

MINUTES
STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
May 28, 2020

The State Library Board met via GoToMeeting virtual meeting on May 28, 2020.

CALL TO ORDER

The business meeting was called to order at 10:04 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 Mr. William Morris, Acting Secretary.

Visitors present were: Maggie O'Shea, Ohio Attorney General's Office; Will Reed, Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled; Theresa Fredericka, INFOhio; Nancy Kirkpatrick, OhioNET; Wendy Knapp, Indiana State Library; Christine Morris, OhioNET; Erica Clay, INFOhio; Don Yarman, Ohio Public Library Information Network; Debbie McDonald, AWE Learning; and Michelle Francis, Ohio Library Council.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Merz moved (M-13-20) that the minutes of the April 17, 2020 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."

Mr. Merz asked that the following statement be entered into the minutes:

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

The method of access of this meeting was given to the public on Thursday, May 21, 2020, by posting on the Library's website at library.ohio.gov. This included internet address of the meeting, meeting access code, and phone number for access:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/846377821>

United States: +1 (786) 535-3211

Access Code: 846-377-821

The meeting is being held electronically pursuant to authority granted by the General Assembly in Amended Substitute H.B. 197 in that it is occurring during the period of the emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020.

By choosing to conduct the meeting over the internet by GoToMeeting technology, the Board believes it has ensured that the public can observe and hear the discussions and deliberations of all the members of the public body, whether the member is participating in person or electronically.

This meeting does not include a “public hearing” as that term is used in Ohio Revised Code Ch. 119

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation.

LSTA REPORT

Libraries Connect Ohio Statewide Core Electronic Databases

Evan Struble, Associate State Librarian for Library Development, 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, and INFOhio with the State Library of Ohio that started sixteen years ago to provide online database access to Ohio library users. He emphasized how library buildings being closed the last few months have highlighted how essential access to this premium online content is.

Mr. Merz moved (M-14-20) 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, 2020 – September 30, 2020, \$1,000,000 will be awarded from FFY2019 funds. \$500,000 of the grant amount will be funded from FFY2020 funds for the period of July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, contingent upon the release of SFY2021 appropriations from ALI 350-601.

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."

Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled

Mr. Struble introduced Will Reed, the manager of the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (OLBPD). Mr. Reed presented the Board with a funding request for the OLBPD program. Mr. Reed explained that the funds provide crucial audio and Braille books to Ohioans. OLBPD works with the Library of Congress and the State Library to provide the service. Ten thousand Ohioans across the state are served by OLBPD. Ms. Arp asked if the number of patrons has increased since his time there. Mr. Reed explained that OLBPD is working on outreach to spread the word about the program. He said overall, the numbers are steady. Ms. Arp asked if OLBPD has partnered with organizations who already have outreach to at-risk or older populations. Mr. Reed responded that they are, and that they work together with partners at local, state, and federal levels.

Mr. Merz moved (M-15-20) that Federal Fiscal Year 2019 LSTA funds in an amount up to \$100,000 and Federal Fiscal Year 2020 funds in an amount up to \$134,000 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, 2020 – June 30, 2021. This is contingent upon the release of State Fiscal Year 2021 federal appropriations within ALI 350-601.

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."

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Budget Update

Jamie Pardee, Chief Fiscal Officer, provided the Board with an update on the State Library budget. Ms. Pardee explained that for non-General Revenue Funds, the State Library could allot 100% of State Fiscal Year 2021 budget. The funds will be allotted quarterly. For General Revenue Funds, the State Library sustained a 10.2% cut which was put into a holding account. Ms. Pardee explained that the State Library will assume that those funds will not be available for use. General Revenue funds must also be allotted quarterly. She said that purchases must be justified to the Office of Budget and Management (OBM). Mr. Hall asked how these changes will impact the State Library. Ms. Pardee answered that they will look at payroll first, then rent, then what is mission critical for the agency. Mr. Hall asked if the automation account used for SEO is paid with non-General Revenue Funds and Ms. Pardee verified that it was, as well as statewide delivery, LSTA, and OPLIN. Dr. Najera asked if State Library rent is able to be excluded from the 10.2% cut and Ms. Pardee said that it is not. Dr. Najera asked if federal funds are being sequestered, and Ms. Pardee said that they are not. Ms. Arp asked if the state can take LSTA funds and Ms. Pardee explained that they cannot take federal funds. Ms. Arp asked if they understand the State Library's pass-through fund accounts and Ms. Pardee said that OBM does understand.

Statewide Delivery Update

Ms. Pardee gave an update on statewide delivery to the Board. She explained that in order for the service to begin again, 85% of libraries need to be accepting deliveries. She said that June 29 is a realistic start date as Priority Dispatch needs a two-week lead time to prepare. Ms. Pardee explained that messages were sent to libraries asking them if they are available for delivery service. Sixty percent of libraries have responded, and none have said they are not going to be available for delivery service. Bill Morris, Interim Executive Director, told the Board that Ms. Pardee has done a phenomenal job managing delivery and budget issues during this difficult time. Ms. Arp asked if there is a concern about contaminated materials. She said she knows that Battelle is doing a study. Mr. Morris replied that the results of that study should be available soon.

CARES Act Update

Mr. Struble gave an update on the CARES Act funds that Ohio is receiving. He explained that \$50 million was allocated to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and that IMLS has allocated \$30 million of that to give to states based on population. Ohio is receiving \$1 million, which can be released on July 1. Mr. Struble said that the State Library is making the application process for mini-grants as easy as possible. He explained that what the money can be used for has been changing, but he knows libraries can use it for things like PPE, plexiglass shields, etc. Mr. Struble said that there is another allotment that was released that libraries can apply directly to IMLS to receive for larger-scale initiatives. Ms. Arp said that institutions that need the money the most sometimes have the hardest time getting it and asked about removing barriers. Mr. Struble explained that the application will likely just have a series of check boxes for libraries to complete.

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 Regional Library Systems (RLS). He reminded the Board that there are four RLS in Ohio. He said that they have been working hard and are willing to collaborate to provide better service to libraries. He explained that from January through March, the four RLS held 145 events with a mix of in-

person and online serving 2,564 library staff members. Mr. Struble gave some highlights from the various RLS individually. He said for collaborative programs, they are working together to bring the National Story Corps to Ohio and also are working to find a more cost-effective worker's compensation for libraries. Ms. Arp asked if there were bumps in the rollout of the shared continuing education calendar that they use. Mr. Struble explained that it didn't go as smoothly as they would like, and that it works well for half of the RLS.

Mr. Merz moved (M-16-20) that State Fiscal Year 2021 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, 2020 – June 30, 2021, contingent upon release of State Fiscal Year 2021 General Revenue Funds within ALI 350-502.

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."

Mr. Merz moved (M-17-20) that State Fiscal Year 2021 General Revenue Funds in an amount up to \$125,000 be granted to the Northwest Library District (NORWELD) for operations from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, contingent upon release of State Fiscal Year 2021 General Revenue Funds within ALI 350-502.

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."

Mr. Merz moved (M-18-20) that State Fiscal Year 2021 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, 2020 – June 30, 2021, contingent upon release of State Fiscal Year 2021 General Revenue Funds within ALI 350-502.

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

Mr. Merz moved (M-19-20) that State Fiscal Year 2021 General Revenue Funds in an amount up to \$125,000 be granted to Southwest and Neighboring Libraries (SWON Libraries) for operations from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, contingent upon release of State Fiscal Year 2021 General Revenue Funds within ALI 350-502.

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

Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled

Mr. Struble presented the Board with the funding request for state subsidies for the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled (OLBPD). He explained that these are pass-through funds for the State Library. Ms. Arp thanked Mr. Struble and State Library staff for their hard work with the program.

Mr. Merz moved (M-20-20) that State Fiscal Year 2021 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, 2020 – June 30, 2021, contingent upon release of State Fiscal Year 2021 5GBO Funds within ALI 350-605.

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."

OPLIN Board Appointments

Mr. Yarman presented recommendations for three re-appointments to the OPLIN Board. He explained that Board members can serve two terms and that these three nominees bring strength and different perspectives to the Board. Mr. Yarman said that the nominees come from different backgrounds and ensure diversity of size, experience, and location in the state.

Mr. Merz moved (M-21-20) that Tara Sidwell, Jamie Black, and Justin Bumbico be re-appointed to the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) Board of Trustees for a second term from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023.

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

Appointment of the State Librarian

Mr. Morris thanked Bradbury Miller Associates for their hard work during the search for the next State Librarian of Ohio. He thanked Ms. Ward for organizing much of the process and Stephanie Herriott, Human Resources Manager, for navigating the Governor's Office. The Board commended Mr. Morris on a job well done as Interim Executive Director.

Mr. Merz moved (M-22-20) that Wendy Knapp be appointed State Librarian of Ohio effective June 8, 2020.

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."

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion, Mr. Merz moved (M-23-20) that the Board stand adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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."

President

Secretary

WGM/jmw