

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
December 19, 2016
at the Department of Administration,
2nd Floor, Conference Room B,
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Attending: Cristina Amedeo, John Bucci, Melody Drnach, Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Edward Garcia, Louise Herrington-Bright, Rosita Hopper, Phyllis Humphrey, Doug Norris, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Thomas Viall

Members Absent: Alison Davis-Maxell, Phyllis Lynch, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Robert Sloan

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

Guests: Ms. Eileen Dyer, Co-chair, Rhode Island Library Association Legislative Action Committee; Mr. Jack Martin, Executive Director, Providence Public Library

Materials Distributed:

- OLIS Mission Statement
- National Library Legislative Day (NLLD), Save the Date Notification
- A Report of Recommended Alterations to the State Grant-in-Aid Formula
- Cover Letter from Mr. Viall for Report of Recommended Alterations to the State Grant-in-Aid Formula
- LBRI Funding Formula Committee: Proposed Funding Model

I. WELCOME

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the November 21, 2016 meeting

Moved by: Ms. Feldman

Seconded by: Dr. Hopper

The meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

A. The RI Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA) Annual Meeting

The COLA Annual Meeting will be held on April 13, 2017.

B. National Library Legislative Day (NLLD)

Registration is now open for 2017 NLLD; <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advleg/nlld>. Each year, advocates from RI library associations go to Washington D.C. to meet with RI legislators to speak about libraries, and bring awareness about issues important to libraries. LBRI members interested in attending the event are invited to contact Karen Andrews.

C. Rhode Island Library Association (RILA)

The 2017 RILA Annual Conference will be held at Bryant University in Smithfield, RI, on Wednesday, May 31 and Thursday, June 1, 2017. The theme for the event is “Building Connections, Growing Community.”

D. Governor Workforce Board (GWB)

The GWB recently issued its draft Biennial Plan, which did not include libraries or their contributions to workforce development. COLA and RILA have responded to a survey seeking input to the draft plan, and recommended that the GWB should include libraries in its plan for workforce development. COLA also sent a letter to the GWB about this omission.

E. LBRI Member Terms

Mr. Viall extended his gratitude to LBRI members for their contributions to the Library Board in 2016. Additionally, the Chair commended members with expired terms, who have continued their participation on, and service to, the LBRI.

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. Ongoing

i. OLIS Staffing

The vacant Library Program Specialist position has been posted. The position will serve as the Adult Services Coordinator with additional responsibility for library development. The position is anticipated to be filled by late January 2017.

ii. Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) State Program Report

Ms. Mellor and Ms. DiMichele continue their work to complete the annual state program report due to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) on December 30, 2016.

iii. Interlibrary Delivery

1. School Delivery Hubs

Beginning in January, OLIS will pilot a program to deliver to school hubs, rather than to individual schools, in three school districts, which will increase the number of days that schools in that district receive delivery. East Greenwich, Barrington, and South Kingstown are participating in the pilot, and have each

designated one school to receive deliveries for a group of schools. The district will be responsible for transporting materials to individual schools.

As a result of the reduced number of school stops, five public libraries will receive an additional stop in their weekly ILL delivery schedule.

2. Interstate Delivery

OLIS is working with the Massachusetts Library System and the delivery vendor to continue the pilot delivery project between Rhode Island and Massachusetts libraries. The pilot project is currently scheduled to end on December 30.

3. Academic Inter-Session Delivery

During the academic semester break, academic libraries will have an abbreviated schedule of two stops per week; the dates for the revised schedule are December 26, 2016 – January 20, 2017.

B. Continuing Education (CE), Media Smart Libraries

OLIS and the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Library Information Studies (GSLIS) are discussing the continuation of programming initiated through GSLIS' "Media Smart Libraries" project, which was funded through an IMLS grant. The project implemented training in media literacy skills, and has been very successful in engaging both school and youth services librarians. OLIS has partnered with GSLIS on associated programming for the project, and will continue the partnership after the grant concludes. OLIS and GSLIS are also exploring the creation of a statewide continuing education advisory council to facilitate a systematic, statewide approach to professional development for librarians.

C. Massachusetts Library System (MLS) Strategic Plan

Ms. Mellor was invited by MLS to attend their November annual meeting and kick-off for its new strategic plan. The three main goals of the MSL strategic plan include member support services and future readiness, marketing and communications, and developing a co-creator culture. These goal include new strategies for public libraries to build interactive community relations.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislation

i. Federal & State Legislative Updates

Ms. Reynolds stated there are no legislative updates to report. Mr. Viall will attend a meeting on December 19 on the legislative outlook, and anticipates receiving an overview of legislative priorities.

B. Policy Review Committee

The Policy Review Committee had no report.

C. Library Construction Regulations Review

The Library Construction Regulations Review Committee had no report.

D. State Aid Formula Review Committee

Proposed recommendations from the State Aid Formula Review Committee were presented to the LBRI by Mr. Viall and Ms. Mellor as New Business.

VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

There were no board member reports.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was discussed by the board.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. State Aid Review Committee: Presentation of Recommendations

Mr. Viall and Ms. Mellor presented the State Aid Formula Review Committee's report and recommendations, and extended their thanks to LBRI members and library community members for their service to the Committee. Committee members were Ms. Feldman, Mr. Bucci, and Mr. Garcia of the LBRI, as well as Providence Public Library Director, Mr. Jack Martin, and Mr. Wilder Arboleda, Community Development Manager of Central Falls. OLIS State Data Coordinator, Ms. Lauren Plews, was extended special thanks for the extensive library and municipal statistical data that she gathered and presented to the committee.

The State Aid Review Committee was charged with determining if the state aid formula warranted changes, and if so, what changes should be implemented.

Key points of the presentation were that Grant-in-Aid (GIA) funding for libraries is currently lower than the legislatively-mandated 25%, and that based on the current formula, affluent RI towns/cities receive more GIA funding than their poorer counterparts. Additionally, the report noted that state funding should benefit libraries that are not well funded by their municipalities, distressed communities already receive additional state funding due to their status, and that data reported by libraries is not consistent.

Ms. Drnach inquired about the procedure that should be followed by LBRI members now that the recommendations have been proposed for approval. Mr. Viall said that the proposed items would not require approval today, but that LBRI members should review the report prior to the January 2017 LBRI meeting. Motions may be made at the January meeting to adopt the report.

B. OLIS Mission Statement

The discussion of the OLIS Mission Statement was tabled because of time constraints, and will be added to the January 2017 LBRI meeting agenda.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2017, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, 2nd Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, 02908.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Mr. Garcia

Seconded by: Ms. Drnach

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.