

**Minutes of the NJLA Public Policy Committee Meeting**

**November 4, 2016**

1. Chair Eileen Palmer called the meeting to order at 10:04am at the Monroe Township Public Library

In attendance: Eileen Palmer - LMxAC; Chris Carbone - South Brunswick Public Library; Bob Belvin - New Brunswick Public Library; Jennifer Podolsky - East Brunswick Public Library; Leah Wagner - Monroe Township Library; Anne Wodnick - Gloucester County Library; Keith McCoy - Somerset County Library System NJ; John Wallace - Atlantic Cape Community College; Dave Cubie - West Orange Public Library; Amy Babcock Landry - Livingston Public Library; Mary Romance; Jeanne Marie Ryan - Roselle Public Library; Sarah Lester - Maplewood Public Library; James Lonergan – New Jersey State Library; Kristen Matteucci, NJLA Intern.

1. Minutes of the October 14th Meeting: Anne Wodnick noted a typo within the paragraph regarding **A4226/S2595** on the first page. The first sentence of the paragraph should refer to **Newark** Public Library, rather than “New” Public Library. Moved by Amy Babcock Landry and seconded by John Wallace. One abstained.
2. **Pat Tumulty’s Report/Legislative Update:** – Eileen reported that Pat is at a school library meeting, but that we continue to fight for the Johnson legislation.
3. **Legislative Agenda:** A working group previously reviewed NJLA’s legislative platform and drafted several changes. The larger committee reviewed the edits, suggested further changes, and prioritized the asks. The committee agreed to breaking the items into legislative priorities and funding priorities.
   1. **State Per Capita Aid Program** – the working group shifted the language away from complaints about past cuts to a focus on how to get funding back up to statutory level by 2020. We’re asking for additional $3 million to get to the full $6 million that’s required by law, by 2020.
      1. Mary Romance raised the point that funding for other state aid recipients has been restored, and that libraries’ funding should similarly be restored. After discussion, the group agreed to note this as a good talking point, but not something to include in legislative agenda
      2. Committee agreed to remove “municipalities”in the fourth sentence
      3. Eileenwill develop talking points to accompany legislative agenda.
   2. **Legislation to Define & Implement Statewide Information Literacy Curriculum**
      1. Cmt. agreed to remove two extraneous phrases from the paragraph
   3. **Construction Bond Program** 
      1. Working group updated bill numbers, sponsors, etc. They added the phrase regarding bipartisan support and a date (2017) to convey urgency
   4. **Municipal Library Funding (Johnson legislation - A1427/S2633)**
      1. The working group tightened language to describe the bill, what we want, and what we don’t want.
   5. **Funding for NJ Library Network** 
      1. The working group moved the ask up to the top and integrated discussions with the State Library into the language
         1. Chris provided context on the recent discussion among with Eileen, Pat, Mary Chute, James Lonergan, and Mike Rasimowicz (head of Jersey Connect) on identifying telecommunication needs for the state going forward
         2. Working group added language about proposed study re: future telecommunication needs (Mary Chute will consider bringing in an independent firm to develop a statewide plan)
         3. James has reached out to ALA for models. California has joined an academic research network (like NJEdge) whereas Georgia has localized services
            1. Eileen noted that in the past, NJEdge has not been interested in working together
         4. Dave raised idea of corporate sponsorship to benefit the whole state... BTOP grants- funded databases, hardware, etc. as a part of stimulus package. What’s the ask at federal level to plan for next telecom plan?
         5. Group discussed multiple changes to the second and third paragraphs; Eileen will make revisions accordingly.
      2. Point of clarification: the Network is a line item in the state budget, separate from the State Library budget. It funds LibraryLinkNJ and partially funds Jersey Connect, ILL, reference backup, Jersey Cat
      3. The working group had not previously received information on the State Library’s specific ask (dollar amount). However, James Lonergan reported that the State Library is requesting ~$1.3mil for Jersey Connect as part of a as multiyear ask/budget request. He is not sure about the amount being requested for LibraryLinkNJ. Eileen asked James for details as well as a copy of the State Library’s legislative agenda once it is available.
      4. The committee discussed whether to have two versions of the legislative agenda based on audience (politicians vs. members). Eileen clarified that the legislative agenda is a summary statement of what NJLA believes and will work towards; Chris added that we create talking points and one-pagers for each item separately. Consensus was that it would be too confusing to have different versions for different audiences.
   6. **Prioritization of asks** –
      1. Committee agreed to split items into legislative and budget priorities (determined by whether an ask requires legislation to come to fruition). After discussion, it was agreed to place budget asks before legislative asks. Committee agreed to order the asks as follows:
         1. Budget asks
            1. State Per Capita Aid
            2. NJSL Network
         2. Legislative asks:
            1. A count of hands showed the committee’s preference to place the Johnson legislation at the top
            2. Construction bond
            3. Statewide Info Literacy Curriculum
   7. Eileen will make the suggested revisions and formatting changes. She will share the updated document via email before taking it to the Board.
4. **Surplus Materials Disposition**
   1. Keith McCoy refreshed the committee: A community activist in Somerset County found that there is no provision in state law to allow libraries to give discards to Friends as previously thought; discards must go to auction. Attorneys affirmed that this could be an issue for all libraries in state.
   2. Somerset County Library System would like NJLA to take lead as it would require legislation to amend.
   3. Committee determined that Pat (rather than the State Library) should work with Office of Legislative Services (?) to develop the technical writing that would be needed to address the issue.
      1. James Lonergan suggested adding “and dispose of” to NJSA 40A:11-36
      2. Language should allow for discards to go to Friends as well as Better World Books, etc.
   4. Somerset County could depend on support from Senator Bateman and Representative Ciattarelli. Democrats would also be helpful…
   5. Committee agreed that this is a technical issue; it should not be added to the legislative agenda
   6. Chris, Pat, Keith, James L. will work on this issue
5. **Current Projects**
   1. **Update on the Construction Bond Bill** – Pat and Jeanne Marie are organizing a meeting on Dec. 13th at Cranford community center for architects, engineers, members of League of Municipalities to garner support
      1. James L. asked if the group had looked into best practices & guidelines regarding standards for square footage, planning for growth after so many years, sight lines, etc. Bob also raised Historical regulations as an issue to explore.
         1. James can reach out to contacts in Massachusetts, and will get info from the State Library regarding the last library construction bond act and guidelines for Higher Ed construction bond act
   2. **Public Policy Forum**
      1. Registration info is out - Eileen encouraged everyone to register!
      2. Eileen will create flyer with costs to attach to requisition forms at Anne’s request
   3. **2017 NJLA Conference Programs**
      1. Kathy Schalk-Greene obtained details for Patrick Sweeney’s pre-conference and will to submit to conference program committee
      2. Eileen is working with James Keehbler to update program details for school library program
      3. We are co-sponsoring a program that Brett Bonfield will be facilitating about the Library Achievement Task Force
      4. Public Policy Update, co-sponsored by Intellectual Freedom
      5. Digital Privacy (co-sponsored by Intellectual Freedom)
      6. Chris reported that Wednesday’s keynote speaker, Valerie Gross (Director of Howard County Library in MD) will hold a session after her speech for those interested in learning about Libraries = Education. We can co-sponsor this program.
      7. Intellectual Freedom is working on a program with CSS and YA about diversity, inclusion, and Intellectual freedom: How to align these values and principles when they sometimes appear to be in conflict?
6. **Intellectual Freedom Committee Report**
   1. A2114 Cell Phone Subpoena
      1. <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2014/Bills/A1500/1125_I1.PDF>
      2. IFC is requesting that NJLA support this bill to require law enforcement to obtain warrants for cell phone searches/seizure – **Moved by Jeanne Marie Ryan and seconded by Bob Belvin. All in favor.**
      3. IFC is co-sponsoring a pre-conference submitted by Emerging Technologies about HTTPS, digital privacy, costs, logistics of implementing HTTPS
      4. James L. reported that EBSCOhost representative says that HTTPS is available upon request, but that there are still some technical issues. He will get info to James.
7. **State Library Report Highlights**
   1. **Library Support Services:**
      1. NJSL staff met with consultants (QualityMetrics, LLC) to begin work on the required independent evaluation of the New Jersey LSTA Five-Year Plan 2013-2017
      2. The Library Network Review Board will be meeting the afternoon of November 30 th immediately after the LLNJ membership meeting at the Monroe Township Public Library.
      3. NJSL and LLNJ received 15 applications for mobile mini-makerspace grants to help fund the purchase of three mobile mini-makerspace kits
      4. New Directors Orientation will take place on Feb. 15, 2017, at TBBC.
   2. **Lifelong Learning**
      1. In partnership with LLNJ, NJSL will be offering a certification program presented by the Mental Health Association of NJ for 50 librarians, and 4 workshops. Date and venues TBD.
      2. NJSL is in discussions with FEMA Region II on bringing a series of 12 free preparedness activities to libraries throughout the state – dates TBD
      3. New Directors Training is scheduled for mid-February 2017 at our Talking Book and Braille Center building
      4. 2016 Summer Reading Program Statistics:
         1. Total books read – all ages: 7% decrease from last year
         2. Total registration – all ages: 3% increase from last year
         3. Total participants – all ages: 14% increase from last year
         4. Total programs – all ages: .9% decrease from last year
         5. Total program attendance – all ages: 2% increase from last year
      5. Tutor Training: Following up on last year’s successful Literacy Boot Camp and feedback from the boot camp graduates, “Tutor Training for ESL Conversation Groups” will be offered in partnership with Literacy New Jersey. Five, three-hour training sessions (the same workshop offered monthly for 5 months from December 2016 to April 2017) are open to anyone interested in leading English conversation groups at their libraries.
   3. **Innovation and Strategic Partnerships** 
      1. The 2017 “SWAT Team” Transformation Program, a program which assists libraries in updating and transforming the interior space of their libraries, is once again being offered to all public libraries. A team of four consultants has been chosen and the application has been posted on the NJSL website. Application deadline in February 1, 2017.
      2. The COSLINE Conference was held October 4, 5, and 6th in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.
8. **Other**
   1. Bob Belvin asked for knowledge or expertise regarding endowments to avoid being cited by the city auditor or to move money to a foundation. City of New Brunswick considers library to be one of their departments, though this is not how the law is written. Group advised him to talk to an attorney.
   2. Registration for National Library Legislative Day (May 1st and 2nd) opens on Dec 1st – fee increased to $50. Great experience to learn from colleagues across nation and discuss hot topics such as surveillance, copyright, etc.
   3. **Currently the Dec. 2nd meeting is still scheduled**; may cancel if there’s not much to report, however.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02pm on motion by Bob Belvin and seconded by Anne Wodnick. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Matteucci

Intern