

**MINUTES**  
**STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING**  
**March 19, 2020**

The State Library Board met via conference call on March 19, 2020.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The business meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Julia Ward, Executive Secretary to the State Librarian's Office, called the roll. State Library Board members present were: Ms. Laurie Gemmill Arp, President; Mr. Michael Merz, Vice-President; Dr. Tracy Najera; Mr. Alan Hall; Ms. Janet Carleton; and Ms. Beverly Cain, Secretary.

Visitors present were: Maggie O'Shea, Ohio Attorney General's Office; Debbie McDonald, AWE; Christine Morris, OhioNET; Nancy Kirkpatrick, OhioNET; and Michelle Francis, Ohio Library Council.

State Library staff members present were: Bill Morris, Julia Ward, Kirstin Krumsee, Marsha McDevitt-Stredney, David Green, Cindy Boyden, Janet Ingraham Dwyer, Anne Libby, Evan Struble, Erin Kelsey, Penelope Shumaker, Anne Kennedy, Mandy Simon, Jen Johnson, and Stephanie Herriott.

Ms. Arp explained that to avoid the spread of COVID-19, the Board was meeting virtually. She stated that she would like to add a statement from Mr. Merz to the agenda. Mr. Merz provided a background for the legality of the virtual meeting. He explained that there is a question of whether or not the March 13 letter from Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost allowing public boards to meet virtually is legal. Mr. Merz explained that the statute in question is the Open Meetings Act which requires all public business be conducted in open meetings so that the public may attend. He stated that all State Library Board members are present via teleconference and the public is able to participate in the teleconference. Mr. Merz suggested to the Board that everyone be very careful to identify themselves to allow the Executive Secretary to identify everyone by name in the minutes. He added that the Board cannot be sure that the Attorney General's advice will be confirmed if challenged in court. Ms. Arp stated that the Board is trying to be responsible and lawful.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Merz moved (M-1-20) that the minutes of the December 10, 2019 Board meeting be approved.

Dr. Najera seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote with Ms. Arp, Mr. Merz, Dr. Najera, Mr. Hall, and Ms. Carleton voting "aye."

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no Public Participation.

**LSTA REPORT**

There was no LSTA Report.

### **STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

Ms. Cain thanked the Board for being wonderful, supportive, and nothing but a pleasure to work with. Ms. Arp thanked Ms. Cain for her dedication. Mr. Merz said he has enjoyed working with Ms. Cain and hoped to stay in touch. Dr. Najera echoed the other members' sentiments and said that Ms. Cain's steady hand and leadership has been a blessing. Mr. Hall thanked Ms. Cain and said it has been an honor and pleasure working with her.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Appointment of Interim Executive Director**

Ms. Cain explained to the Board that with her upcoming retirement on March 31, there is a need for an Interim Executive Director for the State Library. Ms. Arp recommended that Bill Morris be appointed as Interim Executive Director because of his long tenure with the State Library and his experience with and knowledge of the Legislature and public libraries.

Mr. Merz moved (M-2-20) that the Board appoint William Morris as Interim Executive Director effective April 1, 2020 until a new State Librarian is in place, with an increase of approximately 4% above his current salary.

Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote with Ms. Arp, Mr. Merz, Dr. Najera, Mr. Hall, and Ms. Carleton voting "aye."

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items for discussion, Dr. Najera moved (M-3-20) that the Board stand adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Mr. Merz seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote with Ms. Arp, Mr. Merz, Dr. Najera, Mr. Hall, and Ms. Carleton voting "aye."

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President

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Secretary

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