

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on

September 19, 2016

at the Department of Administration,

2nd Floor, Conference Room C,

One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Attending: Cristina Amedeo, John Bucci, Melody Drnach, Annette Feldman, Edward Garcia, Louise Herrington-Bright, Rosita Hopper, Phyllis Humphrey, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Joan Ress Reeves, Robert Sloan, Thomas Viall

Members Absent: Kenneth Findlay, Phyllis Lynch, Alison Davis-Maxell, Doug Norris, Rose Ellen Reynolds

Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS): Karen Andrews, Donna DiMichele, Karen Mellor

Guests: Dr. Dzialo

Materials Distributed:

- Proposed Library Board of Rhode Island Meeting Schedule for Legislative Session 2016-2017

I. WELCOME

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:16 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the June 13, 2016 meeting

Moved by: Dr. Hopper

Seconded by: Mr. Garcia

The meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

A. Cornucopia

On September 15, 2016, Mr. Viall attended Cornucopia of Rhode Island's 10th anniversary celebration at the Warwick campus of the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI).

Cornucopia's mission is to promote library services to people of color within Rhode Island, and the development of librarians and library staff of color. Ms. Mellor was the keynote speaker at the meeting; Mr. Viall commended Ms. Mellor for her speech about creating diversity in libraries. The retirements of members Andrew P. Jackson (Sekou Molefi Baako), Director-Emeritus, Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center, Queens Library Corona,

New York, and Dr. Cheryl A. McCarthy, Professor Emerita, University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, were celebrated at the event.

B. Deborah Cullerton

Mr. Viall reported the death of Ms. Deborah Cullerton, the former Administrative Assistant at OLIS, on September 15, after a long illness. He recalled the excellent service Ms. Cullerton gave to the Board, and made special note of how she supported his work when he was a new member. On behalf of the LBRI, Mr. Viall will send a letter of condolence to Ms. Cullerton's family.

C. Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) meeting

A focus group, comprised of members of the LBRI, will be held at William Hall Library on September 29 for the OLIS LSTA evaluation. Mr. Viall encouraged LBRI members to attend the session.

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. Cornucopia Event

Ms. Mellor thanked Mr. Viall for his attendance at the Cornucopia event. At the event, Ms. Mellor called on the Rhode Island Library Association (RILA), and Ms. Valerie Karno, of RI University's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, to work together with OLIS, and the library community, to make libraries more reflective of the communities they serve.

B. Summer

i. Move

OLIS relocated from the 4th floor of the Department of Administration building to the 2nd floor. The new location brings all staff together for the first time in over 20 years, and has an open floor plan, making the space much more conducive to collaboration.

ii. Summer Reading Program (SRP)

On August 23, the annual Summer Reading Program (SRP) culminated in the All-Star Summer Reading Finale at McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket. The event was attended by 46 All-Star Readers randomly picked by their public libraries to represent them. One reader's name was selected from a raffle drawing to win a trip for four to the Walt Disney Resort in Orlando, FL. The winner participated in the SRP at the Tiverton Public Library.

Over 14,000 children participated in the 2016 SRP – "On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!", 337 shows were held in libraries, and over 10,000 people attended the library shows. OLIS sponsored 129 of these shows.

iii. One Catalog

The One Catalog project has been discontinued because of the academic library consortium (HELIN) shift to a different integrated library system (ILS). OLIS does not have software to bridge the different ILS used by the public, school and academic

consortia, and other libraries, so library users will need to search various library catalogs to locate materials needed outside of their consortium. OLIS will continue to work with libraries on a system to accommodate inter library borrowing.

iv. AskRI Databases

Two AskRI databases, Tutor.com (Homework Help RI) and Heritage Quest, were not renewed due to the one-third reduction of the Statewide Reference Resource Center's funding in the 2017 state budget. The business index, A-Z database, was continued as funding was identified to retain it. Since the suspension of the Tutor.com service on AskRI, nine public libraries have added Tutor.com to their electronic subscriptions. Ocean State Libraries (OSL) helped coordinate a group purchase, and Tutor.com extended the same statewide funding discount to libraries for this budget year.

v. Construction

Construction has been quite active this summer, and Lauren Plews, the OLIS State Data Coordinator, has been assigned to this program to assist Ms. Mellor with the Public Library Construction Reimbursement program.

OLIS has signed an agreement with Barrington Public Library to reimburse eligible costs for the renovation of the library's second floor, which includes the children's room, technical services, office space, and public meeting spaces.

Providence Public Library (PPL) is embarking on a major renovation and reorganization of their library. The library will better integrate the newer portion of the building, from the 1950s, with the older section of the building to create more spaces for learning, and restructure other library spaces to better serve PPL's new strategic plan. Planning is in the preliminary stages for this project.

Providence Community Library (PCL) is exploring the renovation of a space in the Olneyville area to accommodate the Olneyville Library. The current Olneyville Library building is a former bank that was donated to PCL, and it has flooding issues because of its proximity to the Woonasquatucket River. PCL is also interested in renovating the Knight Memorial Library to add air conditioning and update HVAC systems. The lack of air conditioning at this location results in closings on very hot days.

Narragansett is planning to retrofit an existing commercial space to build a new library in that town. A bond item for the project will be on the ballot in November.

vi. Annual Survey

The public library annual survey closed on September 15. With the exception of one library that was granted an extension, all surveys have been received. Ms. Plews is reviewing the grant-in-aid applications, which are submitted as part of the annual survey, and forwarding these to Ms. Mellor for final approval.

C. Fall 2016

i. Budget Development

The Department of Administration is currently developing its budget for fiscal year 2018.

ii. Continuing Education (CE) Programs

OLIS has many CE programs scheduled for the fall. One of the highlights is a day long program on October 13 at Bryant University, 'Envisioning the Future of Resource Sharing in Rhode Island: Aspiration Meets Practicality.' The program includes keynote speaker, Marshall Breeding, Founder and Editor of *Library Technology Guides*, and a panel of librarians discussing resource sharing.

The 8th Annual Teen Summit will be held in Worcester, MA, on September 29. This will be the third year that OLIS has collaborated on the event with the Massachusetts Library System.

Other CE programs scheduled for this fall include monthly Young Adult Round Table (YART) meetings, various adult services programs, and programs on social media and media literacy.

iii. Resource Sharing

OLIS and the Massachusetts Library System (MLS) are currently collaborating on a pilot program for interstate delivery so that Massachusetts and Rhode Island Libraries can share resources without incurring postage costs. OLIS and the MLS utilize the same carrier, Optima, and that is key to the success of the program. Twenty libraries from across Massachusetts are being added to the pilot project, which also includes libraries in the Minuteman and Old Colony networks in Massachusetts. The project is supported financially by MLS and HELIN, which pays for a delivery route to Wheaton College, a HELIN member in Massachusetts.

D. LSTA Evaluation (Ms. DiMichele)

OLIS must submit a five-year plan to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for the use of federal LSTA funds awarded to RI through the Grants to States program. As part of the grant process, OLIS must submit a formal evaluation of the plan towards the end of the five-year period. OLIS joined with eleven northeastern states, that belong to the Council of State Library Agencies in the Northeast (COSLINE), to jointly issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a consultant to conduct five-year plan evaluations for each state. The firm Quality Metrics was awarded the contract to conduct the evaluations.

Ms. Mellor and Ms. DiMichele are working with the consultants to gather information for the evaluation through a survey of the library community, focus groups organized around specific Five Year Plan goals, and meetings with OLIS staff. The consultants will then prepare a report and submit the draft to OLIS in February 2017. OLIS will have the opportunity to review the report and provide feedback; the final report is due to the IMLS no later than

March 30, 2017. The evaluation report will also be used as OLIS prepares its 2018-2022 LSTA plan.

E. LSTA Reauthorization

LSTA is due for reauthorization by Congress in 2016, and OLIS has provided feedback to Senator Reed's staff for the reauthorization bill text. The draft legislation includes new language about serving community needs (such as workforce development, business development, adult education, and financial literacy), connecting libraries with education, and more interagency collaboration at the federal level. These, and other revisions, reflect the important role of libraries in meeting the needs of communities and individuals in the 21st century.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislation

i. RI State Budget

The State Budget for FY17 was approved, and included an additional \$900,000 in library aid to cities and towns.

ii. Department of Administration (DOA) Legislation Meeting

Ms. Mellor will attend a meeting of DOA department chiefs in early October to discuss legislation that impacts their agencies. RI General Law Title 29 contains laws pertaining to libraries, and LBRI members are encouraged to let Ms. Mellor know if they have any concerns about, or recommendations on, this law.

iii. LBRI Annual Report

Per RIGL 29-3.1-4.1(10), the LBRI will submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly that will include the activities of the Board, such as meeting dates, board decisions, and board actions. The report will be prepared by OLIS, and submitted by the Board.

B. Policy Review Committee

The Policy Review Committee met twice over the summer, and has scheduled another meeting. The committee is making progress, and will be requesting a review of the Public Library Minimum Standards. A list of recommendations is being prepared and will be issued to the LBRI.

C. Library Construction Regulations Revisions

There are no updates on the revised regulations at this time. OLIS will be working with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to promulgate the revised regulations. Any construction agreements signed prior to the approval of new regulations will be governed by the regulations in effect on the date that the construction agreement is signed.

D. State Aid Formula Review Committee

The State Aid Formula Review Committee met three times over the summer, and has a meeting scheduled for September 28. The committee has been examining data and factors that may be considered in the determination of the amount of state library aid to individual cities and towns. The committee will provide recommendations based on their findings at the November LBRI meeting.

VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. Mr. Viall

Mr. Viall discussed the annual LBRI report that is due to the Governor. Mr. Viall recommended that OLIS craft the report from approved meeting minutes, and submit it to the Chair for approval. Hearing no objections, Mr. Viall directed OLIS to develop the annual report.

B. Ms. Amedeo

Ms. Amedeo reported on the new online client-driven website (RI Bridges) from the RI Department of Human Services (DHS) that replaces phone and walk-in assistance for health and human services benefit recipients. The new enrollment and eligibility system provides access to SNAP, Medicaid, child care, and other long-term services. The system has not been working optimally and some clients are experiencing difficulty in accessing benefits. Ms. Mellor stated that libraries may experience requests for assistance with the new system, and is seeking information from the DHS for distribution.

Medicare open enrollment begins on October 15, and Healthsource RI enrollment begins on November 1. Libraries interested in hosting an event can contact Ms. Amedeo.

C. Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo

Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo reported that four social workers at the Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI) have been reassigned to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) as a result of the launch of RI Bridges. The social workers will be replaced with other counselors from the Department of Human Services (DHS) who do not have experience working with the visually disabled. SBVI counselors serve as a referral point for OLIS' Talking Books Plus program.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Library Services Strategic Plan: Environmental Scan

Ms. Mellor reported that budget constraints will result in this work being conducted by OLIS rather than an outside consultant. OLIS plans to begin collecting data in December for the development of the Environmental Scan for the next Five Year LSTA Plan. Mr. Viall recommended that the Library Services Strategic Plan be removed from Unfinished Business until such time as more information is available to report.

B. AskRI Services

The Statewide Reference Resource Center (SRRC) contract was awarded to Providence Public Library (PPL). PPL will continue to provide AskRI services through 2018. Providence Community Library (PCL) was incorrectly identified as the recipient of the contract in the September LBRI meeting agenda posted to the RI Secretary of State's website.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. No new business was brought before the board.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. DiMichele commented that she viewed the swearing-in ceremony for the new Librarian of Congress, Dr. Carla Hayden. She noted the strong support of libraries in comments by the Speaker of the House, Congressman Paul Ryan. The LBRI had issued a letter in support of Dr. Hayden's nomination for Librarian of Congress. Those who wish to view the ceremony can find it on YouTube.

Mr. Viall reported that he will be traveling on business and will not attend the October 17, 2016, LBRI meeting.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr. Viall reviewed the Proposed Library Board of Rhode Island Meeting Schedule for Legislative Session 2016-2017. The proposed meeting dates were approved with the exception of the April 2017 meeting which will be decided at a future meeting.

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2016, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room C, 2nd Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, 02908.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Moved by: Mr. Garcia

Seconded by: Dr. Hopper