

**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT**  
**OCTOBER 19, 2009**  
**Room 317, Forum Building**  
**HARRISBURG, PA**

**MINUTES-APPROVED AS AMENDED**

Present: Cynthia Richey, Chair  
Philip Albright  
David Belanger  
Sara Jane Cate  
Dr. Robert Gallivan  
Helen Miller  
David Mitchell  
Dr. Larry Nesbit  
Raymond Sobina

Ex-Officio: M. Clare Zales, Deputy Secretary of Education & Commissioner for Libraries

Office of  
Commonwealth Connie Cardillo, Supervisor, Bureau of Library Development  
Caryn Carr, Director, Bureau of State Library  
James Hollinger, Chief, Division of Library Improvement  
Rita Jones, Executive Secretary, Office of Commonwealth Libraries  
Susan Pannebaker, Director, Bureau of Library Development

Guests: David Craig, Project Director, Capitol Preservation Committee  
Jack Finnerty, Director, Scranton Public Library  
Pamela Murphy, District Consultant, Northeast District  
Janice Trapp, Director, James V. Brown Library, Williamsport

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Cynthia Richey, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 am and welcomed all in attendance. Ms. Richey expressed gratitude to Council for their advocacy during the difficult 2009-2010 budget process. She explained although the results will have catastrophic effects on public and school libraries, the funding levels could have been worse given the context of the overall budget deficit. Ms. Richey thanked PaLA, PCBL, PSLA, the individual libraries, friends and supporters for their advocacy efforts.

Ms. Richey invited Council, staff of the Office of Commonwealth Libraries and guests to introduce themselves.

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 4, 2009 MEETING**

Chair Richey call for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2009 meeting as submitted. Gallivan moved and Sobina seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Zales thanked Council for their advocacy efforts. Zales explained her belief the strongest advocacy is in the day to day services provided by our libraries. Zales expressed regrets of Secretary of Education Dr. Zahorchak who could not attend either the Open Forum held yesterday during the PaLA annual conference at the Harrisburg Hilton nor this meeting due to a schedule conflict.

Zales called Council's attention to Attachments A & B. Attachment A titled "Singing out of the Same Songbook" explains the Race To The Top competitive grant program announced by President Obama to provide up to \$200 million to ten states that demonstrate excellence in education improvement. Pennsylvania has reflected improvement, as described in the article, which makes Pennsylvania an especially attractive candidate for these funds. Attachment B is an article which describes efforts by Google to scan out of print books and making them accessible to future generations.

Zales announced that Caryn Carr is leaving her position as the Director of State Library, effective Friday October 23, 2009. Carr was effective in her position as a skilled advocate and in the areas of outreach and staff training. Council made a motion by acclamation to note Carr's good work and offer her well wishes as she pursues future endeavors. Zales announced that after serving as interim Director for the Bureau of Library Development for a year, Susan Pannebaker has agreed to accept the position in a full-time capacity effective September 26, 2009.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Preservation-Larry Nesbit

Nesbit distributed a summary of expenses (Attachment C) against the Capitol Preservation Committee funds held at Mansfield University. Nesbit explained the expenses were for commissioning and repairs; supplies; travel expenses for a trip by Rusnov and Metcalf. Gallivan moved to accept the budget with a second by Richey. All were in favor and the budget passed. Nesbit announced that a meeting of the preservation committee will commence following today's meeting for all members and anyone else who would like to join. This committee consists of Larry Nesbit as Chair, Bob Gallivan, David Belanger, and Commissioner Zales as liaison.

### Pennsylvania Library Association Next Generation Report-Janice Trapp

Ms. Trapp summarized some of the initiatives PaLA in partnership with PCBL and the DLC have been working on in order to convince the legislators of the importance of libraries to the citizens of the Commonwealth. She explained they are devising a legislative plan to map out how to convince politicians libraries are not only underfunded, but under-leveraged. Libraries are solutions to problems. As such the plan is to focus on five illiteracies: Basic Literacy, Online Literacy, Civic and Social Literacy, Economic and Financial Literacy and Health and Wellness Literacy. (Attachment D). Ms. Trapp explained the pivotal point being the formation of a PA Information Network which reinforces the idea that both public and academic libraries are places to go to get credible online knowledge. These ideas are being tested right now with Greenlee Associates so that early conversations can get started with gubernatorial candidates. The Next Generation Committee has been meeting regularly and has also had ongoing conversations about funding and budgetary restraints. The goal is to have a recommendation for the library association board meeting in November 2009. Ms. Trapp explained that the proposal will form a bridge from the Platform for 21st Century Libraries to 21st Century illiteracies through libraries.

Richey thanked Dave Belanger and Jim Hollinger for their efforts as they also serve on this Committee.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### Progress report on the Monessen District Library Center-Jim Hollinger

Hollinger provided a progress update based on an October visit to Monessen he and Bonnie Young made. They met with Peggy Tseng, library director, and the Board and were impressed with some of the strides they have made in the previous six months. Leadership has improved, as well as accountability with how funds are being spent and a weeding process is underway to update their collection. The library became aware that planned fundraising efforts are not sufficient to solve their financial problems. They are working with Michael Kumer of Duquesne University to assist with developing a long range plan.

The library has the support of Congressmen Murtha and Representative Harhai, however, it is doubtful the goals of the plan can be realized in the given six month guideline. Another visit by the Committee might be helpful and options for the delivery of district level services should be considered at this point in time.

The timetable of the guidelines and milestones are listed in the Commissioner's report. This subject will be revisited at the March meeting.

#### Proposal to change district boundary between Scranton and Wilkes-Barre Districts-Susan Pannebaker

Pannebaker shared with Council the basis for the request by the Northeast District Library Center to incorporate into their district the part of Wyoming County that is currently part of the Wilkes-Barre District thus bringing all of Wyoming County into the Northeast District. The Tunkhannock library is the only state-aided library in the county. Map is shown as Attachment E. The advantage to this consolidation under one District would be all county residents would benefit from the state funds and county funds currently received by Tunkhannock.

Jack Finnerty, Northeast District Library Center Administrator, spoke on behalf of the Northeast District and explained the change that came about three years ago when they received an LSTA grant and developed a strategic plan. The Scranton district became the Northeast District with the mission statement of "improving library service in northeastern Pennsylvania". Rather than maintain a gate-keeper role, he suggests being pro-active by consolidating the district so as to offer all libraries the same service package.

Belanger commented that libraries should be organized at the county level to be more efficient. Wilkes-Barre was invited to offer feedback on the issue and at this point is not opposed to the consolidation. Ms. Cate offered the motion to include the full Wyoming County in the Northeastern District Library Center. Albright seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Options for provision of district services among the Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton Districts-Susan Pannebaker

As Council continues to pursue improved delivery of district level services, Pannebaker offered the recommendation the current Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton districts work cooperatively to provide district services across their total service areas. The goal is not to remove the district designation from any of the current districts or the level of funding they individually earn. The goal is to have these three districts work cooperatively to maximize their strengths and district funding. For example, two districts may contract with one district to coordinate delivery across all three districts. A pilot project conducted in this region would be beneficial in testing the viability of regionalizing services.

#### Use of 2009-2010 program funds-Clare Zales

Zales provided context to the 2009-2010 library budget categories. This year the Electronic Library Catalog appropriation was combined into the Library Access appropriation. The combined total of these two categories was approximately \$11 million. The approved total for 2009-2010 is \$3 million which represents a 74% decrease. The Public Library Subsidy decreased by 21%. Zales sought the advice of Council on the distribution of the \$3 million in Library Access funding. The recommendation on the allocation of this appropriation is due to the PDE Budget Office by October 22, 2009.

The combined Electronic Library Catalog and the Library Access appropriations fund six programs: Statewide Library Card Program, Interlibrary Delivery System, POWER Library, AskHerePA, the Electronic Library Catalog and the Millennium system.

Ms. Richey explained that one of the responsibilities of Council is to ensure the prudent use of public dollars then opened the floor to members to evaluate the programs and offer suggestions to Zales.

Belanger and Zales discussed the statewide library card reimbursement and the reciprocal borrowing requirement for state aid. As part of the discussion the PDE Council rendered an opinion that reciprocal borrowing is an eligibility requirement for state aid regardless of the funding level of the program or if it is funded at all. An in-depth discussion of the implications of this opinion followed.

Sobina and Miller requested an opinion from Zales if she has gathered an opinion from the community on what they value. Zales recommended approximately \$1.8 million to \$2 million (of the appropriated \$3 million) be invested in maintaining the on-line category including maintaining virtual reference (AskHerePA); then a split of the remaining \$1 million to \$1.2 million for IDS and POWER Library. Nesbit pointed out that the reduced funds should be used as an opportunity to demonstrate the consequences of cuts, not to "patch the boat."

Chair Richey summarized that most members felt Access PA database and POWER library are to be preserved since the public relies on those. IDS and the Millennium library can be reduced as a way of shaving funds.

Cardillo shared with Council the impact in lost LSTA funds resulting from the decrease in the library appropriations which will decrease Pennsylvania's Maintenance of Effort. This decrease in MOE can result in a loss of up to \$2.1 million of the approximately \$6 million in LSTA.

Mitchell asked Council for a motion to raise the membership fee for Access Pa Database from \$180 to \$250, thus using the extra \$70 for federal support as maintenance of effort. Zales and Cardillo explained that only state funds can be counted toward the MOE.

A motion was made by Mitchell and seconded by Albright to recommend to HSLC that the fee be raised as discussed. The motion was amended by Zales to be presented to HSLC as a recommended increase in their fee without a dollar amount specified. The motion passed with one abstention by Belanger as he is a member of the HSLC board of directors.

#### System Funding Guidelines-David Belanger & Cindy Richey

Chair Richey reviewed the status of the work of the System Funding Committee whose purpose is to assure state aid distributed at the system level is done so responsibly. Chair Richey shared the opinion of Council that it is prudent for system funding to be distributed using the negotiated agreement model now used by district library centers or the County Coordination Aid model used at the county library level. Guidelines were developed and sent to APPLS for feedback. The only change is the suggestion that they be reviewed by Council and approved by Commissioner for Libraries every five years instead of every three. These guidelines will be available for approval at the January meeting with this change noted.

#### **BUREAU REPORTS**

The report on Web Junction and the employment services of Tutor.com were postponed until the January 2010 meeting.

#### Status of State Library services-Caryn Carr

Carr reported on the status of personnel at the State Library. Twenty one staff positions were lost due to furlough, one staff member retired and a part-time employee transferred to a full-time position in another department leaving the State Library staffed with 21 staff. As a result, the State Library will be open only: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9AM-4PM. This is a reduction from the Monday through Saturday schedule with Tuesday evening hours.

Interlibrary loan remains a priority and additional staff is being trained in this area so the service can continue as staff takes planned vacations.

Staff will be moved into different offices to align staff with newly organized sections. The employees are very dedicated and will strive to provide the same amount of service even in these difficult times. However, there are several tasks that are not being performed due to lack of staff. These are: bindery, conversion of Dewey to LC, de-accessioning from collection, filing, and sending out depository shipments. Patrons expected the reduction in services and hours are due to the budget impasse and services and hours will return once the budget is passed. Staff has dealt with disgruntled and irate patrons at times. Emails and letters have been received from many patrons expressing frustration. One such note in particular came from a couple from NY that planned their travel to Harrisburg for a Saturday to visit the library, which was closed.

Cate questioned why Saturday hours were not available since this is a day when most working adults and school-aged children are available to visit. Carr explained Saturday and evening hours are especially expensive as Capitol Police are paid for their time for the Saturday hours. Also, there will be insufficient staff to both serve the public and maintain the collection for more than three service days.

Carr reported that next year's National Legislative Day held in Washington, D.C. will be scheduled in conjunction with the American Library Association's Annual meeting which is June 24-26, 2010. Legislative Day will be one of those three days, but has yet to be determined.

Chair Richey concluded the meeting by suggesting the March meeting be held at the Dauphin County Library District. Ms. Cate offered the McCormick Riverfront branch to host the meeting and will serve as contact and coordinate with Rich Bowra, Director, for this meeting.

#### 2010 Schedule of Meetings:

January 12, 2010 – Forum Building, Harrisburg

March 9, 2010 – Dauphin County Library, Harrisburg

April 16, 2010 – Open Forum during PSLA Annual Conference, State College

June 8, 2010 – Forum Building, Harrisburg

October 24-27, 2010 – Open Forum meeting will be held Sunday during PaLA Annual Conference, Lancaster. The official meeting will be held the following Monday at a location to be determined in the Lancaster Convention Center.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Richey moved to adjourn. Gallivan seconded the motion. Richey adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Jones, Executive Secretary  
Office of Commonwealth Libraries