

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
November 20, 2017
at the Department of Administration,
2nd Floor, Conference Room B,
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Attending: Melody Drnach, Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Louise Herrington-Bright, Rosita Hopper, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Thomas Viall

Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, John Bucci, Edward Garcia, Phyllis Humphrey, Alison Davis-Maxell, Phyllis Lynch, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Joan Ress Reeves, Robert Sloan

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

Guests: Ms. Sarah Hunicke, Past President, School Librarians of RI (SLRI)

Materials Distributed:

- Approved LBRI Schedule for 2017-2018, Revision 10/25/17

I. WELCOME

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

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the October 16, 2017 meeting

Moved by: Dr. Hopper

Seconded by: Ms. Reynolds

The meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

A. Cornucopia Annual Meeting

On November 2, Mr. Viall attended the annual Cornucopia meeting at the RI State House with Ms. DiMichele. The keynote speaker for the event was Christopher Bourret of the RI Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI). Mr. Bourret talked about the impact of literacy on diversity, and highlighted the relationship between RIFLI and libraries. Libraries often serve as a home base for RIFLI initiatives, and many of their programs are funded in conjunction with libraries.

B. Cranston Public Library 50th Anniversary Celebration, April 5, 2018

On behalf of Mr. Garcia, Mr. Viall announced that Cranston Public Library will celebrate its 50th its Anniversary on April 5, 2018, and members of the Board are invited.

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

A. Ongoing

i. Enterprise Technology Systems and Services (ETSS)

ETSS is the umbrella agency that includes OLIS, the Division of Information Technology (DoIT), and the Office of Digital Excellence. On November 10, Mr. Bijay Kumar, the state's Chief Information Officer/Chief Digital Officer, convened a meeting of all ETSS employees at RI College. During the retreat, OLIS was recognized by the Director of the Department of Administration (DOA), Michael DiBiase, for the work that it performs, and the value it adds to the DOA. Ms. Mellor gave a presentation about OLIS.

ii. OLIS Website

OLIS is redesigning its website to make it more user-friendly and easier to navigate. During the scan for the new strategic plan, OLIS received comments about the difficulty of locating information on the website due to the large volume of information. A comprehensive review and reorganization of the website is underway. The new website will use the state template, and meet all ADA Section 508 accessibility requirements.

iii. Rhode Island Reads

OLIS is a partner in Governor Raimondo's Third Grade Reading Challenge, "Rhode Island Reads." OLIS will participate in a social media campaign to support the initiative during the week of November 27 using the hashtag #RIREADS.

iv. RI Statewide Online Catalog Outage

Because of a power outage from a weather event on October 29 that affected power at Ocean State Libraries (OSL) offices in Warwick, the statewide online library catalog, Sierra, was inaccessible to RI libraries and library users for three days. In addition, OSL facilitates internet and wireless internet services to public libraries, so these services were also unavailable in many of RI's public libraries. OSL's role in internet access services is a result of centralized filtering and data collection to meet federal requirements for erate funding and data collection. OLIS will be working with OSL to mitigate the potential for large scale disruption of library services in the future.

B. Studio Rhode

i. Westerly Public Library Studio Rhode Grand Opening

Westerly Public Library held a grand opening for their Studio Rhode project 'The Wilcox Boiler Room.' The studio was named for a funding patron who was a boiler maker by trade. The grant for the Studio Rhode project was provided by the Carnegie Foundation with support from Apple Computers, the RI Office of Innovation, and OLIS. The foci of the studio are digital storytelling, animation, pop up museums, and traditional fiber arts.

C. Continuing Education (CE)

i. Adult Correctional Institution (ACI)

Ms. DiMichele reported that OLIS offered a CE event highlighting Department of Corrections (DOC) programs to connect families with incarcerated family members through reading. The event showcased the Books Beyond program that allows an inmate to record themselves reading a book to their child. The book, and its subsequent recording, are then given to the inmate's child. LBRI member Ken Findlay administers the Books Beyond Initiative, and was a featured speaker. The Director of the DOC, A. T. Wall, welcomed attendees.

Ms. Mellor reported that OLIS is investigating how to support the Books Beyond program, including providing online resources for libraries. The RI Coalition for Domestic Violence will support the purchase of books for additional programming. Dr. Hopper and Ms. Reynolds attended the event, and noted that the program preserves the privacy of children, and has attracted many volunteers.

D. Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA)

On October 30-November 1, Ms. Mellor attended the COSLA meeting in Nashville, TN. Speakers included the new director of the American Library Association's (ALA) Washington office, Kathi Kromer. ALA's Washington office coordinates the annual National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) event, and the director discussed anticipated future NLLD changes. Some future changes include moving the event to earlier in the year to ensure that Congress will be in session during the event, and making library advocacy an all-year effort. The Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Dr. Kathryn Matthew also spoke, and reported that the IMLS is finalizing the framework for their new strategic plan.

COSLA members discussed the challenges in acquiring eBooks and databases at affordable rates and through standardized platforms. The Council of State Library Agencies in the Northeast (COSLINE) is gathering data on the purchase of statewide databases by state library agencies in the northeast, and will evaluate the possibility and merits of regional purchasing.

Members also discussed the upcoming 2020 US Census, which will be conducted online, and the potential for this to create a burden for local libraries as many people may need library computers and assistance to complete the census.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Federal & State Legislative Updates

i. Reauthorization of Museum and Library Services Act (MLSA)

Senator Reed's office is drafting the bill to reauthorize MLSA. The current MLSA expired in 2016 but is still funded. MLSA was largely rewritten in 2010; the 2017 changes will be minor, and increase the focus on digital literacy, additional support for tribal and indigenous libraries, partnerships with federal agencies, and the use of standardized tools to maximize the effectiveness of data collection.

VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

No board member reports.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board Strategy for Support of School Libraries

Sarah Hunicke, Past President of School Librarians of RI (SLRI), reported on the recent closure of East Greenwich High School's Library, and activities that SLRI is taking to promote professional librarians in RI schools.

SLRI surveyed school librarians to determine the state of school libraries in Spring 2016. The data indicated a downward trend in school library funding, and professional librarian stewardship for school libraries. Responses indicated that 50% of school libraries had a drop in their budget, digital resources are underfunded, and 80% of librarians had a fixed schedule. A fixed schedule does not allow for student collaboration or library management. Many RI school systems require libraries to work in several schools, and school librarians are often tasked with jobs that are not related to librarianship. Most RI schools do not have a full-time professional librarian.

School accreditation is not affected by the lack of professional librarians in public schools, and the RI Department of Education (RIDE) does not have guidelines in place for school libraries. SLRI is seeking representation on the RI Board of Education from RIDE, and requested that RIDE adopt The American Association of School Librarians Standards. SLRI met with the current RIDE Commissioner, Dr. Ken Wagner, to address the challenges facing school libraries in RI.

SLRI is promoting awareness of the importance of school libraries in a child's education by producing a short video about school librarianship, slated for release in January 2018.

Mr. Viall advised that the LBRI should address RIDE representation on the LBRI, conduct letter writing campaigns, and promote public awareness of the need for school librarians.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Minimum Standards for Institutional Libraries

Ms. Mellor reported that the Minimum Standards for Institutional Libraries require a major revision. The regulations have not been revised in over twenty years, and should be revised not only for language, but also to include current technologies and processes. OLIS currently provides state aid to the ACI and the RI School for the Deaf. Formerly, OLIS also provided aid to the RI Veterans Home, the Training School, and the state hospital.

Ms. Mellor recommended that OLIS revise the document for review by a LBRI committee. Mr. Findlay, Ms. Drnach, and Ms. Reynolds volunteered to participate in a committee to review the revised document, and submit it to the full LBRI for approval and adoption. Work will commence in early 2018.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Viall thanked OLIS staff and the LBRI, for their service during the past year.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2017, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, 2nd Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, 02908.

The February 2018 meeting of the LBRI has been rescheduled to February 5 because the previous date was a federal holiday. Updated LBRI Meeting Schedules for the 2017-2018 session were provided to LBRI members.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Ms. Drnach

Seconded by: Mr. Findlay

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.