



Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, July 23, 2021
10:00 AM
Virtual via Go-To-Meeting

MINUTES

Members present: *(all attending remotely)* Pete Loeffel, Kris Adams Wendt, Mark Arend, Nick Dimassis, Jennifer Einwalter, Bruce Gay, Vicki Teal Lovely, Sherry Machones, Jim Ramsey, Nyama Reed, Steve Conway (Conway Consulting)

Members absent: Betsy Bleck, Heather Johnson, Steve Ohs, Kathy Pletcher

Guests: Tessa Michaelson Schmidt (DPI), Ben Miller (DPI), Shannon Schultz (DPI), Martha Berninger (DPI), Steve Heser (Milwaukee Co. Federated Library System).

Chair Loeffel called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. The roll was called and a quorum declared present. The agenda order was approved by consensus.

Approval of minutes from the May 14, 2021 meeting. The minutes of the May 14, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Machones seconded by Reed.**

Introduction of Tessa Michaelson Schmidt, Assistant State Superintendent, DPI Division for Libraries and Technology.

Loeffel introduced Tessa Michaelson Schmidt who became Assistant State Superintendent of the Division for Libraries and Technology (DLT) on July 5, 2021 when State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Jill Underly and her new administration took office. It has been 23 years since DLT was administered by a librarian. Schmidt has been a public library consultant with DLT for nearly ten years, specializing in library youth services and inclusive services for all library users. (Additional information appears in the linked DPI/DLT report linked below.) She was welcomed with enthusiasm and a standing invitation to regularly attend LD&L meetings.

LD&L Roster and Members. An updated roster was distributed with the meeting packet.

WPLC Partner Advocacy. Heser shared information about the [Wisconsin Public Library Consortium](#) (WPLC) and engaged LD&L members in discussion regarding the development of advocacy partnerships to help raise awareness and promote additional investment in this valuable statewide digital resource. It was recognized that a well-coordinated effort within the library community will be critical to future success in maintaining sustainable funding for existing library support services, as well as new and expanded projects.

Legislative update. Conway led celebratory discussion of LD&L success during 2021-2023 State Budget deliberations. The budget bill passed by the Wisconsin Legislature and signed by Governor Evers on July 8 reflects bipartisan support for an important investment in public library services. It includes an additional \$2.5 million in 2021-2022 and \$4 million in 2022-2023 state aid for regional public library systems which will enhance the foundational infrastructure delivering additional resources to local libraries and their communities. Library champions Senator Mary Felzkowski and Assembly Representative Amy Loudenberg were crucial to success before the legislature's Joint Finance Committee. Cost-to-continue funding was maintained at levels requested in the Governor's executive budget for the state library resource contracts. Despite considerable interest in the mission and accomplishments of Recollection Wisconsin during meetings with JFC members and legislative leaders, this was unfortunately not the year to secure any new programs. WLA will continue to support the pursuit of additional funding for this worthy endeavor. Conway thanked LD&L members for their well-coordinated efforts, excellent communication and ongoing legislative relationship building exercises. WLA issued a [press release thanking members of the legislature on July 5](#), and encouraged the membership to send handwritten thank you notes to individual legislators. Conway reminded members that any new requests for library-

related bills and/or items for the next biennial budget process will need to be developed with an April 2022 deadline in mind.

Federal recovery funds. Miller reported that DPI staff have completed four focus groups with stakeholders to identify themes that will result in American rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant categories and projects focusing pandemic relief around the idea of libraries as centers of recovery, resilience and revitalization for their communities. Grant applications and deadlines should be announced through the usual channels by mid to late August.

Library Legislative Day, February 8, 2022. A facility contract has been signed with the Madison Concourse Hotel. Bruce Gay will schedule a virtual meeting with the core LLD subcommittee soon to discuss next steps.

County & Municipal Funding Workgroup. Arend indicated no pressing issues to report. Einwalter reported that Washington Co. library directors will meet with their county counterparts on August 9 to compare notes on pandemic year data and discuss Act 420 payments. Machones and Conway will consult regarding proactive reach out to Wisconsin Counties Association contacts so that WCA has a communication channel should any questions arise prior to filling the WLA Executive Director vacancy.

Libraries Transform posters. Bleck, as chair of the WLA Nominations Committee, posted a memberclicks announcement soliciting a volunteer "[Libraries Transform!](#)" [Poster Coordinator](#) on July 20. She will work with Loeffel and Wendt to vet and interview any applicants. Approaching the WLA Foundation to renew its underwriting of poster production costs is on hold until a coordinator has been secured. Wendt and Hannah Bunting have updated the list of legislators who already have posters and those who do not.

Conference programs. No one has volunteered since the May meeting to coordinate LD&L programs at upcoming WLA conferences. Deadline for submission of program proposals for fall conference has been extended to August 12. Consensus was not to field an LD&L sponsored program this year and concentrate efforts on Library Legislative Day.

Federal Relations Coordinator update. Machones reported a final push is underway for CD3 Representative Ron Kind to support the Build Americas Libraries Act (BALA). She has been working with library systems (WRLS, IFLS, SWLS) and local libraries in his district as well as Assistant Superintendent Schmidt and ALA Chapter Councilor Kristina Gomez to make calls.

DPI/DLT update. Miller delivered the DPI report to LD&L linked [here](#). DPI has contracted with Dr. Kenneth Kriz at University of Illinois to analyze the state public library system aid funding formula in response to PLSR Recommendation 4. LD&L has been identified as a primary stakeholder. DPI/DLT's goal is to be open and transparent with LD&L during this process. Loeffel asked Machones and Wendt to form an LD&L subcommittee to liaison with Miller and Kriz, providing political background, reality check-in and messaging assistance as needed. Recorder's note: After the meeting, Reed and Lovely also volunteered for the subcommittee assignment.]

Remaining 2021 meeting dates; potential transition to in-person: Discussion ensued regarding the potential for in-person meetings for the remaining 2021 meetings on September 24 and November 12. With no WLA headquarters at present, it was suggested that alternative locations be researched and reserved pending receiving timely information about pandemic safety protocols. Ramsey will reach out to Madison area library locations for potential meeting rooms. Requesting use of the SCLS meeting rooms, as in the past, could be another option. A call in option is a requirement to accommodate those who would prefer a virtual alternative.

Announcements and other business. None.

Loeffel declared the meeting adjourned at 11:22 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder