

Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development

May 4, 2018

Tower 2, Hershey Lodge
Hershey, Pennsylvania

MINUTES - APPROVED

Present: David Belanger
Marsha Everton
Robert Gallivan
Mary Garm
Louis LaBar
Robert Lambert
Allison Mackley
Sharon McRae
David Mitchell
Olga Negron
Larry Nesbit
Patrick Oates

Excused: Barbara Zaborowski
Office of
Commonwealth
Libraries:

Jonelle Darr, Executive Assistant, Office of Commonwealth Libraries
Brian Dawson, Bureau Director, Bureau of Library Development
Cindy Heasley, Administrative Assistant, Office of Commonwealth Libraries
Alice Lubrecht, Bureau Director, Bureau of State Library
Glenn Miller, Deputy Secretary, Office of Commonwealth Libraries

Guests: Pedro Rivera, Secretary, Department of Education
Pam Smith, Special Assistant to the Secretary, Department of Education
Jennifer Bates, President, Pennsylvania School Librarians Association
Carolyn Blatchley, Executive Director, Cumberland County Library System
Christi Buker, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Library Association
Allison LaTagliata, Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries; Kirby Library
David E. Mitchell, retired member GAC; Mayor of Corry, PA
Maryam Phillips, Executive Director, Hosting Solutions & Library Consulting
Joe Sherwood, Executive Director, Chester County Library System
Greg Thomas, President, Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries
Karla Trout, Executive Director, Adams County Library System

1. Welcome & Introductions

Garm called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Council and staff in attendance gave introductions. New council members attending their first meeting are Olga Negron and Patrick Oates. New member Barbara Zaborowski had a schedule conflict and will attend the July meeting.

2. Presentation of David Mitchell Resolution

Mary Garm read aloud the resolution, which honored David Mitchell for his decades of service to libraries. Mitchell joined the GAC on July 19, 1983 and served during the administrations of seven different governors. Mitchell thanked the GAC for their support and the opportunity to work with them. He urged the GAC to continue to promote libraries and schools and embrace change in order to strengthen services for the future.

3. PSLA Report – Jennifer Bates

Bates began her report by discussing PDE’s staffing guidelines which call for one certified librarian in each district, and paraprofessionals who do not serve in isolation. Twenty-two districts in the state are in violation of this guideline. She noted that the Scranton and McKeesport school districts recently furloughed all librarians. This is a statewide problem because it is not mandated that school districts employ certified librarians. She also thanked Glenn Miller and Allison Mackley for their representation in ESSA discussions, as Pennsylvania is the only state whose ESSA plan includes librarians. The 2018 Presidential award was given to Representative Mark Longietti for his support of House Bill 740, which would require a certified librarian in every Pennsylvania school. Miller asked how she balances her job with her PSLA responsibilities? Bates said she has had good mentors and strong district support. She recommended advocating with all administrators and bringing them in to see what librarians do. She also recommended becoming a “go-to” person for administrators – someone who can solve problems for them.

4. Audience Introductions

5. Approval of Minutes of the January 19, 2018 Meeting

MOTION: Approval of the minutes as submitted
MOVED BY: Robert Gallivan
SECONDED BY: Patrick Oates
VOTE: Unanimous

6. Deputy Secretary Update – Glenn Miller

Miller began his report with an update on the state budget – it looks like it will pass on time with no drama. State revenues are ahead of schedule, but there are still unfulfilled obligations. The Forum Building housing the State Library is scheduled to begin renovations in November 2019. The full extent of the impact on State Library services is not yet known. The Department of Education is exploring the potential for consolidating its offices into the Forum building after the renovations.

Review and discussion to update Library Code regulations continues internally, work which likely will extend into 2019. Small working groups are reviewing the current regulations section by section.

The Certification Committee continues its work reviewing instances where libraries are led by a non-certified director.

2018 is the 25th Anniversary of the Keystone Parks & Recreation Act which includes a small portion for public library constructions projects. The library portion of Keystone generates between \$3 and \$4 million annually for projects which require a local match. The next application cycle will begin in the Spring and it is hoped that grants could be awarded annually going forward instead of every two years. For 2018, the maximum grant award is \$750,000, and the requirement for a letter of intent has been eliminated.

Miller will be traveling to Washington, DC for National Library Legislative Day and for a meeting of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA.)

Miller noted that legislation to re-authorize the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) continues to be a priority for the American Library Association. Concerns continue to be raised about the elimination of Net Neutrality based on threats expressed by the chair of the Federal Communications Commission. Elimination of Net Neutrality could negatively impact the speed and cost of Internet services offered by libraries.

Miller updated the Council on the 17 libraries participating in the two-year community engagement program using the Harwood Institute’s “Turning Outward” principles. This program is not an instant fix

and relies on an outward focus, regular check-ins and coaching, and peer sharing and encouragement among the teams.

Questions

David Belanger asked if the renovation of the Forum Building will be an historic restoration? Miller replied that the historic nature of the building will be preserved although interior office spaces likely will change. Improvements to the infrastructure for the State Library will take place but it will not be a full historic renovation along the lines of the Law Library. The renovation is expected to take about 2 years.

Patrick Oates asked if there is any tracking of OCL's STEM activities. Since it's only in its second year, there really hasn't been anything done on that level yet. Jonelle Darr said that tracking can be requested, but not all libraries are doing it. The survey is limited to public libraries, not schools and only a small percentage of public libraries follow school curriculum. Glenn Miller offered that it's a work in progress intended to raise awareness of STEM learning in libraries which is what the State Library's maker space does in this building. General discussion followed.

7. Commonwealth Libraries Bureau Reports:

a. Bureau of State Library Report – Alice Lubrecht

Lubrecht began her report by providing an update on the Office of Commonwealth Libraries' Maker Space. It brings in about 1,500 students per year to engage in STEM activities. The staff in the Maker Space try to follow Next Generation Science Standards in presenting programs. They are working with the Whitaker Center. In regard to digitization, the Bureau is working on newspaper requests for about 10 titles. Penn State has two drives loaded with newspapers from the State Library on its server, stored but are not ready to upload to the repository. The Governor's Residence is having its 50-year anniversary – the Library is working with the State Archives to digitize documents and records about the 50 years of the residence. The collection will be loaded into PA Photos and Documents. "Take Your Child to Work Day" is using an "Open House" format this year. The Law Reading Room will open on May 1, 2018, after a four year renovation.

Questions

Marsha Everton asked about the transition, as Alice Lubrecht is retiring in July 2018. Glenn Miller answered that recruitment for a successor is underway and that he is hoping to bring Alice back as an annuitant to help with an array of special projects during this transition.

b. Bureau of Library Development – Brian Dawson

Dawson began his report by welcoming the new members of the GAC. He then provided an update on district negotiations – they are in progress and staff is working with individual libraries.

Research Institute for Public Libraries (RIPL) will be held in Atlanta, GA from July 29 through August 1. The review team is processing applications and hopes to contact people soon.

PALS (PaLA Academy of Leadership Studies) will visit OCL on June 7 for a tour of the State Library and presentations by BLD staff.

The New Director's Orientation will be held August 6-8 at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel. Approximately 70 applications were received for 25 openings.

Bill Fee collaborated with Carnegie Science Center to present eight hands-on workshops throughout the state. For each session, public and school librarians were led through activities by CSC's Toni Stith and

Ian Zang. A survey has been done and results are being analyzed for use in developing library specific activities for attendees.

Questions

Robert Gallivan asked why there was high turnover among librarians, Brian replied that it was due to budget and organizational issues. Another factor is the number of retirements is high. General discussion about libraries facing budget deficits, taxes, bills.

8. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only

No comments.

9. Appointment of Nominating Committee and Committee Updates – Mary Garm

Mary Garm has a list of assignments, including nominating regulations. The list is attached.

10. Strategic Discussion Report – Mary Garm

Discussion focused on the “Turning Outward” initiative of the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. The group looked at how to use the concept of “turning outward” to develop or improve relationships with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and other audiences.

11. Statewide Library Card Guidelines – David Belanger

Belanger explained that the process to update the statewide library card guidelines began last year when it was requested at the June meeting. A discussion also took place at the October meeting of the district library centers. The committee decided that rather than edit and update the existing guidelines, the plan would start over from scratch. They began the process by looking at other states and found that Alberta (Canada) has guidelines, a portion of which could be applied to Pennsylvania. The committee met yesterday and discussed the goal of the guidelines being straightforward and all on one page. A draft will be developed and discussed at the next committee meeting. The next step will be to meet again with the members of the focus group to request input.

12. Swearing in of New Members – Secretary Rivera

Secretary Rivera joined the meeting and, following introductions, he administered the Oath of Office to all re-appointed and new Council members.

Mary Garm asked the Secretary what he thinks Pennsylvania needs to do to provide a successful education. Secretary Rivera responded that at least current levels of funding are important as is community involvement and local advocacy. He wants education to focus on college and career readiness, so these goals should align with technology access and Makerspace activities. Libraries need to show how important they are to filling these needs.

Mary Garm then asked the Secretary how the GAC can help him reach his priorities. Secretary Rivera asked for a coordinated response, and support for PDE in high interest areas. He feels that he has an “expiration date” so he wants to present continued support and alignment with his message. He encouraged members to advocate for support at home – that is where representatives are held accountable.

Mary Garm then highlighted three issues:

- a. Funding for public libraries has been at roughly the same level for 10 years. It is having a serious impact now. Libraries have stability but not growth;
- b. The need to require a certified school librarian in every school; and,

- c. The importance of continuing service to the public by the State Library during the renovation of the Forum Building

Garm asked the Secretary how the GAC can keep stay connected and communicating with him. The Secretary committed to regular check-ins with the GAC and suggested that Glenn serve as liaison to make these arrangements.

13. Rare Books Fund Update – Alice Lubrecht and Larry Nesbit

Nesbit reported that the Rare Books Fund balance is currently \$372,000. This balance is after several recent purchases: \$50,000 earlier in the month of submitted expenses, \$25,000 on new books this year, and \$3,000 for repairs. Nesbit encouraged OCL to continue to reduce the account through careful purchases and necessary Rare Collections maintenance in order to avoid any problems in the future at Mansfield where the funds reside.

14. Committee Reports

- a. Bylaws – Robert Gallivan – no report
- b. Legislative – Mary Garm – no report
- c. Policies – David Belanger – no report
- d. Communication – Marsha Everton – no report

15. Public Comment

Karla Trout encouraged everyone to participate in National Library Legislative Day, in person or remotely, as advocacy efforts pay off.

Christi Buker reminded everyone that PaLA’s October conference will be held in Harrisburg this year, which also is an election year, so it’s a great opportunity to advocate for libraries. On Tuesday, October 16, PaLA will have a special reception at the library, and there will be a legislative breakfast on Wednesday, October 17. A press conference also will be held in the East Wing of the Capitol.

Allison LaTagliata and Greg Thomas of PCBL noted that membership has been steady with about 50 individual memberships, 120 friends who use 501(c) 3, and 20 who don’t use 501(c) 3.

Bob Gallivan commented that Elizabeth “Lee” Beckman, who served libraries in the 1980’s and ‘90s in the Erie area, passed away.

16. Adjourn

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting at 12:20 PM.
MOVED BY: Patrick Oates
SECONDED BY: Robert Gallivan
VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Heasley, Administrative Assistant
Office of Commonwealth Libraries