

MINUTES
STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
September 16, 2021

The State Library Board met September 16, 2021, in the Boardroom of the State Library, 274 East First Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201.

CALL TO ORDER

The business meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Julia Ward, Executive Secretary to the State Librarian's Office, called the roll. State Library Board members present were: Dr. Tracy Nájera, President; Mr. Alan Hall, Vice-President; Ms. Laurie Gemmill Arp; Ms. Janet Carleton; Ms. Theresa Fredericka; and Ms. Wendy Knapp, Secretary.

Visitors present were: Karl Colón, Greene County Public Library; Paula Cicconetti, Holmes County Public Library; Jim Patterson, Ohio Attorney General's Office; Debbie McDonald, Transparent Language; Nancy Kirkpatrick, OhioNet; Don Yarman, Ohio Public Library Information Network; Angela O'Neal, Columbus Metropolitan Library; Angie Jameson, Chagrin Falls Schools; Jennifer Jones, Consortium of County Law Libraries; Michelle Francis, Ohio Library Council; Jay Smith, Ohio Library Council; Nick Tepe, Athens County Public Libraries; Kristen Peters, Wittenberg University, and Amy Pawlowski, OhioLINK.

State Library staff members present were: Julia Ward, Cindy Boyden, Evan Struble, Jay Miley, Jen Johnson, John Stewart, Penelope Shumaker, Anne Kennedy, Marsha McDevitt-Stredney, Erin Kelsey, Anne Libby, David Green, Peter Kukla, Janet Ingraham Dwyer, Jamie Pardee, Ann Watson, and Elissa Lawrence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Fredericka moved (M-31-21) that the minutes of the July 15, 2021, Board meeting be approved.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation.

LSTA REPORT

American Rescue Plan Act

ARPA Update

Evan Struble, Associate State Librarian for Library Development, presented the Board with an update about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). He explained that the State Library was awarded just over \$4.5 million in ARPA stimulus funds in late April. The State Library promised to allocate the funds in two primary ways: through the support of statewide initiatives and direct support to libraries in Ohio via grants. He shared that nearly \$1 million was used to offset the increase in cost of the statewide delivery service.

ARPA Outreach Grants

Mr. Struble gave the Board an overview of the ARPA Outreach Grant program. He explained that the grant initiative was created to help libraries respond to the COVID-19 pandemic through new or existing services. Mr. Struble said that the grant applications were scored by reviewers from various types of libraries as well as internal reviewers. He thanked all the reviewers who helped in the process. He explained that 45 proposals were recommended for approval by the Board. Of these

proposals, five libraries of different types from different geographic locations were chosen to share their projects with the Board.

Nick Tepe, Director of Athens County Public Libraries, presented the Board with a proposal to contract with Integrated Services for Behavioral Health to hire a licensed social worker. The social worker will be assigned to library locations to connect patrons to needed services, respond to patrons in crisis, and provide training and educational materials to help staff to better serve patrons. He explained that Athens County is the poorest county in the state, and that the library sees patrons in dire circumstances. Ms. Fredericka asked how the idea came about. Mr. Tepe explained that this type of service has been around in larger libraries for a while. Ms. Arp commented that she loved the idea and asked how the library will sustain the project after the grant period. Mr. Tepe replied that they will incorporate it into their normal operating budget after they prove that it works. Dr. Nájera asked if the library anticipates a problem finding social workers with the current shortage. Mr. Tepe explained that Integrated Services will provide the social worker.

Kristen Peters, Interim Library Director of Thomas Library at Wittenberg University, presented the Board with a proposal to purchase equipment for a lightboard studio to enable faculty, staff, and students to create instructional videos. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for Wittenberg's community to have access to equipment to enable them to create videos to reach remote learners. Ms. Peters explained how the technology would work to the Board. She said that the library also would hold workshops for the community on how to use the technology.

Angie Jameson, Library Media Specialist at Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools, presented the Board with a proposal to expand the library's digital collection for readers in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Ms. Jameson explained that ebooks and audiobooks will serve the students whether they are in-person or remote. The students will access the materials through the Sora app through OverDrive. She said that students in fourth through twelfth grade are already using the app with great success. She emphasized that the collection would help younger students not fall behind. Ms. Fredericka asked about the sustainability of the project. Ms. Jameson explained that some titles purchased will be available for 100 checkouts and some will be available forever. She said that she is working with Lake Geauga Computer Association to receive some outreach grants for further purchases.

Jennifer Jones, Executive Director of Consortium of County Law Libraries, presented the Board with a proposal to purchase a selection of Ohio-specific legal resources for use in all 88 county law libraries, providing access to necessary research materials for both attorneys and self-represented litigants. She said that the libraries range in size and type of law library, and they became available to the public in 2010. Ms. Jones explained that there have been ongoing cuts in funding that have affected their ability to purchase print titles. She expects a surge of in-person visits to the libraries from people who didn't file lawsuits during the worst of the pandemic. Ms. Jones explained that the topics of the resources will focus on legal topics that are very common, such as family law and elder law. Mr. Hall mentioned that other law libraries are also asking for electronic resources and there doesn't seem to be coordination among the libraries. Ms. Jones explained that vendors don't provide remote access for electronic resources except for ebooks. Research databases need to be accessed within the libraries. Ms. Arp commented that she was excited to see more legal entities apply for grants and she wanted to make sure there was no overlap with the other libraries. Ms. Jones assured her that there was not overlap. Ms. Fredericka asked how she found out about the ARPA Outreach Grants. Ms. Jones responded that she always knew about grants that the State Library offered, and after a meeting with Ms. Knapp and Mr. Struble realized that the law libraries were eligible to apply.

Karl Colón, Executive Director of Greene County Public Library, presented the Board with a proposal to provide in-person tutoring to kindergarten through twelfth grade students. The tutoring would be offered at least twice a week at seven community libraries in Greene County. Mr. Colón hopes that the tutoring will help with the learning gap that developed with the pandemic. He said that retired teachers and military will be among the tutors that will be used.

Mr. Struble thanked the speakers and asked the Board if they had any other questions or comments about the proposals before them. Ms. Fredericka asked if there were grants that were not able to be funded. Mr. Struble explained that the process was highly competitive and unfortunately there were projects that were not able to be funded. Ms. Arp commended the team on all of their hard work. She added that it was nice to see projects from law libraries and small libraries. Dr. Nájera said everyone did a great job with the grant program. Ms. Carleton commented on what a short period of time there was to do everything. She added that she was hopeful that maybe new libraries will now apply for LSTA grants. Mr. Struble noted that he and Cindy Boyden, LSTA Coordinator, have been making note of first-time applicants and were thinking of ways to grow them up in the future. Mr. Hall was concerned that public libraries who could have used CARES Act funds to purchase items did not do that and requested an ARPA Grant instead. He was also concerned that some libraries didn't offer as much direction for the use of the funds as other applicants. Mr. Struble explained that libraries provided the State Library with a lot of information in the application process so that they could ascertain that the items to be purchased were allowable and that there was a plan and timeline in place for the use of the funds. He assured Mr. Hall that while the project summaries provided to the Board did not contain all of the details of the grants, the State Library was certain that all the grantees had allowable plans for use of the funds. Mr. Hall commented that he had a problem with using funds to replace library materials that weren't returned during the pandemic. Mr. Struble assured Mr. Hall that the use of funds for that purpose is allowable, and that the Institute of Museum Library Services allowed libraries to define what outreach and the response to the pandemic meant to them. Ms. Fredericka followed up that allowing libraries to define their greatest need was a stark difference from other grant programs. Mr. Struble shared that this grant program was a once in a generation opportunity for libraries.

Ms. Arp moved (M-32-21) that FFY 2021 American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) / Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants be awarded to the indicated libraries and organizations in the indicated amounts for their corresponding Outreach projects, for the period of November 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022.

Akron-Summit County Public Library	\$	62,535
Athens County Public Library	\$	49,999
Brown County Public Library	\$	40,340
Cardington-Lincoln Public Library	\$	59,576
Carnegie Public Library	\$	26,300
Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools	\$	25,000
Chillicothe and Ross County Public Library	\$	69,119
Clermont County Law Library	\$	51,077
Columbus State Community College Library	\$	20,050
Cuyahoga County Public Library	\$	100,000
Dayton Metro Library	\$	89,585

Defiance Public Library	\$	33,314
Dover Public Library	\$	5,085
Elyria Public Library System	\$	100,000
Fairfield County District Library	\$	6,071
Fayette County Law Library	\$	17,043
Findlay Hancock County Public Library	\$	48,922
Franklin County Law Library	\$	91,039
Greene County Public Library	\$	93,120
Holmes County District Public Library	\$	95,950
Homer Public Library	\$	24,989
Jackson City Library	\$	42,781
Kate Love Simpson Morgan County Library System	\$	58,000
Lakewood Public Library	\$	46,045
Madison Public Library	\$	100,000
Mahoning County Law Library	\$	5,400
Massillon Public Library	\$	40,671
MidPointe Library System	\$	75,016
North Canton Public Library	\$	100,000
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC)	\$	18,000
OhioNet	\$	38,950
Otterbein University	\$	46,399
Perry Cook Memorial Public Library	\$	89,615
Perry County District Library	\$	100,000
Plain City Public Library	\$	48,488
Public Library of Mount Vernon and Knox County	\$	53,542
Shaker Heights Public Library	\$	39,000
St. Clairsville Public Library	\$	5,861
St. Helen School	\$	6,078
Stark County District Library	\$	36,707
Statewide Consortium of Ohio County Law Libraries	\$	100,000
Troy-Miami County Public Library	\$	99,699
Trumbull County Law Library	\$	7,259
West Clermont LSD	\$	21,540
Wittenberg University	\$	17,964

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

Northstar Digital Literacy Grant

Don Yarman, Executive Director of OPLIN, presented the Board with a proposal to purchase site licenses for every public library system in Ohio to Northstar Digital Literacy. He explained that digital inclusion includes three components: access to broadband, access to devices, and skills. He emphasized that libraries are the go-to places for all of these. An OPLIN project manager will help local libraries implement Northstar. Mr. Yarman explained that Northstar starts with assessments and lets people know where there is a need for improvement. The program will provide certification to users at the end of instruction. Dr. Nájera commented that broadband is a lifeline, and this is an amazing step forward. Ms. Fredericka asked if the purchased licensing will be enough for the whole state. Mr. Yarman explained that yes, all 251 library systems and the State Library will have licenses.

Ms. Carleton moved (M-33-21) that an FFY 2021 American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) / Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant in the amount of \$60,000 be awarded to the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) for a Training project, for the period of October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022.

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

OhioLINK DEI e-Book Core Collection Grant

Amy Pawlowski, Executive Director of OhioLINK, presented the Board with a proposal to purchase a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) collection of around 100 unlimited-access ebooks through the release of an RFP. The collection will strengthen engagement with under-represented communities, broaden the education of the majority population, and provide critical scholarly materials to support curriculum and research. The collection will be available to students, faculty, and staff at 117 libraries statewide. Ms. Pawlowski added that this project will include an opportunity to buy from smaller publishers. Ms. Arp asked who responds to the RFP. Ms. Pawlowski explained that ebook aggregators will respond. Ms. Fredericka asked if there was a worry about the short timeline. Ms. Pawlowski responded that it is a quick timeline, but that there will likely not be a lot of proposals to review and that this model will be better pricewise.

Ms. Fredericka moved (M-34-21) that an FFY 2021 American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) / Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant in the amount of \$100,000 be awarded to the Ohio State University acting as Fiscal Agent for OhioLINK for a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion project, for the period of October 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022.

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

Ohio Digital Network DigiHubs

Mr. Struble gave a history of the Statewide DigiHubs to the Board. He explained that the DigiHubs were started in 2014 and are a key component in digitizing and preserving collections from libraries of all types and that they work toward fulfilling the State Library's commitment to the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). They have not had an opportunity to update equipment since their inception or in some cases, prior to that. Jen Johnson, Library Consultant and Ohio Digital Network Project Coordinator at the State Library, presented the Board with a proposal to update the equipment of the four DigiHubs. Ms. Johnson gave an overview of the Ohio Digital Network, which focuses on collaborative digitization efforts across the state. She explained that Ohio Digital Network joined DPLA in 2017 with just over 70,000 items and now has over 270,000 items from 26 contributing institutions. Ms. Johnson explained that the DigiHubs are located throughout the state in public

libraries in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo, which have robust digitization and local history departments. She then gave highlights of individual collections of the DigiHubs to the Board.

Ms. Arp moved (M-35-21) that an FFY 2021 American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) / Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant in the amount of \$99,843 be awarded to Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library for a Resource Sharing project, for the period of October 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022.

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

Ms. Carleton moved (M-36-21) that an FFY 2021 American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) / Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant in the amount of \$70,254 be awarded to Cleveland Public Library for a Resource Sharing project, for the period of October 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022.

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

Ms. Arp moved (M-37-21) that an FFY 2021 American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) / Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant in the amount of \$108,903 be awarded to Columbus Metropolitan Library for a Resource Sharing project, for the period of October 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022.

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

Ms. Fredericka moved (M-38-21) that an FFY 2021 American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) / Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant in the amount of \$124,678 be awarded to Toledo Lucas County Public Library for a Resource Sharing project, for the period of October 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022.

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

OhioLINK/OhioNet Diversity Pathway Grant

Mr. Struble explained to the Board that the OhioLINK/OhioNet Diversity Pathway Grant was approved by the Board last year, but that because of COVID, the project was not completed. IMLS recommended to state libraries that they extend grace to subgrantees in cases where projects were not able to be completed because of the pandemic. Ms. Pawlowski presented the Board with a proposal to fund the previously approved Diversity Pathway Grant. She explained that the program, called the Luminaries Initiative, will provide training and professional development for student workers from under-represented populations, their mentors, and library directors. It is the hope that the program will provide a pathway to librarianship for under-represented populations. Ms. Pawlowski explained that it was challenging to identify and hire students during COVID, and the project was not able to be completed previously.

Ms. Arp moved (M-39-21) that an FFY 2021 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant in the amount of \$16,865 be awarded to OhioNet for a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion project, for the period of October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022.

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

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Statewide Delivery Update

Ms. Knapp gave an update on statewide delivery to the Board. She explained that although service is improving, the state issued an exception letter to STAT Courier to address major deficiencies in the service contract. STAT is working on rectifying the deficiencies. Ms. Knapp identified some of the major delivery issues for the Board, such as delivery of the backlog of materials, mislabeled items, damage to items, a lack of right-sized vehicles, missed stops, and communication with STAT Courier. She shared that the State Library and OhioLINK are visiting delivery hubs to make sure that operations there are acceptable. Mr. Hall commented that phone calls and emails that he has received from patrons complaining about the delivery service have been reduced.

Building Opening Update

Ann Watson, Associate State Librarian for Library Services, gave the Board an update on the opening of the State Library building to the public. She shared that the building opened to the public on September 7. Plexiglass shields, signage, masks, and sanitizers were purchased to make the space safe for both staff and patrons. Regular patrons have returned to the building. Ms. Watson explained that meeting rooms will not reopen until January 2, 2022. She shared that the Talking Book department has continued to serve patrons uninterrupted since June 2020, and that Research Services has been busy the entire time the building was closed serving patrons virtually.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

State Library Board Nomination

Julia Ward, Executive Secretary to the State Librarian's Office, explained that with State Library Board member Tracy Nájera's term on the Board ending December 31 and her not seeking reappointment, the Board needed to choose two State Library Board nominees to be sent to the Board of Education for appointment consideration. The Board discussed the nominees and their qualifications. The Board decided unanimously to recommend the appointment of Deanna McDaniel to the State Library Board, with Andrew Wichterman being their second choice.

Consumer Advisory Committee Nominations

Ms. Watson presented the Board with a list of appointees to the State Library's Talking Book Advisory Committee, as well as their qualifications.

Ms. Fredericka moved (M-40-21) that the following persons be appointed to the State Library's Talking Book Consumer Advisory Committee for a three-year term, November 1, 2021 – October 31, 2024:

Allison (Sunny) Kallstrom (New Appointment)
Michael Pitroff (Re-appointment)
Shawn Thiel (Re-appointment)

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion, Ms. Arp moved (M-41-21) that the Board stand adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

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

President

Secretary

WJK/jmw