

## LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on  
December 18, 2017  
at the Department of Administration,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Conference Room B,  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

**Members Attending:** Cristina Amedeo, John Bucci, Melody Drnach, Edward Garcia, Rosita Hopper, Phyllis Lynch, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Rose Ellen Reynolds, Robert Sloan, Thomas Viall

**Members Absent:** Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Louise Herrington-Bright, Phyllis Humphrey, Alison Davis-Maxell, Joan Ress Reeves

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

**Guests:** Dr. Dzialo

**Materials Distributed:**

None

### I. WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS:

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

### II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the November 20, 2017 meeting

**Moved by:** Ms. Reynolds

**Seconded by:** Dr. Hopper

The meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

### III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

#### A. Senator Reed, Net Neutrality Press Conference

Senator Reed held a press conference at Providence Public Library in anticipation of the vote by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on Net Neutrality, scheduled for December 14. Mr. Viall, Mr. Garcia, and Ms. Mellor were in attendance.

Senator Reed wrote a letter to the Chair of the FCC, signed by other US Senators, including Senator Whitehouse, opposing plans to deregulate the internet by repealing Net Neutrality rules.

Board members were encouraged to thank Rhode Island's senators for their support of Net Neutrality.

## B. National Library Legislative Day (NLLD)

National Library Legislative Day will be May 7-8, 2018, in Washington DC. The event will be held at the Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel in Washington, and more information will be forthcoming in 2018. Members interested in attending may notify Mr. Viall, Ms. Mellor, or Ms. Andrews. Registration for the event is open.

## IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

### A. Ongoing

#### i. Library Delivery Statistics, Item Count

During the last week of October, OLIS ran its biannual delivery system item count. The count provides a snapshot of how many items are moving through the interlibrary delivery system. The count returned a total of slightly over 42,000 items circulated that week. Public libraries circulated the most items during the count, approximately 40,000 items during the week.

Delivery item counts have historically been lower in the fall count, and higher in the spring count. OLIS attributes the lower fall count to academic and school library borrowing not yet reaching full capacity. Extrapolating from the current count, RI libraries will circulate around 2.1 million items this fiscal year

#### ii. Interlibrary Delivery Contract, Request for Proposal (RFP)

A Request for Proposals (RFP) for the ILL delivery service has been posted through the state Purchasing Office; proposals are due by January 8. OLIS anticipates awarding the new contract by April 1 to allow the selected vendor a three-month period to prepare. The current delivery contract with Optima Courier is a three-year contract that expires on June 30, 2018. More information about the RFP results should be available at the February LBRI meeting.

#### iii. Public Library Annual Report

In the next two weeks, OLIS will post Fiscal Year 2017 Public Library Annual Report data on the OLIS website. Additionally, the data will be submitted to the federal government in the coming months. Libraries use the data to support requests for local library funding, and to research staff salaries.

#### iv. Fiscal Year 2019 Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Funding

Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 GIA funding is based on the annual survey information collected for FY17. OLIS anticipates FY19 GIA to be level-funded, as it has been historically, except for FY16 when there was a \$900,000 increase. In FY17, library appropriations and expenditures amounted to approximately \$35 million from RI municipalities, and \$3.5 million from library endowments. Level funding of \$8.6 million in state FY19 will result in RI cities and towns receiving 22.3% of local appropriations and expenditures, down from 22.8% in FY18.

## B. Summer Meals Program

Ms. Mellor asked Mr. Garcia and Ms. DiMichele to report on how the Cranston Public Library, and OLIS respectively, are engaging with the RI Summer Food Service Program, which is coordinated by the RI Department of Education (RIDE). Cranston offered meals at the Knightsville Branch in 2017. There was an excellent response from the community, and the vendor was responsive with supplying culturally-appropriate meals for the community. West Warwick Public Library also hosted the program in 2017. Ms. DiMichele reported that OLIS Youth Services Coordinator, Danielle Margarida, is working with RIDE's Outreach Coordinator and Project Manager to bring the Summer Food Service Program to more libraries with qualifying populations.

## C. Rhode Island Reads Campaign

Rhode Island Reads Campaign for Third-Grade Reading sponsored a social media promotion at the end of November using the hashtag #RIREADS. It was a very successful effort thanks to the participation of librarians at public and school libraries. The hashtag trended highly on Twitter, and many of RI's state officials engaged in the effort on their social media platforms. The campaign ran from November 27 to December 1.

## D. OLIS Website

Ms. Mellor reported that OLIS has been working on a redesign and reorganization of its website over the past nine months. The new website will tentatively launch in early January. A new "Residents" section has been added to the site so that Rhode Islanders can find library information more easily. A social media feed is included in the Residents' section to capture content from RI libraries, and to provide a central place to view library news and programming from around the state.

OLIS has purchased a subscription to LibGuides, a content management system, to curate resources for various OLIS services and facilitate the process for posting those resources. The platform is used by libraries across the country, which enables sharing of common resources.

## E. Library of RI (LORI) Annual Certification

The Library of RI (LORI) annual certification will begin on January 9.

# V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

## A. Federal & State Legislative Updates

### i. Net Neutrality

On December 14, 2018, the FCC voted to repeal Net Neutrality rules. The internet is now viewed as a free market enterprise, and will not be regulated as a public utility.

Mr. Viall reported that opponents of the FCC ruling will seek legislation to overturn the ruling. Mr. Garcia cautioned that legislative efforts may not be immediate because legislators will be working on other issues.

Ms. Mellor discussed the press release from Senator Reed's office about the FCC's vote, and Mr. Viall noted that delivery of information over the internet, not internet access, will be impacted by the FCC's action.

Mr. Garcia reported that RI Attorney General Kilmartin, is considering joining with other states in a lawsuit against the FCC, and recommended that the LBRI write a letter to him encouraging RI to join the lawsuit. Mr. Viall replied that the LBRI should allow the Attorney General time to join the suit, and if not joined by early January, issue the letter.

**B. Federal Budget**

Ms. Mellor reported that the continuing resolution for the current year federal budget was passed on December 8, but will expire on December 22. Without a budget, the federal government will shut down, which could impact grant payments to OLIS from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

**VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

**A. Mr. Viall**

Mr. Viall reported that the Rhode Island Library Association (RILA), the Coalition of Library Advocates (COLA), Cornucopia of Rhode Island (CORI), and the New England Library Association (NELA) now offer a joint membership option to members. The joint membership is offered with a discount, and is available online.

<http://www.rilibraries.org/joint-memberships>

**B. Dr. Hopper**

Dr. Hopper reported that she attended a gallery talk by David Ferriero, 10<sup>th</sup> Archivist of the United States, at the RI State Archives on December 14. Topics discussed were the new fully-digital Obama Presidential Library, and the proposed new home for the RI State Archives.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. School Library Issues**

Mr. Viall welcomed LBRI member, Dr. Phyllis Lynch, of the RI Department of Education (RIDE), and thanked her for her attendance.

Mr. Viall reported that Sarah Hunicke of the School Librarians of RI (SLRI) organization attended the November 2017 LBRI meeting to report on school libraries, and data gathered by SLRI in 2017. The data reflected that school librarianship, and access to school libraries, is trending downward in RI public schools.

Mr. Viall advised that the Board's goal is to determine what it can do to help preserve school libraries, and professional librarian leadership for them. He noted that there is no requirement in the RIDE Basic Education Program (BEP) Standards governing RI school libraries or professional school librarians. The Board is seeking ways to respond to efforts by communities to eliminate or reduce school librarians and libraries, and would like to see

more substantial language in the BEP that addresses the need for professional school librarians and school libraries.

Dr. Lynch reported that the BEP Standards are written broadly to allow local governments to structure their school programming to fit the needs of their individual communities, and that they include requirements for library media education.

#### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

#### **IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

#### **X. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2018, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Conference Room C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, 02908.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by:** Mr. Garcia

**Seconded by:** Dr. Hopper

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.