

## LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

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

November 21, 2016

at the Department of Administration,

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Conference Room B,

One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

**Members Attending:** John Bucci, Melody Drnach, Annette Feldman, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Thomas Viall

**Members Absent:** Cristina Amedeo, Alison Davis-Maxell, Kenneth Findlay, Edward Garcia, Louise Herrington-Bright, Rosita Hopper, Phyllis Humphrey, Phyllis Lynch, Robert Sloan

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

**Guests:** Dr. Dzialo

**Materials Distributed:** None

### I. WELCOME

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

### II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the October 17, 2016 meeting

**Moved by:** Mr. Bucci

**Seconded by:** Ms. Reynolds

The meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

### III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Mr. Viall extended his thanks to Ms. Rose Ellen Reynolds, for chairing the October 17, 2016, LBRI meeting.

#### A. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Meetings, RI Department of Education (RIDE)

Mr. Viall reported that he was unable to attend an 'Every Student Succeeds Act' meeting hosted by RIDE. The objective for library community members attending meetings was to interject the importance of school libraries into the planning.

#### B. 2016 Presidential Election

Mr. Viall reported that in light of the recent election results, libraries will be more important than ever in the coming years, as will the work shared by the LBRI and the Office of Library and Information Services. Mr. Viall shared a quote by author Maya Angelou that underscores the importance of libraries as a great equalizer.

#### IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

##### A. 2016 Presidential Election

Ms. Mellor reported that in response to the 2016 Presidential Election results, American Library Association (ALA) President Julie Todaro issued a statement about inclusion in libraries, and the important role in inspiring understanding and community healing. The ALA statement has been posted on Rhodarian on the OLIS website.

<http://rhodarian.lorinet.info/?p=2259>

##### B. Ongoing

###### i. OLIS Staffing

Ms. Ann Piascik, who most recently worked in the Talking Books Plus (TBP) library, retired effective November 1. Ms. Piascik was with OLIS for more than 30 years and Ms. Mellor extended her best wishes to Ms. Piascik in her retirement.

Ms. Mellor assigned Ms. Alicia Waters to work half-time in the TBP library. The vacant FTE will be reworked as a new position to include literacy and adult education as primary functions.

##### C. Upcoming

###### i. Strategic Planning

In preparation for the development of OLIS' Strategic Plan, Ms. Mellor and OLIS staff will review OLIS functions to evaluate how resources and staff are deployed to fulfill current and future objectives. Library Board members were invited to review the OLIS mission statement in preparation for discussion at the next meeting of the Board.

##### D. Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Evaluation (Ms. DiMichele)

The Evaluation of the Five-Year Plan is ongoing. Currently an online survey is open. Sent to library directors in all types of libraries, the survey includes questions about the Summer Reading Program, Talking Books Plus, and the National Library Service, AskRI, OLIS' continuing education programming, and resource sharing.

OLIS expects a draft report of the Evaluation from the consultants in February.

##### E. Diversity

On October 20, Ms. Mellor convened a group to discuss diversity in libraries. Attendees at the meeting included Dr. Valerie Karno, Director of the University of RI Graduate School of Library Studies (GSLIS); Dr. Melissa Villa-Nicholas, a new faculty member at GSLIS; Ida McGhee of Cornucopia of Rhode Island; and RI public library directors, Mr. Jack Martin of Providence Public Library and Mr. Ed Garcia of Cranston Public Library. The group discussed how to increase diversity in libraries, especially in the area of recruiting more diverse candidates to the profession and for paraprofessional jobs. A forum or series of forums is being considered to bring awareness to this issue.

#### F. Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA)

Ms. Mellor attended the COSLA annual meeting from October 24-26. Forty-four of fifty states were represented at the gathering.

##### i. Measures That Matter Grant

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded COSLA a grant for a project titled “Measures That Matter” that will study data collection in libraries, including the burden of data collection and the lack of consistency in data collected.

The project team will review problems associated with data quality and usefulness, with the objective of identifying data indicators that can better demonstrate the impact of libraries in communities. Ms. Mellor is participating on the project team.

##### ii. Community Catalyst Initiative

Dr. Kit Matthews, Director of the IMLS, spoke with COSLA members about the Community Catalyst Initiative. The focus of the initiative is to promote libraries as anchors in communities; as a place that people utilize to find opportunities to improve and learn skills. One focus for this initiative is to serve veterans, active and inactive, as they transition out of military service, or between deployment locations.

#### G. Reading Across Rhode Island 2017 Book Selection

The Center for the Book at the RI Council for the Humanities announced *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson as the 2017 selection for the Reading Across RI program. There will be a kick-off event on January 28 or 29, and the author will be the featured speaker at an April 8 program.

#### H. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Meeting

Ms. Mellor attended a meeting hosted by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) for implementation of ESSA. RIDE is conducting community meetings to develop, and receive feedback on, their strategic plan for implementing ESSA, which is the successor to the ‘No Child Left Behind’ act. More forums are planned as the RIDE strategic plan develops.

#### I. OLIS Mission Statement

Ms. Mellor will distribute the OLIS Mission Statement for review prior to the December meeting. OLIS seeks input from the LBRI about the Mission Statement as part of the strategic planning process.

### V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A. Legislation

##### i. Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)

LSTA is due for reauthorization during the current federal legislative session.

##### ii. 2016 RI State Election

Ms. Reynolds reported that the Town of Narragansett overwhelming voted to approve a bond to fund the construction of a new library.

**B. Policy Review Committee**

The Policy Review Committee had nothing to report at this time.

**C. Library Construction Regulations Review**

The Library Construction Regulations Review Committee had nothing to report at this time.

**D. State Aid Formula Review Committee**

The State Aid Formula Review Committee met, and is close to issuing a draft of the proposed revision to the state library grant-in-aid formula.

**VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

**A. Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo**

Ms. Dzialo submitted a letter to the chairman of the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) about the inclusion of a librarian on the GWB; Ms. Dzialo is a member of the GWB. The public comment period for the GWB Biennial Plan is open on their website, <http://www.gwb.ri.gov/>, until December 2. LBRI members are encouraged to post comments about the effectiveness of libraries in assisting workforce development.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No unfinished business was discussed by the board.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

The OLIS Mission Statement will be added to the New Business section on the December 2016 LBRI Agenda.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**X. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2016, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, 02908.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by:** Ms. Drnach

**Seconded by:** Ms. Feldman

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.