

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 12, 2012

Room 317, Forum Building

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

MINUTES-APPROVED

Present: Philip Albright
David Belanger
Sara Jane Cate
Dr. Robert Gallivan
Mary Garm
Louis LaBar
Barbara May
David Mitchell
Dr. Larry Nesbit
Cynthia Richey
Raymond Sobina

Ex-Officio: Alice Lubrecht, Acting Deputy Secretary & Commissioner for Libraries

Office of Commonwealth Libraries
Constance Cardillo, Supervisor, Bureau of Library Development
Sandra Edmunds, Chief, Division of Grant and Subsidies
James Hollinger, Chief, Division of Advisory and Outreach Services
Claudia Koenig, Advisor, Bureau of Library Development
Rita Jones, Executive Secretary, Office of Commonwealth Libraries
Diana Megdad, Advisor, Bureau of Library Development
Jeanne Metcalf, Administrative Officer, Office of Commonwealth Libraries
Susan Pannebaker, Director, Bureau of Library Development
Bonnie Young, Public Libraries & Professional Development

Guests: Sara Hockenberry, Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel, PDE
Rachel Sobina, Student and daughter of Raymond Sobina

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Richey called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM and welcomed all in attendance. Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves. Ray Sobina's daughter was present as a guest; Rachel will be a senior in high school and is considering a career as a librarian.

1. Approval of Minutes of the March 13, 2012 Meeting

MOTION: Approval of the minutes as submitted
MOVED BY: Robert Gallivan
SECONDED BY: Lou LaBar
VOTE: Unanimous

2. Chair's Report – Cynthia Richey

Chair Richey began her report by thanking all who were in attendance at the Open Forum held in April in conjunction with the Pennsylvania School Librarian Association (PSLA) Annual Conference in Hershey. School librarians have had successes this year in advocating increased awareness and also with their survey. They have petitioned their board to gain permission to add the survey results to the website.

Richey reported on the reception held at Mengle Memorial Library to which all Council members were invited. The library celebrated its renovations completed with the assistance of a Keystone Grant and its transformation into a

community center for information needs. Senator Scarnati and Alice Lubrecht were in attendance and Richey sent greetings on behalf of Council.

Richey provided an update on the Deputy Secretary search and requested an executive session be held to speak off-the-record with Council. The search committee has been in communication with Mike Walsh and Diana Hershey, of the Department of Education and the process is moving forward. The application deadline was June 4; even with a revised timetable, Richey is planning for a decision by early July. The goal is for the position to be filled by the end of July.

3. Commissioner for Libraries Report – Alice Lubrecht

Lubrecht began by announcing that the full Commissioner’s report is in print and made available to all in attendance (attachment A). Lubrecht and Pannebaker traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with staff at the National Library Service (NLS). NLS has assisted in the transition as they continue to work with the two regional libraries for the blind and physically handicapped. NLS has guidelines in place, one of which is to complete the transition over a six month period. At this point in time, the database has been merged and the final software changes for Philadelphia are underway.

Lubrecht met with the Optimization Task Force in State College on June 11. The task force was initially concerned with the timeline, particularly with getting the necessary buy-in from key partners. After discussion, the timeline was modified and the goal is to have concrete suggestions by January 2013. A revised scope statement was approved that reads: *To develop a 21st century structure to support 21st century literacies and libraries.* Garm commented that the amended timeline made sense, the session at PaLA can be used for input rather than to present the final conclusions. The scope statement, as revised, focuses less on dollar amount and more on structure.

Lubrecht reported several libraries have changed the level of certification needed to meet standards as a result of the implementation of the new census figures in annual reports. Richey and Lubrecht have agreed to create an ad hoc committee of Council. The committee will assist in developing guidelines to use with current regulations as well as assist in discussions on this topic as we move to revise the regulations when SB1225 is finalized and approved. Richey appointed David Belanger and Larry Nesbit to serve on this committee with Lubrecht appointing Sandy Edmunds as liaison from the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. Nesbit suggested the addition of the word “public” be added in front of libraries to further clarify the goals and mission. The amended draft charge is attached (attachment B). The committee will convene during the lunch recess to receive some additional hand-outs from Edmunds.

MOTION: Approval of the formation of ad hoc committee
MOVED BY: Phil Albright
SECONDED BY: Bob Gallivan
VOTE: Unanimous

Lubrecht provided an update on the 2012-2013 Budget. The Senate put back the 5% cut for state aid in their version of the budget but held the other library line items steady with the Governor’s original budget amounts. The process is still very fluid and the library community needs to continue to be vigilant with advocating methods as the process moves forward. Richey interjected that the LSTA draft, which is due to IMLS on June 30, was included in Council packet materials. She encouraged members to read through and send all comments to Susan Pannebaker prior to the submission deadline. Pannebaker explained that IMLS has had issues in the past with formula funded programs and, as a result, the table on the final page of document is a way to demonstrate how the funds are used but generalized into broader areas. Lubrecht added that this topic was discussed at COSLA and webinars have been provided as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

4. Legislative Committee-Mary Garm

Garm did not have anything new to report. She is hopeful that the budget process will continue to move quickly and can come to agreement early, as predicted. The House and Senate have agreed on the 5% restoration of state aid for libraries which is positive news.

5. District Library Center Committee-Jim Hollinger

Hollinger reported on the current situation in the Oil Creek District. The district library center currently has one employee, Dan Parker, in three positions. As director of two libraries (Clarion Free and Oil City) Parker is fulfilling the district consultant position in a part-time capacity. Hollinger visited the district library center with Richey, Pannebaker and Edmunds in order to assess the situation. The recommendation was to obtain a full-time district consultant; however, with the low salary offered they are not attracting many qualified candidates. Albright questioned whether a re-assignment of the district library center is a viable option. Hollinger explained that there is not an obvious logical partner, yet some candidates can be considered. A discussion continued with suggestions on creative ideas and a need for new plans to avoid duplication of services. Mitchell commented that with today's technology and with the declining funds there is a need to look statewide for updated structure plans. Richey agreed that a change is needed and the committee should work on an action plan for Oil City. LaBar commented on a meeting he attended which exemplified the idea of librarians working together on coordination of services simply by getting them all in one room together and facilitating the discussion. Richey concluded the report by stating the three recommendations given to Oil City upon completion of the assessment visit. The three recommendations are:

- The district library center funds must be kept separate from the library funds/account
- The creation of a strategic plan is underway which will assess whether or not the library should be the designated district library center
- A change is needed of the current structure of the district consultant working in two other capacities which is not working well.

Richey explained that updated models of structure can be pursued especially with regards to the availability of modern technology. Garm commented that as we are observing overlapping structures it is important to remember that each district has an administrator and a consultant; and it is more important to keep a consultant rather than an administrator.

6. State Library/Preservation Committee-Larry Nesbit

Nesbit distributed his report (attachment C) which did not include any new expenses in the previous six month period. Council approved the report without having a motion.

ADHOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

7. Joint State Government Committee Report on Library Code – Mary Garm, David Belanger

Belanger and Garm had nothing new to report from the committee at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEM

8. Creation of sub-committee/task force to discuss future of Access PA, POWER Library and IDS

At the March meeting a suggestion was made to form a committee or task force to discuss the efficiencies of Access PA, POWER Library, and IDS. The basis for the sub-committee was suggested to try to figure out how to get the most benefit moving forward as funds continue to decrease for these programs. Pannebaker provided a spreadsheet (attachment D) with cost figures for each service for the past four years (2008-2012). Richey explained that it is difficult to extract one service from the others. Belanger questioned the increase in IDS expenditures this year to which Lubrecht replied was due to fuel charges. Garm commented that while libraries want to continue to collaborate most have dropped affiliate membership and have become full members. Affiliate memberships seem to no longer be needed.

Nesbit commented that this situation is a paradox. These services are needed in order to cooperate with other libraries, which are what we want to encourage, however by reducing the funds for these programs the tools to cooperate are being taken away. Richey explained that this very reason explains the need for a task force in order to discuss the best use of funds. Garm questioned whether the Optimization Task Force (OTF) would be the logical committee to take on this topic and if the programs can be subsidized with other state funds. Belanger agreed that the task force has been in discussion but was not ready with any conclusions yet but could provide a summary at the fall meeting. Also, once a statewide ILS is in use it will change how we look at database and

software. Lubrecht suggested giving the numbers to the OTF. Mitchell commented that we must look at more efficient ways to do things and used the example of an autistic camp that had to be cancelled due to lack of funding. He suggested that instead of cancelling the free program; why not request a co-pay from parents. Mitchell continued that with ILL a similar idea would be to offer the first two items free and any additional item would incur a cost at a sliding scale. Mitchell also explained that POWER Library is not as user-friendly as it should be; more education must be offered to legislative staff so they can “sell” it to their supervisors who, in turn, could request funds for the programs. He feels the Knowledge Initiative should be put back on the table in order to re-open a discussion with a different model. More pressure is needed to get the word out about these programs and their importance.

Nesbit commented about how Governor Ridge made the point that investing in libraries is the most cost-effective program to invest in. He disagrees with Mitchell since if education is key, we need the funds to do so but poor political decisions have reduced these programs. Nesbit continued that much data has been collected that libraries improve education and that studies have been proven and published but politicians change the facts. Richey commented that part of the discrepancy could be that they thought POWER Library was its own line item and not lumped into the funds of the other two programs. Garm commented that a database without EBSCO is hardly worth promoting which is unfortunate; she is aware that four years are spent teaching databases that won't be available to use due to decreased funds. Richey stated that a strong POWER Library is needed for the 21st century.

Mitchell stated that he does not disagree but must present the “hard medicine” that exists in today's reality. He himself has hammered away at the facts and studies and brought it to the attention of many legislators but the fact remains that the funds of the Ridge days are in the past. Mitchell commented that familiarity is important when following through with legislators and the group must build up champions for the cause.

Belanger recommended waiting to form this committee until after the OTF reports its findings in the fall. Nesbit commented that the topic can be discussed at different levels and the committee should not comprise of just the individuals at the table today. He feels the greater the numbers, the better the results. Richey asked if the discussion was favoring a prioritization of the three, with IDS as number three or if all three should be strong and vigorous. Garm commented that the delivery component is important. LaBar questioned what delivery system is being used currently. Lubrecht explained that it is bid out and currently UPS has the contract.

Garm suggested carrying this discussion back to the OTF to share the discussion with Richey agreeing that this can be tabled until September when the OTF has revealed their conclusions. Richey stated that any and all suggestions can be submitted to Belanger as the OTF is scheduled to meet in July and August. Nesbit questioned who is on the OTF and was told that it is only public libraries being represented. Richey does not want to form a committee that is as yet without a charge. Lubrecht explained that while the OTF findings will initially look at public library structure; it can then move forward to involve all libraries. Belanger explained that the most significant difference would be in database content and the OTF will not be that specific in its recommendations.

Mitchell reiterated that libraries are unfortunately stale news and that this is a product without any political juice. This is why he suggests reinvention which shouldn't be glossed over but viewed as a “what works and what doesn't work” and move from there. Richey explained that no changes are possible with this budget as it is too late at this point but the OTF is another committee addressing this issue. Rather than have parallel paths working the same logic, the consensus is to wait until the fall to discuss these ideas. Richey concluded that no one disputes the ideas given here and that it is a priority. May commented that since there have been improvements then something must be working so she does not favor a complete tear-down and re-invention as suggested.

Richey brought the issue to a vote and, while not unanimous, the majority agreed to wait to act until the fall. Richey assigned Nesbit as Chair with Pannebaker as staff liaison. Other committee members will include: David Belanger, Barbara May, Ray Sobina and Phil Albright.

MOTION:	Approval of the formation of task force to commence in September
MOVED BY:	Bob Gallivan
SECONDED BY:	Lou LaBar
VOTE:	Unanimous

BUREAU REPORTS

9. Bureau of State Library – Alice Lubrecht

Lubrecht provided an update on the grants discussed at the previous meeting. The NEH grant submitted in conjunction with PHMC on World War I documents and publications was not granted this year. Lubrecht explained that Iren Snavely and Bill Fee are working on a revision of the grant proposal to narrow the focus and the request will be re-submitted this summer. Background information is being gathered for several possible options for an IMLS or NEH grant with a December deadline. One option is to use grant funds to renovate several rooms on the buildings' second floor to improve the housing of more recent newspapers. Another option would be for a print archive/last copy process done in partnership with the PALCI Shared Print group. This group has been focusing on serials; however, they would like to develop policies and guidelines dealing with older monographs statewide.

Lubrecht reported that a review of the DEP/DCNR collections was completed by staff in March. An April letter to the editor of the Patriot News spurred DCNR to hire movers to bring the collection to the State Library since the letter complained about access to these collections. The first six boxes arrived yesterday and the rest are expected to arrive by the end of the fiscal year. While there is no timeline to date on the collection from DEP; another letter to the editor was in the Patriot News regarding the move of this collection as well. Belanger questioned whether or not there is room in the State Library for these collections. Lubrecht replied that there is enough space.

10. Bureau of Library Development – Susan Pannebaker

Pannebaker reported on the Integrated Library System (ILS); 39 millennium libraries will be on the system by the end of June. Bradford County, the last system to join, is currently in progress. HSLC is commencing a two-month "breather" in order to catch up with some tasks and perform some additional training. They have been working with Equinox on merging some bibliographic records. The ILS Consortium will begin adding new members in September. The ILS Consortium is finishing up a business plan which will explain the pricing structure. The next meeting will take place July 13 and will discuss charging an entry fee to cover the cost of getting the library's material into the system. It is anticipated that five to six additional libraries will join by the end of this year and the expected growth is approximately 30-35 libraries each year after that.

A request for proposal (RFP) for POWER library had some issues so the process has paused for the time being. Pannebaker explained that some legal issues were encountered and are holding up the process. She hopes to be able to move forward soon. Pannebaker reported that POWER has an updated logo and new icon which will hopefully be a fresh start for the program. She explained that schools have been sent the new logo and icon so that they can be installed for students to use in the fall. This seems to be a good time for a new letter of commitment to ensure public libraries reach out to schools, have the logo on their homepage and market the program to users. Belanger commented that Ask Here PA also has a new logo. Pannebaker replied that the new branding was completed as a group.

11. School Library Services – Susan Pannebaker

Pannebaker reported that the school library advisor position is funded and the process to hire is moving forward. One of the other recommendations from last year's school library survey was developing a model curriculum to help school librarians integrate their work with the new Common Core standards. A committee has been formed involving elementary, middle and high school librarians to begin writing the curriculum. The goal is to have a final document by the end of August. The steering committee would then like to follow up with webinars in September/October to help librarians use it.

PA School Library Project has found that school library staffing has a positive correlation to the standardized reading and writing test scores of Pennsylvania students across all grade levels and subgroups including Black, Hispanic, IEP, and poor. This is a logical conclusion since better and more avid reading leads to better writing abilities, but very important none the less.

12. 2011/2012 Schedule of Meetings

Richey requested a review of the meeting dates as listed and also sought approval for her suggestion to hold the March travel meeting at the library at Penn State University. All were in agreement and Jones will contact Barbara Dewey's secretary in order to schedule the meeting.

September 30, 2012 – 9 am meeting, PaLA Annual Conference, Gettysburg
September 30, 2012 – Open Forum, PaLA Annual Conference, Gettysburg
January 8, 2013 – Room 317 Forum Building, Harrisburg
March 2013 – Travel meeting, details to be determined, Penn State University Library

Sobina commented that Alice Lubrecht is doing a commendable job of both Acting Deputy Secretary and continuing on as the Director of the State Library. Council gave Alice a round of applause and Ray reiterated that based on the report a lot of work is being accomplished. Sobina also commented that he appreciates the work of Council and cautions against complacency. He stated that we should never be comfortable with a “low water mark” and appreciates the exchange between members. Sobina also requested an update on the current openings and Richey stated that she has two applications and two potential applicants. Richey is working on filling the current openings and hopes to make progress soon.

13. Executive Session

Council met off-the-record and without Office of Commonwealth Libraries' staff present in order to discuss the status of the search for a new Commissioner & Deputy Secretary for Libraries.

14. Adjourn

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting at 12:35 P.M.
MOVED BY: Mary Garm
SECONDED BY: Bob Gallivan
VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Jones, Executive Secretary
Office of Commonwealth Libraries