathryn Stephanoff, Chair
Philip R. Albright
David Belanger
Dr. Robert Gallivan
Helen Miller
David Mitchell
Dr. Larry Nesbit
Cynthia K. Richey

Ex-Officio: M. Clare Zales, Deputy Secretary for Libraries & Commissioner for 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
Matthew Kane, Assistant to Deputy, Office of Commonwealth Libraries
Jeanne Metcalf, Administrative Officer, Office of Commonwealth Libraries

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Acting Chair Stephanoff convened the regularly scheduled meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development at 3:30 p.m., November 9, 2008 in the Franklin Room at the Radisson Hotel in The Valley Forge Conference Center, King of Prussia, PA.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2007 MEETING

Stephanoff moved to approve the minutes of the June 2008 meeting as submitted. Gallivan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Deputy Secretary Zales delivered her report beginning with the announcement that Jim Hollinger has stepped down from the position of Director of Bureau of Library Development. Hollinger enjoyed the hands-on capacity of his formerly held position as Division Chief and has decided to return there. Susan Pannebaker has been named as Acting Bureau Director and was welcomed and congratulated by all in attendance.

Zales also discussed budget issues including losses in state revenues and investments and the fact that all contract payments are currently suspended. Four State Library positions are in "deep freeze" and \$51,000 is being reserved from the operating budget. See attachment A included with budget guidelines.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rare Books Renovation Committee Project Report-Larry Nesbit

Nesbit distributed the rare books summary (Attachment B). Gallivan made a motion to approve the budget that was seconded by Richey, which all approved. Nesbit made a recommendation to suspend Rare Books Committee meetings for the foreseeable future. Belanger seconded it and Council approved.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Pennsylvania Library Association Report-Mary Garm

Mary Garm, President of the Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA), welcomed everyone to the Annual Conference. She reported on the creation of the Next Generation Advocacy Committee, whose purpose is to identify library advocacy needs and develop a plan to meet those needs for the next two to three years. State and local funding for libraries as well as funding for statewide resources will be addressed. PaLA is working with other library related organizations in the state as an umbrella organization for this project. Janice Trapp, director of the J.V. Brown Library, and Jonelle Darr, administrator of the Cumberland County Library System, are the co-chairs of the committee. They will present their full report at the annual association conference in 2009.

Pennsylvania School Librarian's Association-Nancy Smith Latanision

Nancy Smith Latanision delivered the report from the Pennsylvania School Librarian's Association, she assumed the Presidency on July 1, 2008. Latanision has been focused on school library program advocacy since school library programs are diminishing across the country. PSLA is continuing to promote the importance of school libraries in student achievement as it has for some time. Latanision gave compliments to Debra Kachel, Legislative Committee chair, who is currently working to educate legislators in the important role that school libraries play in education. She organized a Legislators Breakfast on April 30th which included parents, students, and school librarians as speakers to give testimony regarding the importance of information literacy skills instruction and good library collections in the education of our PA students.

Latanision summarized the workshops and training seminars that were held during the previous year including the PSLA Leadership Summit which was held at Penn State, July 28-30, 2008 and the theme was "Make Your Mark." The results of the conference activities focus on education of school communities. The upcoming spring conference will be held at Penn State April 30-May 2, 2008 and is themed: "Evidence Found! @ your school library." More than 70 sessions will be offered in addition to two author and illustrator events.

PSLA also sponsors "23 Things" which is an online professional development initiative that educates participants through technology training in Web 2.0 activities. Two have been completed thus far. The Leadership Summit included training for school librarians for plagiarism workshops which will be held regionally across the state.

Latanision concluded by announcing future plans such as a third PDE/Commonwealth Libraries sponsored workshop on Assessment which will have a train-the-trainers session at the spring conference with workshops scheduled to begin in the summer of 2009. She concluded by thanking all who support PA School Libraries, with special thanks for Clare Zales and Jim Hollinger and for the opportunity to present to Council.

Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries-Philip Albright

Philip Albright presented the annual report on behalf of the Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries and began with the Mission and Vision Statements of the organization (Attachment C).

Albright discussed the level funding for the Public Library Subsidy for the current year and the Governor's Office's recent request that an additional 4.25% be held in the state budget reserve in the event further cuts are needed. He also discussed the hopes that the subsidy would be increased in order to activate the currently frozen state funding formula which has not functioned since 2003.

As a result of previous reports and discussions; a consultants report entitled "Local and State Sources of Funding For Operation Costs of Public Libraries – The National Picture" was prepared as an end product. Upon review of the report; a committee was formed to pursue the dedicated funding issue. The PaLA Next Gen Library Advocacy Committee held its first meeting on October 24, 2008.

Albright mentioned the Friends Groups and the challenge to increase its advocacy and encourage an increase in volunteers to help keep personnel costs down. PCBL is funded solely by membership dues and has increased additional revenue by serving as the fiscal agent for several state library projects. Albright reported that the Third Annual Trustee/Friends Institute was a success and wishes to offer the PCBL's assistance to maintain such programs in the face of budgetary issues.

Since the 2006 Annual Meeting PCBL has acquired 10 new board members, which has helped to grow the organization and to focus on critical issues facing public libraries.

Albright concluded by explaining that the board continues to stress advocacy efforts within our communities and at all levels of Commonwealth government in order to educate the public and politicians on the value of libraries as a community resource. He concluded by thanking Clare Zales, Jim Hollinger, Bonnie Young, Glenn Miller and their staffs for their support and cooperation and he thanked Carolyn Pfeifer, Executive Secretary, for her efforts as well.

Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortia Incorporated-Dan Iddings

Dan Iddings presented the report for the Pennsylvania Academic Library Consortia Incorporated (PALCI). He began by explaining that since it does not receive state funding, his organization is not directly affected by the difficult economic times and has continued to grow with the addition of new participants. Iddings displayed a PowerPoint slide presentation which summarized PALCI activities, including the Easy Borrow program, Rapid ILL, and preservation initiatives including the harvesting of digital resources based on a digitization grant. Of the 75 member libraries, 64 participate in Easy Borrow, which enable library users to generate their own interlibrary loan requests. Twenty libraries participate in Rapid ILL, which supplies journal articles within 15 hours.

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFICE OF COMMONWEALTH LIBRARIES' STRATEGIC PLAN

Deputy Secretary Zales presented a PowerPoint program introducing the Office of Commonwealth Libraries' Strategic Plan. This plan is the culmination of efforts of the Office of Commonwealth Libraries and the Bureau of Library Development working with Al Weber, from Tweed-Weber Inc. of Reading, PA in the development of a Strategic Plan to move Public Libraries forward. Al Weber described the process and level of involvement of district library center administrators, consultants, and system administrators. The presentation is provided as Attachment D.

Matthew Flynn, former Chair of the Governor's Advisory Council, was presented with a thank you gift from Council and members shared thoughts and well wishes for Mr. Flynn.

2008 Council Meetings

January 13, 2009 – Council Meeting

March 10, 2008 – Council Meeting (Travel Meeting)

April 30 – May 2, 2009 – School Librarians Annual Conference Open Forum

June 16, 2009 – Council Meeting

October 18-21, 2009 – Pennsylvania Library Association Annual Conference (Harrisburg)

ADJOURNMENT

Mitchell moved to adjourn. Richey seconded the motion. Stephanoff adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Jones, Executive Secretary
Office of Commonwealth Libraries