**NJLA Public Policy Committee**

**Friday May 5, 2017**

**Monroe Township Public Library**

1. Call to Order – Chair Eileen Palmer called the meeting to order at 10:12am

Attendance: James Lonergan – New Jersey State Library, Kathy Schalk-Greene – LibraryLinkNJ, John Wallace (Congratulations – John graduates with his MLIS today!) – Atlantic Cape Community College, Eileen Palmer - LMxAC, Pat Tumulty - NJLA, Chris Carbone – South Brunswick Public Library, Jeanne Marie Ryan – Roselle Public Library, Bob Belvin – New Brunswick Public Library, Jennifer Podolsky – East Brunswick Public Library, Susan Kaplan – Sayreville Public Library, Mary Romance, and Kristen Matteucci – NJLA Intern/Collingswood Public Library

1. Minutes of the April 7th meeting – Motion to approve by Jeanne Marie Ryan, seconded by Jennifer Podolsky. One abstention.
2. **Pat Tumulty’s Report/Legislative Update**
   1. **Meeting room policy**
      1. John Wallace asked for clarification on whether attorney Frank Corrado’s opinion was intended for public consumption.
         1. Pat: Frank confirmed that we can do what we please with the document (e.g. post on our website). Opinion will be released after the May board meeting.
      2. Members noted that this topic continues to arise:
         1. Trustees from Burlington County asked about library meeting rooms regarding a joint use facility, in which a county library is housed in a municipal building.
         2. Legislative Services has also inquired about library meeting room policies.
         3. Susan Kaplan noted that it came up at the “Pros & Cons” program at the Conference.
   2. **Advocacy Fortnight**
      1. Overall a success, though we don’t know how many legislators have signed onto bills yet, as there’s not yet been a quorum to hold a session
         1. Senate quorum on Monday, 5/8
         2. Assembly quorum on 5/11
      2. Three senators have signed onto the **construction bill** –
         1. Diegnan – (also signed State Aid & Johnson legislation)
         2. Gordon
         3. Kean
      3. Senator Van Drew’s aide indicated that he was supportive of the bill and planned to move it forward
   3. **School Library Task Force** 
      1. Monitoring three instances in which school librarian positions may be/could have been cut:
         1. West Orange – librarians have been reinstated!
         2. Millburn – opening special 5th grade school/combining schools.
         3. Woodbridge – 3 SLMS are left. Chris Carbone spoke at budget hearing on Tuesday. Superintendent’s proposal seems entrenched. It’s not a funding issue – they want to repurpose the space into tech centers like Apple Stores. We encouraged them to keep SLMS to lead this transition. Chris invited them to see school libraries, gave info on curriculum.
      2. Working to develop a standard response
         1. Targeted social media has had a lot of impact (e.g. in West Orange)
         2. Will bring a plan to public policy to review
      3. Email from Leah Wagner – as a result of an Advocacy Fortnight visit, Assemblyman DeAngelo has a draft bill on information literacy ready to go, though we have not yet seen it
3. **Current Projects**
   1. **Update on Broadband Study** – James Lonergan reported:
      1. The State Library reached out to ALA and contracted with a consultant (Carson Block)
      2. Scope of consultant’s work:
         1. Assist NJSL in technology planning process to identify strategic directions for JerseyConnect and infrastructure needs for the state library community.
         2. As per Chris’ question, James indicated that a needs assessment will be included, to bring together leaders – including those of NJLA - in a collaborative process
         3. Will come up with recommendations for JerseyConnect.
         4. Process may take about 9mo-1year
      3. Funded by LLNJ and State Library funds. Cost is $30k.
      4. Eileen and other members expressed disappointment that the State Library chose to move forward on this contract without input from NJLA. NJLA had previously identified a need for a statewide assessment and broadband plan, and had sought a partnership with the State Library on that project. The State Library had indicated its willingness to work with NJLA so we were surprised to see the State Library move forward without our participation.
      5. James agreed to take the committee’s concerns back to the State Library. James noted that NJSL has not yet met with the consultant, that they have not yet defined what needs to be accomplished, and he affirmed that all voices should be included.
   2. **Update on the Construction Bond Bill and advocacy efforts**
      1. Jeanne reported that we may have a real shot at this bill, but that there are only a few legislative days left
      2. Recent article at northjersey.com – A primary sponsor talked about the bill, and mayors chimed in on wanting this funding.
   3. **Update on Legislative Day**
      1. Successful trip – we made all our legislative appointments. Special thanks to Jeanne Marie Ryan for her work planning this event and to all those who attended.
      2. Met with Frelinghuysen’s (Appropriations Committee) staff and thanked him for the $1million included in this year’s budget that was just adopted
         1. We will make sure libraries & NJLA members know what happened and encourage libraries to thank their legislators

1. **State Library Report**
   1. This will be James Longergan’s last PPC meeting. He is going to be the State Librarian in MA – *Congrats!* James expressed that he has felt welcomed, and admires that we speak up in NJ.
      1. Bob Keith will be at next meeting to represent the State Library.
   2. NJSL will be working with the consultants who conducted their evaluation and the LSTA Advisory Council on the *LSTA Grants to States Five-Year Plan FFY 2018-2022*
   3. **Regulations**: NJSL will proceed with plans to submit information to Governor’s office by the September 1st deadline
      1. The Per Capita State Aid Committee’s first meeting will be on May 15th in Trenton
   4. **A DPLA summit** is planned for June 14, 2017, at the Monmouth County Library. The purpose of the summit is to bring people up to date on DPLA, talk about the ways in which NJ organizations can engage, and how to move forward
   5. **Experienced Director’s Training** is planned for October 24th at Holiday Inn National Conference Center
   6. **Youth Services Forum** will be held on October 23rd at the Monmouth County Library in Manalapan. The Planning Committee is in the process of selecting the workshop sessions. For more information, please contact Project Manager Jen Schureman or Project Consultant Sharon Rawlins, Youth Services Specialist
   7. Peggy Cadigan and Pat Tumulty continue to visit legislators to discuss NJSL’s legislative priorities. Contact Peggy if you want your library to be listed as a **job seeker library**
   8. Save the date for the **Futures Conference** on September 25th & 26th at the Borgata in Atlantic City, NJ. Registration cost: $195. Hotel Room $135 including all fees.
   9. **The SWAT Team of Library Transformers** met and selected the four libraries to be transformed this year: Elizabeth Public Library, Milltown Public Library, Spotswood Public Library and the Vineland Public Library.
2. **Other** 
   1. Bob Belvin’s son will be an intern in Congressman Pallone’s office in D.C. this summer
      1. Eileen noted that Pallone is engaged in net neutrality issues and knows how to frame it in an accessible way. Pallone is opposed to FCC Chairman Pai’s views on this issue.
      2. Eileen suggested that the committee work on engaging him and highlighting the ways libraries intersect with the issue
      3. Also need to engage with community organizations and highlight the way access to the internet affects individuals
   2. Jeanne reiterated that we need to be better at knowing our librarians’ connections – get the message out.
   3. Bob Belvin- New Brunswick mayor has decided that library will be issuing municipal ID cards
      1. Only record that will exist is in library circulation record and will only be available by subpoena. Covered by library confidentiality law.
         1. All municipal cards will have a library barcode on the back so that they can be used as two cards in one
      2. Should this be tracked by the State Library so we know how many libraries are offering municipal IDs?
3. Meeting adjourned at 11:58am

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Matteucci

PPC Intern