

MINUTES
STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
May 20, 2021

The State Library Board met via GoToMeeting virtual meeting on May 20, 2021.

CALL TO ORDER

The business meeting was called to order at 10:01 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; Dr. Tracy Najera, Vice-President; Mr. Alan Hall; Ms. Janet Carleton; Ms. Theresa Fredericka; and Ms. Wendy Knapp, Secretary.

Visitors present were: Lydia Arko Zigler, Ohio Attorney General's Office; Will Reed, Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled; Michelle Francis, Ohio Library Council; Christine Morris, OhioNET; and Don Yarman, Ohio Public Library Information Network.

State Library staff members present were: Julia Ward, Jay Miley, Evan Struble, Anne Libby, David Green, Elissa Lawrence, Josh Jones, Nicole Merriman, Kirstin Krumsee, Stephanie Herriott, Tracy Grimm, Marsha McDevitt-Stredney, Erin Kelsey, Michael Postlethwait, John Stewart, Eric Maynard, Cindy Boyden, Ann Watson, Shannon Kupfer-Trausch, Mandy Simon, and Phil Willke.

Dr. Najera read the following statement to be entered into the minutes:

This is a meeting of the Board of the State Library of Ohio.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 12(A) of Substitute House Bill 404 as now in effect, and considering the surge in COVID-19 infections in the State of Ohio presently occurring, the State Library Board has determined that its meeting of May 20, 2021, shall be conducted by videoconference.

Not less than twenty-four hours prior to the scheduled time of convening the meeting (10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 20, 2021), the Board has provided notification of the meeting to the public and to any media that have requested notification of a meeting, the methods by which any person could determine the time, location, and manner by which the meeting will be conducted. Notice was given by posting on the State Library's public website, library.ohio.gov, that the regular meeting of the Board would be held May 20, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Public could "Join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone [at the following link]: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/928373581>."

This meeting is not convened to deal with an emergency matter and no part of this meeting will constitute a "hearing" as defined in Ohio Revised Code § 119.01 or other hearing at which a person may present written or oral testimony on a matter before the public body.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Fredericka moved (M-9-21) that the minutes of the March 18, 2021 Board meeting be approved.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation.

LSTA REPORT

Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled

Evan Struble, Associate State Librarian for Library Development, introduced Will Reed, the manager of the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled. Mr. Reed presented the Board with a funding request for the OLBDP program. He explained that the program serves nearly 10,000 patrons in Ohio. OLBDP acts as the regional library for the state of Ohio as part of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled of the Library of Congress (NLS). OLBDP receives no local funding; their entire program is funded with state and federal funds. Mr. Reed explained that OLBDP provides Braille and talking books to Ohioans. He emphasized that the books that they provide are critical to patrons' quality of life, as was conveyed to OLBDP during the COVID-19 closure. 215,000 books were downloaded in 2020, compared to 146,000 in 2019. Ms. Arp asked if anything surprised Mr. Reed. Mr. Reed said he was surprised by the constant need for books. He said that OLBDP is working on a better emergency plan to address this should they need to close again in the future. Dr. Najera asked what kind of role OLBDP played in making sure technology was accessible. Mr. Reed explained that OLBDP works with subgranting agencies to help distribute equipment and provide extended collaborative support to local patrons with all kinds of services and information. He said that they want patrons with disabilities to visit their public libraries and will do anything they can to help make them welcoming spaces. Mr. Hall asked what funding other than the Public Library Fund (PLF) and LSTA funding OLBDP receives. Mr. Reed answered that they receive marginal donations, but the program relies on federal and state dollars. Ms. Carleton asked if funding will be diminished in the current budget. Mr. Struble replied that at this time, funding remains as presented to the Board.

Dr. Najera moved (M-10-21) that Federal Fiscal Year 2020 LSTA funds in the amount up to \$150,000 and Federal Fiscal Year 2021 LSTA funds in the amount up to \$84,000 be granted to the Cleveland Public Library to supplement the 5GBO Funds (ALI 350-605) for the operation of the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. Both of these are contingent upon the release of State Fiscal Year 2022 federal appropriations within ALI 350-601.

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

Libraries Connect Ohio Statewide Core Electronic Databases

Mr. Struble introduced Don Yarman, Executive Director of Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN). Mr. Yarman presented the funding request for the Libraries Connect Ohio (LCO) databases. He gave a brief history of LCO, which is a partnership of OPLIN, OhioLINK, INFOhio, and the State Library of Ohio that began seventeen years ago to provide online database access to Ohio library users. He said that he is proud of the efforts of the different library communities who have come together to keep this collaboration going and is grateful to the leadership of the State Library for bringing everyone to the table. Mr. Yarman explained that the pandemic cast a spotlight on how necessary these resources are. He said that some resource use fell, but not as much as may have been expected with libraries being closed. He continued that some resource use, such as Transparent Language and Chilton Library, actually increased. Ms. Carleton commented that she appreciated the history of LCO and hopes the program can continue. Mr. Yarman explained that team comes together every five years to evaluate the packages and release an Intent to Negotiate. Ms. Fredericka asked Mr. Yarman to highlight the economy of scale. Mr. Yarman replied that while it's difficult to get specific pricing from vendors if libraries were to offer their own databases, he knows that individual libraries who could afford the licensing collectively would pay more than the current statewide service does. Mr. Hall asked if there are other states who have statewide contracts like this.

Mr. Yarman answered that most states have some kind of statewide agreement with vendors such as EBSCO, ProQuest, and Gale. Ohio is special in that it has three different sources of revenue to provide the databases. Ms. Arp said that she appreciated the appendix Mr. Yarman provided and to see the effect of the pandemic on usage.

Ms. Carleton moved (M-11-21) that a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant in the amount of \$1,500,000 be awarded to The Ohio State University for the Libraries Connect Ohio (OhioLINK, OPLIN, INFOhio) Statewide Core Electronic Databases. For the period of July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021, \$1,000,000 will be awarded from FFY2020 funds. \$500,000 of the grant amount will be funded from FFY2021 funds for the period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. Both of these are contingent upon the release of SFY2022 appropriations from ALI 350-601.

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

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Ms. Knapp provided the Board with some updates on the State Library. First, she shared that the Executive Team is working on a phased-in plan for staff to return to the building. The building will open to the public after Labor Day and meeting rooms will open in 2022. She explained that the State Library is using an abundance of caution to keep staff and patrons safe. Next, she shared that due to rule changes from the Federal Communications Commission, the Emergency Connectivity Fund will be able to be used for prospective purchases, which is a relief to many libraries. Kirstin Krumsee, Library Consultant, gave the Board an update on the 2020 Census. She explained that the Census Bureau takes steps to ensure the privacy of participants. One method used historically was swapping households in reports. As of late, the Bureau has not thought that method was sufficient and has employed differential privacy. Ms. Krumsee explained that it will ensure that state level data remains correct, but lower level data accuracy will be affected. Noise, or artificial information, will be inserted into the data. She emphasized that it will likely create a problem across all fields that use Census data, particularly libraries. She said that Public Library Fund distribution and strategic planning are two areas that will be made more difficult with differential privacy. Dr. Najera thanked Ms. Krumsee for her work on the Census. She asked if that data set needs to be used for fund allocation. Ms. Krumsee replied that it isn't clear, that there is only one data set that will be linked to specific populations, and it will be difficult to tell how much noise has been added. Ms. Knapp explained that we know that the Census Bureau is going to do something to protect privacy in the data sets, but not exactly what it will be. She said that letters of concern are due May 28 ahead of the Bureau's vote in June. Ms. Knapp explained that once that data is set, a certain margin of error will be known, but it is unknown which way it will go. Ms. Arp asked what could be done ahead of time, if the Board could send a letter of concern to the Census Bureau. Dr. Najera said she was in favor of signing a letter of concern and the Board agreed. Ms. Knapp said that she will draft a letter for the Board, and Julia Ward, Executive Secretary to the State Librarian's Office, will email it to the Census Bureau.

Budget Update

Ms. Knapp gave the Board an update on the current state of the State Library biennial budget. She explained that she testified before the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee on behalf of the State Library. She received no questions from the Committee. Ms. Knapp said that she has been given no indication that there will be a restoration of General Revenue Funds (GRF), which is concerning. She explained that the Office of Budget and Management will likely increase the State Library GRF appropriations to accommodate staff raises. Ms. Arp asked if other agencies received funding increases. Ms. Knapp explained that some have, and funding levels varied from agency to

agency. She stressed that the consistent cutting of the State Library's budget is debilitating. Ms. Arp asked if the Governmental Affairs Coordinator position will be filled. Ms. Knapp explained that it will not, as the State Library's current staff level is frozen. Dr. Najera asked how the Board can help. Ms. Knapp replied that they can contact their senators. Ms. Fredericka commented that her legislators seemed confused about State Library funding. Dr. Najera commented that we need to be aware that the state is performing ahead of estimates in revenues; it is not an issue of not having the funding. Mr. Hall mentioned that legislators are confused about who is getting what funding. Dr. Najera shared that the Senate is scheduled to come out with their version of the budget bill on June 1 and will vote it out on June 10 so that it can go to Conference Committee.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update

Mr. Struble presented the Board with an update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). He explained that State Library staff learned more about how funds are to be spent at the IMLS Grants to States Convening. Ohio is receiving a little more than \$4.5 million in ARPA funds. It was emphasized to states that the funds should be used to support large-scale initiatives. Mr. Struble said that State Library programs will be as multi-library-type as possible. The first initiative is a 3% subsidy to statewide delivery to help absorb the service cost increase to libraries. The next initiative will have an emphasis on outreach. Dr. Najera asked if the State Library will receive an administrative allocation. Mr. Struble replied that the State Library can take up to 4% of the award in administrative costs. Ms. Arp stated that messaging should be clear that ARPA funds are not extra funds that the State Library has available to use for operations. Mr. Struble explained that there will be press releases that will explain what ARPA funds can be used for and an ARPA-dedicated listserv. Ms. Fredericka commented that subsidizing delivery is an excellent example of what the State Library does in regards to its mission to help libraries at every turn. Mr. Struble said that messaging will be bold and direct. Mr. Hall commented that subsidizing delivery is a great use of funds.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

State Subsidies

Mr. Struble presented the Board with the funding request for state subsidies for the four Regional Library Systems (RLS). He gave the Board highlights of the programs that the RLS have provided to its members over the past year, including collaborative events. He explained that these funds are used for staffing, overhead, and programming. Mr. Struble shared that this fall, they will host a collaborative emerging technology symposium.

Dr. Najera moved (M-12-21) that State Fiscal Year 2022 General Revenue Funds in an amount up to \$125,000 be granted to the Northeast Ohio Regional Library System (NEO-RLS) for operations from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, contingent upon release of State Fiscal Year 2022 General Revenue Funds within ALI 350-502.

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

Ms. Fredericka moved (M-13-21) that State Fiscal Year 2022 General Revenue Funds in an amount up to \$125,000 be granted to the Northwest Library District (NORWELD) for operations from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, contingent upon release of State Fiscal Year 2022 General Revenue Funds within ALI 350-502.

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

Dr. Najera moved (M-14-21) that State Fiscal Year 2022 General Revenue Funds in an amount up to \$125,000 be granted to the Southeast Ohio Regional Library System (SERLS) for operations from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, contingent upon release of State Fiscal Year 2022 General Revenue Funds within ALI 350-502.

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

Ms. Carleton moved (M-15-21) that State Fiscal Year 2022 General Revenue Funds in an amount up to \$125,000 be granted to Southwest and Neighboring Libraries (SWON Libraries) for operations from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, contingent upon release of State Fiscal Year 2022 General Revenue Funds within ALI 350-502.

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

Mr. Struble presented the Board with the funding request for state subsidies for the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (OLBPD). He reminded the Board that the information presented earlier about OLBPD was about the program in its entirety, including the state pass through funds.

Ms. Fredericka moved (M-16-21) that State Fiscal Year 2022 5GBO Funds in an amount up to \$1,274,294 be granted to the Cleveland Public Library for the operation of the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, contingent upon release of State Fiscal Year 2022 5GBO Funds within ALI 350-605.

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

OPLIN Board Appointments

Mr. Yarman presented recommendations for appointments to the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) Board. He said that the Board seeks to maintain diversity of representation from geographic areas, size, and expertise areas. The new appointees will help bring more technology expertise to the Board.

Mr. Hall moved (M-17-21) that Angela Baldree and Garalynn Tomas be re-appointed to the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) Board of Trustees for a second term from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024, and Ben Bolbach and Bill Lane be appointed to the OPLIN Board of Trustees for an initial term from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024.

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

Election of Officers

Ms. Knapp explained that nominations are needed for the offices of President and Vice-President to fill two-year terms. As Ms. Arp has served a full two-year term, she is not eligible to be President again this biennium.

Ms. Carleton moved (M-18-21) that Tracy Najera be nominated for the office of President of the State Library Board for the biennial term beginning July 1, 2021.

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

Ms. Carleton moved (M-19-21) that the nominations be closed, a unanimous ballot be cast for Tracy Najera, and that she be declared elected to that office for the biennial term beginning July 1, 2021.

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

Ms. Fredericka moved (M-20-21) that Alan Hall be nominated for the office of Vice-President of the State Library Board for the biennial term beginning July 1, 2021.

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

Ms. Fredericka moved (M- 21-21) that the nominations be closed, a unanimous ballot be cast for Alan Hall, and that he be declared elected to that office for the biennial term beginning July 1, 2021.

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

Revise Board Meeting Schedule

Ms. Knapp explained that due to the ARPA competitive grants that the State Library will be awarding, it would be helpful to move the October 21, 2021 meeting of the State Library Board to September 16, 2021. Ms. Carleton asked if the Board will be meeting in person. Lydia Arko Zigler, Assistant Attorney General at the Ohio Attorney General's Office, said that the provision that allows for virtual meetings may be renewed in legislation, and that there is talk that it will happen in the budget bill. Dr. Najera said there will be more clarification after July 1.

Mr. Hall moved (M-22-21) that the October 21, 2021 meeting of the State Library Board be rescheduled to September 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Najera moved (M-23-21) to enter into Executive Session to discuss the compensation of a public employee pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(1).

Ms. Carleton seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote with Ms. Arp, Dr. Najera, Mr. Hall, Ms. Carleton, and Ms. Fredericka voting "aye." The Board moved into Executive Session at 11:41 a.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 12:07 p.m.

Ms. Carleton moved (M-24-21) that per HB 292, a general wage increase for State of Ohio E-1 employees of 3% is granted effective with the first day of the pay period that includes April 11, 2021, and allows for increases up to 3% for other exempt state employees with Board approval; therefore, the State Library Board, in accordance with the duties assigned by Ohio Revised Code Section 3375, approves adjusting the compensation of the State Librarian to one that reflects a 3% salary increase beginning with the pay period that includes April 11, 2021.

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

Mr. Hall moved (M-25-21) that the State Library Board, in accordance with the duties assigned by the Ohio Revised Code, approves adjusting the compensation of the State Librarian to one that reflects a 3% salary increase beginning with the pay period that includes July 1, 2021, contingent upon the update of the salary tables in the Ohio Revised Code 124.152 to include a 3% increase for all E-1 employees beginning on the first day of the pay period that includes July 1, 2021 (parity increase).

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion, Mr. Hall moved (M-26-21) that the Board stand adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

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

President

Secretary

WJK/jmw