

Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development

March 29, 2019
Cocoa 6, Hershey Lodge
Hershey, Pennsylvania

Minutes - Approved

Present: David Belanger
Marsha Everton
Robert Gallivan
Louis LaBar
Robert Lambert
Allison Mackley
Sharon McRae
Larry Nesbit
Barbara Zaborowski

Excused: Mary Garm
Olga Negron
Patrick Oates

Office of Commonwealth

Libraries (OCL): Susan Banks, Director, Bureau of Library Development
Sarah Greene, Director, Bureau of State Library
Jonelle Darr, Executive Assistant
Rita Herzog, Administrative Officer
Glenn Miller, Deputy Secretary / Commissioner for Libraries

Guests: Bernadette Lear, Librarian, Penn State Harrisburg
Maryam Phillips, Executive Director, Hosting Solutions & Library Consulting
Christi Buker, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Library Association
Rob Leshner, Consultant
Meghan Lynch, Business Outreach Librarian, Chester County Library

1. Welcome & Introductions

Belanger called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM and welcomed everyone to the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association's (PSLA) Annual Conference. Belanger announced that Glenn Miller, Deputy Secretary for Libraries, earlier that morning received a Presidential Award from PSLA. Glenn Miller thanked David for sharing the news and pointed out that much of the strong relationship between Commonwealth Libraries and PSLA is due to the hard work of Susan Pannebaker and he wanted the GAC to be aware of her excellent work.

Time was taken for Council members, OCL staff, and guest in attendance to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the October 14, 2018 Meeting

Robert Gallivan moved that the minutes of the October 14, 2018 be approved as submitted. Motion seconded by Robert Lambert. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Chair's Report – David Belanger

On behalf of Mary Garm, David Belanger presented her report (**Attachment A**). Following this meeting, a draft of the School Library Guidelines will be sent out for review and comment with discussion at the upcoming May 30, 2019 meeting.

4. Deputy Secretary's Report – Glenn Miller

Deputy Secretary Miller asked Jonelle Darr to give an update on the building renovation. Darr noted that several of the transitional operations spaces are taking shape but that storage space location with environmental controls remains a big unknown.

Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL) staff will begin shifting items from Forum Building to the Keystone Building and the State Museum. The Bureau of Library Development will begin moving to 333 Market Street during the first week in April.

Post-renovations office and library configurations remain under discussion. It has now been publicly announced that the entire Pennsylvania Department of Education will be housed in Forum Building once the renovation is completed in approximately two years. This completes the circle, as the original Department of Education (known first as the Department of Public Instruction) was originally housed in the Forum Building. This is good news for OCL – being under one roof will help build bridges with other Department of Education programs and staff.

As to the state budget for next year, the Governor's plan recommends flat funding for the Public Library Subsidy, Library Access, and Library Services for the Visually Impaired and Disabled. Funding for the State Library is proposed to be increased by \$258,000 in large measure to cover renovation expenses.

Miller provided updates on the following topics:

- First-term legislators will be invited to a breakfast in the lobby of the Forum Building adjacent to the State Library sponsored by the Pennsylvania Library Association
- PSLA leaders met recently with Secretary Rivera and Deputy Secretary Miller to discuss school libraries
- The Chief Officers of State Library Association (COSLA) met in Seattle this past January. Major topics discussed were funding threats and a more focused gathering and use of data.
- The deadline for Keystone grant applications is approaching. This reflects a change to yearly applications, rather than every two years.
- KINBER is working on a new strategic plan and exploring library connectivity issues.
- The national Grow with Google Initiative which focuses on workforce resources was launched in Pennsylvania with training for librarians in Philadelphia, York, and Erie.

Comments:

Robert Lambert commented that at his York Library *Grow with Google* event they invited county commissioners (who ironically had just voted to cut library funding) and the event was very successful with over 800 people in attendance.

Lambert was invited to another event in Chicago to discuss the role of libraries and continue to partner – hoping for mini-grant for funding support.

Marsha Everton asked if this renovation will also serve as a restoration? Glenn Miller replied that yes, he's hopeful that if it's within budget, more of the public services spaces will be restored. Work will be completed in the lobby and the MakerSpace and, at a minimum, the HVAC and electrical systems will be replaced and the infrastructure improved.

5. Commonwealth Libraries Bureau Reports:

a. Bureau of State Library Report – Sarah Greene

Sarah Greene, who became Director, Bureau of State Library in late January 2019, reported on the status of the library:

The renovation and preparations for moving have been her main focus. A fully functioning library will be available by utilizing space in the Keystone Building this summer. Conditions in the Rare Collections Library will be maintained and a large portion of the collection in the Main Reading Room and lower stacks will remain on-site covered with plastic. Microfilm storage will be moved off-site to a climate-controlled facility. Items moved the Keystone Building will be accessible to the public.

Questions and Comments:

Lou Labar asked if Rare Collections tours will continue? No tours will be given during the construction period.

Barbara Zaborowski asked if staff will keep their phone numbers? Yes, all phone numbers and email addresses for staff will remain while in transition spaces.

David Belanger asked about the stacks? The window air conditioning units and radiators will be removed, and a new HVAC system installed.

Glenn Miller commented that Capitol Preservation Committee has been involved with aspects of the project. The old newspaper room on the first floor will be the new Maker Space classroom. There is some tension between restoration/preservation and future library service needs which leaves a number of questions unresolved at this point.

Larry Nesbit asked if OCL will get new office furniture? Yes but, as Jonelle Darr noted, funding for this purpose in the future must be approved.

Glenn Miller added that post-construction funds will be needed to clean the collection and reintegrate portions of the collection that will need to move to make way for construction.

Larry Nesbit asked about repairs to the downspouts. Miller responded yes, in the past the inadequate downspouts created problems in the Genealogy Room and Law Library.

b. Bureau of Library Development – Sue Banks

Banks came on board as Director, Bureau of Library Development in late November 2018. She already knew many of the staff and it's a pleasure to work with this team. She's working on hiring a new library development manager and school-age advisor. Relocating to 333 Market Street will

lead to new friends, ideas, and processes within this Bureau. BLD staff will move on April 3 and 4 to the 14th and 12th floors of 333 Market. Staff have embraced the process and used it to take stock, move first and get out of the way for the larger project of moving the Library. The move should not cause any breakdown in workflow.

The annual report data collection project is currently underway. Staff have been on an archeological dig and have often presented Banks with interesting “presents” as they uncover historical items. Banks is thankful for the support and patience of all staff as she has had constant questions since she started as the new Director.

District negotiations are underway resulting in advisors being out on the road. This year’s District Library Centers (DLC) meetings have led to a new approach to the program aspects and content. The goals are to be more efficient, effective, and complete.

Banks is immersed in understanding grants programs while also working with Hadiyah Cleveland to create a new approach to LSTA beginning with fiscal year 2019 as a re-tool year. Banks encouraged Cleveland to reach out to the field for feedback with the intention of increasing library services to the public.

Keystone grants, now on a yearly cycle, are improving under the leadership of Ed Lupico, who has a very organized and serious approach to the process.

Also underway is the statewide grant process being monitored by 12 staff members. Banks has worked on creating a more balanced and clearer workflow with consistent communication between bureau staff, OCL staff and the public partners.

Banks concluded by stating that work on regulations will begin in September.

Question:

David Belanger asked if the new school-age advisor will work with school libraries?

Yes, the new advisor will work with both school and public libraries with a focus on children and youth ages 6 through 18.

Bernadette Lear asked if any records pertaining to the history of the State Library prior to the 1960’s has surfaced? In her research she has been unable to locate archives for the State Library. Banks said several staff have commented: “I wish we had a historian?” She invited Bernadette to come visit and follow-up.

6. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only
No comments.

7. LSTA Spotlight/Affordable Learning Project (PALCI) – Jill Morris, Executive Director

Morris spoke about the “open text book network” which is a digital library offering membership and reviews (**Attachment B**). The website has a list of the 50 participating higher education schools that each have a campus liaison. PALCI is offering a third webinar with training. The goal is to make higher education materials more affordable as surveys have found shocking statistics of students failing or achieving poorly due to the inability to purchase a textbook.

Marsha Everton offered congratulations and a thank you for the initiative. She commented on food security issues plaguing college students. 30% of college students are considered food insecure and must choose between food, tuition, and books.

David Belanger asked how content gets created? Morris replied that it varies. Some faculty may create on their own time and some schools may receive grants. A challenge is how to spur the creation of materials. Sarah Greene offered that some states have grants that fund this project

Barb Zaborowski commented that she is aware of a Biology 101 book which sells for \$350.00

David Belanger commented that this and PA Forward are both LSTA funded projects. An important point to make with Federal legislators, he encouraged Council members to make an appointment with their local Member of Congress to speak about these programs

8. Special Presentation: The State of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania's Public Libraries – Bernadette Lear, Behavioral Sciences and Education Librarian and Library Instruction Coordinator, Penn State Harrisburg

Lear is a scholar practitioner who has worked and had an interest in libraries since high school. She researched the history of public libraries in Pennsylvania and worked as an archivist for the Pennsylvania Library Association (PaLA). Her book titled "Made Free" covers the history from the colonial 1700s through World War 2. Originally it was library companies, non-profit organizations that supported libraries. It wasn't until the 1900's that the state began taking an interest in public education. The first libraries operated on donations and did not have a budget. The first funding structure was created using dollars from dog licenses to fund libraries. Lear noted that instead of libraries "going to the dogs" they are actually "coming from the dogs." The first indication of state aid directed to fund libraries appeared in 1961.

Lear's PowerPoint presentation is attached (**Attachment C**).

Questions and Comments:

Marsha Everton asked when will the book be available? 2020/2021; Lear offered to share the currently pre-published edition via email with the Council.

Jonelle Darr and Sue Banks both commented about her research being very interesting and amazing. Some of the same issues persist in today's libraries.

Lear commented that the history after 1960 is more difficult to locate and track since no mandates existed to provide consistent comparisons.

Glenn Miller commented that this makes it even more important to educate new legislators and policy makers about the importance of libraries.

9. Special Presentation: Future Ready PA Index Brian Truesdale, Chief of Assessment and Accountability, and Bekah Baum-Leaman, English-Language Arts Content Advisor, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Brian Truesdale displayed the newly created web-based dashboard (<https://futurereadypa.org/>) which is a next generation of the federal education law which was No Child Left Behind and now is the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA.) Truesdale demonstrated the type of K-12 data that

can be located and compared on the site when determining student success rates. The next step is to update the state literacy plan which is currently routing through the Department of Education for approvals. Following that, the plan is to work with districts to create a needs assessment and create literacy goals. The literacy plan will have information such as guiding principles and essential elements to use as a guide.

Four key elements that libraries can impact include:

- The support of language development of English learners
- Development of specific programs for families
- Introduction of the very young (birth to grade 2) to concepts
- New opportunities to partner with schools

An example of this partnership is 1st Book, a leadership program that is a national initiative. More information can be found on the PDE and OCDEL websites and at firstbook.org.

Questions and Comments:

David Belanger suggested adding the number of library card holders to the data collection.

Marsha Everton asked how does PA Forward tie to literacies? Glenn Miller replied there are many silos to bridge which is why today's presentation is so important to create some cross fertilization.

10. Pennsylvania School Librarians Association– Allison Mackley, President Report attached (**Attachment D**). Mackley has a blog she recently started which can be found at psla.org it is called "PSLApulse - behind the scenes".

11. Regulations Review Update – Sue Banks
Banks mentioned earlier in her report that this update is on her radar to begin in September. The move and push to revitalize the team are the current priorities.

12. Statewide Library Card Guidelines – David Belanger
These guidelines were scheduled for review at the January meeting which was cancelled. Belanger plans to revisit at the May meeting and schedule a vote.

13. Rare Collections Fund Update
Nesbit began by requesting copies of the minutes from the Rare Collections Library Committee meetings that were held until around the year 2008/2009. Darr stated that she had a file she could share.

The current balance left to spend equals \$203,000 and he appreciates the progress thus far to spend the remaining funds prudently. Once a new Rare Collections Librarian is hired to replace the retired Iren Snavelly, rare books purchases can be identified.

14. Forum Building – OCL Relocation and Building Renovation
The Forum building relocation and renovation updates were already covered in earlier reports.

15. Committee Reports
- a. Bylaws – no report.

- b. Legislative – the library appropriation has been level funded for 10 years with a modest increase proposed for the State Library for FY19 ((12%) in order to cover moving expenses. An increase of this size likely will fall short of the actual costs incurred by the move.
- c. Policies – no report.
- d. Communication – no report.
- e. Nominating Committee – no report.

16. Adjourn

Robert Lambert moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:11 p.m. Motion seconded by Robert Gallivan. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Herzog, Administrative Officer
Office of Commonwealth Libraries

Meeting Dates for 2019
Thursday, May 30
Tuesday, July 23
Sunday, October 13

Bosler Memorial Library, Carlisle
TBD, Harrisburg area
PA Library Association Conference
Bayfront Convention Center, Erie