



Minutes of the Maryland State Library Board Meeting

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Virtual Board Meeting

Opening

The Maryland State Library Board met in regular session on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 10:00a.m. virtually through Google Hangouts. The following members were in attendance: Ms. Sharan Marshall, Chair, Ms. Heidi Daniel, Mr. Jim Fish, Ms. Laura Hicks, Ms. Sharon Maneki, Ms. Sharan Marshall, Mr. Albert Martin, Ms. Morgan Miller, Mr. Wilson Parran, Ms. Lynn Wheeler, Mr. Robert Windley, Ms. Brittany Tignor, Ms. Laura Hicks, and Ms. Irene Padilla, State Librarian.

Dr. Brian Butler, representing board member Dr. Keith Marzullo, Ms. Jody Malmstrom, Assistant Attorney General, and the following staff members were also present: Dr. Tamar Sarnoff, Mr. John Owen, and Ms. Donna Liberto.

Ms. Marshall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the State Library Board of September 23, 2020 were considered. Ms. Marshall stated that the Rural Maryland board should be the Rural Maryland Council. Ms. Lynn Wheeler moved to approve the minutes as amended; Mr. Parran seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 14.38.01.04 Special Library Services – Adoption

Ms. Padilla requested that the board adopt the new regulation that changes the name of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled.

Al Martin moved to adopt the regulation as presented; Ms. Daniel seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

Executive Session

Pursuant to 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion by Mr. Jim Fish, and seconded by Mr. Wilson Parran, and with unanimous agreement, the Maryland State Library Board met in closed session virtually on Thursday, December 10, 2020. All State Library Board members were present. Also in attendance were: Ms. Padilla, State Librarian, and Assistant Attorney General, Jody Malmstrom. The Executive Session commenced at 10:25 a.m.

Ms. Malmstrom provided legal advice related to the Ebooks and Antitrust Issue.



Mr. Martin moved to adjourn the Executive Session and Ms. Miller seconded the motion. The Executive Session ended at 10:28 a.m.

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened in open session at 10:30 a.m.

MSL Annual Report

Ms. Padilla reviewed the Maryland State Library's Annual Report. Highlights included:

- In fiscal year 2020, the Maryland State Library distributed nearly \$2.2 million in federal grant awards to support Maryland public libraries, an increase of over 300% since the agency was established in 2017.
- The name of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped was changed to the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPDP) by unanimous approval of the Maryland General Assembly during the 2020 session (SB 326 and HB 604) and passed into law effective October 1, 2020. This bill also added the requirement that one member of the Maryland State Library Board shall be a blind patron of the LBPDP. MSL was able to provide continuous mail and phone service to blind and low vision customers during the pandemic thanks to the commitment of the LBPDP staff.
- MSL opened the [Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library](#) website, issued the *Maryland Day By Day: Family Literacy Activity Calendar*, including an [interactive online version](#).
- Sponsored the One Maryland One Book selection *What the Eyes Don't See* by Mona Hanna-Attisha.
- MSL hosted the fifth annual MD Tech Connect conference at UMD Shady Grove campus, featuring Maryland libraries' exciting technology projects.
- Partnered with Maryland Census and the Maryland Department of Planning to provide timely and accurate information to library systems about the 2020 Census.
- *Best Practices for Reopening Maryland Libraries* was developed to provide statewide guidance and recommendations on the phased reopening of Maryland public libraries during COVID-19. This document can be found at [COVID-19 Resources for Maryland Libraries](#), a web guide developed to provide libraries with a compendium of information and resources to assist decision-making about reopening.
- Finally, the *Laws of Maryland Relating to Public Libraries, 2019 Edition*, was issued and the MSL headquarters were relocated to 25 South Charles, Suite 1310, Baltimore, MD 21201.



State Librarian's Report

Personnel

Positions pending hire include:

- Administrative Specialist II, Finance (under State hiring freeze)

Employee Work Status:

- On November 10, 2020, following Governor Hogan's announcements about proactive measures to help slow the spread of COVID-19 infections,
- Secretary Brinkley, DBM, provided a directive that all Executive Branch agency offices return employees to mandatory telework, where possible. This directive did not affect employees who perform public-facing services or who must report to State facilities to provide essential or mission critical services that cannot be performed remotely.

Agencies with personnel who must report to State facilities should continue to ensure that these employees have appropriate and ample personal protective equipment (PPE). These facilities should also continue to ensure that proper screening, distancing, and cleaning protocols remain in place.

- Ten MSL emergency essential employees report to the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) facility, as needed, to process delivery, send out books to patrons, and maintain the facility. The remaining staff continue to telework.

Reopening Maryland Libraries

- Due to the spike in the COVID -19 epidemic, most libraries have returned to providing contactless/curbside services at their branches. They continue to provide WiFi hotspots, WiFi -enabled devices such as Chromebooks, contactless printing services, 3D printing pickup, activity kits, virtual reference, virtual programming, and a "smiles/kindness/connection". Some libraries continue to offer appointments during limited hours, subject to change as needed.
- Over 86% of libraries have extended WiFi beyond the building, serving their communities even while facilities are closed.
- For libraries that purchased additional WiFi equipment, 75% were able to do so because of the IMLS CARES Act funding distributed through MSL.

Congress of Academic Library Directors (CALD)

- At the September meeting, the Board supported Ms. Padilla's suggestion that the Board consider having the CALD President serve on the MSL Board in lieu of the MHEC member as stipulated in statute.
- The CALD Board is very interested in talking with me about the seat on the State Library Board. I have a meeting with them on December 18, 2020 to discuss the details.
- I plan to invite the CALD President, Stephen Miller, Director of the University of Maryland Global Campus Libraries to the March State Library Board meeting.



State FY 2021 Operating Budget

- The Governor's FY 2021 Operating Budget includes additional State funds to support the increases to the Public Libraries–Aid to Education program (Education Article, §23-505 of the Code of Maryland Regulations) and the State Library Network–Aid to Education program (Education Article, §23-205 of the Code of Maryland Regulations).
- This budget also includes an increase for LBPD to reflect 25% of the amount budgeted for the State Library Resource Center, \$235,000 for the Deaf Culture Digital Library, \$3 million to continue the increased operating hours at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, funding for the LATI program and funding for the ILL program.
- Revenue projections for the next couple of fiscal years are still predicted to be pretty lean.

Federal FY 2021 Budget

- The White House released its FY2021 budget proposal and - for a fourth time in a row - it intends to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), including all funds from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). The administration's new budget not only strips funding from IMLS, it brushes aside funding for other library-eligible education programs.
- In November Republicans in the Senate released spending bills which would fund the entire government past the December 11, 2020 expiration of the Continuing Resolution. The house previously passed its FY 2021 spending bills this summer. Now that Congress is back, consensus seems to be that emphasis is on avoiding a government shutdown.
- A new bipartisan relief proposal led by Senators Manchin and Collins that you can read explicitly includes \$10 billion for broadband.
- The Senate request increases for libraries in the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee bill. The subcommittee recommends a \$3 million increase for LSTA (all for Grants to States) and a \$5 million increase for IMLS overall. This would raise LSTA to \$169.8 million and IMLS to \$257 million. \$252,000,000
- The National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled is targeted to receive an additional \$1 million for a total budget of \$59,563,000.
- Innovative Approaches to Literacy is expected to be flat funded at \$27,000,000.
- The library community continues to follow legislation and contact elected officials as needed to move forward the continuation of this funding. This is particularly important as the battle for domestic spending becomes more competitive and members of Congress look for programs to cut.



Capital Projects Program

Current Projects

- Construction is underway on libraries in Allegany (LaVale), Anne Arundel (Riviera Beach), Baltimore (Reisterstown), Carroll (Westminster), Cecil (Northeast), Harford (Abingdon), and Queen Anne's (Kent Island) Counties as well as in Baltimore City (Hampden).
- Renovations are complete at Montgomery County's Long Branch Library with an anticipated reopening in January 2021.
- Design is underway for projects in Baltimore (Catonsville), Calvert (Twin Beaches) and Frederick (Middletown) Counties.

FY 2022 Capital Grants

- The Governor's Capital Budget is scheduled for release on January 15, 2021.

Countywide Master Facilities Planning

- One LSTA grant was awarded to Somerset County to update their facilities plan and to prepare for a FY 2023 State funding request for the renovation of the Princess Anne Library. Wicomico County rescinded their planning grant following a recent library administrative turnover.

FY 2020 Needs Assessment

- According to the most recent statewide facilities assessment conducted in November 2020, more than half of the 190 public library buildings in Maryland are over twenty five (25) years old. Consequences of this aging infrastructure are: 17 buildings need a new roof, 10 facilities require alterations for ADA compliance, 17 libraries have HVAC systems that are at the end of their useful life, 43 buildings require technological upgrades in order to provide 21st century library services, 55 existing facilities require general renovation at an estimated cost of \$77,000,000, and 8 buildings have been identified for replacement with a new structure at an estimated cost of \$65,000,000.
- MSL began collecting this data at the request of the Department of Budget and Management's Capital Budget Office in FY 2008 when the grant program was implemented. While DBM no longer reviews the information, it is invaluable in the preparation of MSL's Capital Budget testimony in support of continued grant program funding.

Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPDP)

Programs and Events

- As part of the **Braille e-reader pilot** with the National Library Service (NLS), LBPDP has distributed 113 devices to patrons. We have seen an increase in downloads of digital braille books from BARD. In July before the pilot we had 219 downloads. By October, with the pilot well underway, we had 1,785 downloads. NLS will follow up every two months with surveys of the patrons on their user experience.



- The **Duplication on Demand** project has begun pilot testing, sending cartridges to selected patrons to get feedback on the user experience. Next steps will be to use this process for all new patrons and then roll it out to all patrons in 2021.
- Staff participated in the **NFB of Maryland Convention** in November. John Owen addressed the convention with a report on the activities of LBPD. LaShawn Myles spoke to the Maryland Association of Blind Students' Annual Student Seminar. Ashley Biggs monitored our virtual exhibit room.
- For the fall semester, the **Maryland Accessible Textbook** program worked with 41 students requesting 74 textbooks as well as supplemental materials. The staff completed over 2300 chapters.
- Outreach librarian Ashley Biggs presented at the **Maryland Optometrist Association's** virtual conference in November. She will also continue our partnership with the **UME Extension Office** in 2021 to host a series of monthly teleconferences focusing on a variety of health and wellness issues.
- Youth Librarian LaShawn Myles launched a **student reference desk** to directly work with children and youth asking questions about library books and services.
- Jerry Price's annual accessible holiday gifts program had 40 participants via conference call, demonstrating the continuing success of our Technology User Groups. Jerry also made presentations for chapters of the NFB of Maryland and the Low Vision Group at Leisure World.
- Through the **pandemic**, most staff continue to telework, providing reference and information services, patron services, assistive technology training, programming, textbook conversion, IT and administrative support. A limited number of staff are on site daily to primarily process delivery and circulation, as well as manage the maintenance and safety of the facility and staff. All staff and any contractors coming to the building are verbally screened for COVID-19 according to DBM guidelines. All materials continue to be quarantined. Masks, gloves and physical distancing continue to be part of daily requirements.
- LBPH currently serves **6,800 Active Patrons** in every county in the State of Maryland.

Public Libraries and State Networking Branch (PLSNB)

Programs and Events

- ❖ The **State-Wide Public Opinion Poll** is complete. Some of the high-level findings include:
 - 75% of respondents indicated that the library was "very important" or "important" to them.
 - 75% indicated that the library provides them with the resources they need.
 - More than two thirds indicated that their library was an essential service.
 - The three most important attributes that accounted for generally high ratings were:
 - Having the resources they want and need,



- Feeling safe at the library, and
 - Having knowledgeable staff who are courteous and efficient.
- 85% of respondents indicated that a library closure would have an impact on their community.
- More than 75% reported that “public libraries are a good investment of tax dollars, and
- More than two thirds indicated that the state should invest more in public libraries.
- The **Library Associate Training Institute** (LATI) held its virtual graduation on November 18, 2020.
- Mary Rayme, MSL Grants Coordinator, has been working with EdTech Strategies, the E-Rate consultants for MSL, to provide training and support for library systems interested in the **Federal E-Rate project**. Online training has been scheduled to parallel important E-Rate deadlines to provide optimum support for Maryland libraries in navigating this complex federal program.
- Several MSL staff participated in the Friday Afternoon **MLA Conversations**, and everyone did a great job at representing the agency. If you haven’t seen any of these talks, [please take a look](#); they are entertaining and informative.
- The **Deaf Culture Digital Library** launched their [new website](#) on September 24, 2020.
- A task force has been created to evaluate the **Simply E** project.

Grants

- The **2021 Grants cycle** is in full swing, and we are looking at FY 2022! The pandemic has impacted how systems are spending their money, but we are committed to making as much funding available as possible to support library leadership, staff development, and innovation.
- Systems continue to use the **IMLS CARES Act funds** to support immediate needs and to address the lasting impact that the pandemic is having on how public libraries provide high-quality service.
- As the year comes to a close, MSL is completing the **State Program Report (SPR)** to conclude and closeout Federal Fiscal Year 2019. This vital report is submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services every year to demonstrate effective grant management and use of federal funds. In spite of COVID, Maryland libraries completed grants successfully by being able to improvise during difficult times.
- Two grant-seeking and grant-writing **training programs** were held online to introduce librarians to using the Foundation Directory in searching for potential grantors and grant opportunities for their libraries above and beyond LSTA funds from IMLS.



Statistics

- The submission phase of the **FY2020 Maryland Public Libraries Survey** is now closed, and data processing for submission to IMLS has begun.
- The **FY2019 Maryland Public Library Statistics** have been published, and are available for systems to [download from Sailor](#) as well as from [MSL's Data & Evaluation LibGuide](#).
- The **MSL Data & Evaluation LibGuide** has been expanded with state and national data downloads, IMLS reports on national trends in libraries and other resources for public libraries to use in guiding decision-making, benchmarking, and other data needs. We hope that this resource will support systems in using data to make strategic decisions, and to communicate the value and impact of libraries to their stakeholders.
- MSL held our first-ever **virtual Introduction to Tableau training**, in partnership with Icimo Analytics, our Tableau partner. The training was held over three days in October, and provided hands-on practice in using Tableau for statistics staff from across the state.
- Yana Demireva, Research & Evaluation Coordinator, is working with LATI and PGCMLS to incorporate **data and statistics competencies into the LATI curriculum**, beginning with the winter cohort.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- MSL is about halfway through the statewide virtual study of the [Project Ready](#) curriculum: a multi-module, asynchronous study of a series of free, online professional development modules for school and public youth services librarians, library administrators, and others interested in improving their knowledge about race and racism, racial equity, and culturally sustaining pedagogy.
- MSL continues to partner with the Maryland Library Association on the **MAPLA Executive University** program (formerly known as Director's University). This October, two very effective presentations were offered that focused on racial equity. Tonya Aikens, President & CEO, Howard County Library System, facilitated "Get REAL - Racial Equity At the Library" and Michelle Hamiel, Chief Operating Officer for Public Services, Prince George's Memorial Library System, facilitated "What If: Creating an organizational culture in which everyone thrives".
- A new web guide, [Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Resources for Maryland Libraries](#) is now available for all Maryland library staff to use. The guide was developed by members of the State of Maryland Task Force for Diversity and Inclusion in Libraries. To learn more about this important statewide group convened by the Maryland State Library (MSL), representing Maryland's public, academic, and school libraries, please explore this helpful resource.
- The shared statewide program coordinated by Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), "**An Evening with Ibram X. Kendi**" continues to receive national press attention; there were two recent articles; one in [Library](#)



[Journal](#) and one in [ALA's "intersections" blog](#).

- MSL has purchased Tobin Miller's **Dismantling Institutional Racism** course to support library staff's understanding of issues about racism, and actions that can be taken to stop racism. A [free webinar](#) is available that describes the program.

Youth Services

- Program support and training for **Youth Services initiatives** continue to occur online. Carrie Sanders, the Youth Service Coordinator for MSL, holds bi-weekly check-in calls with system youth services coordinators for collaborative sharing and discussion regarding revised youth programs and services.
- The **2020 CSLP Summer Reading Program**: "Imagine Your Story" occurred this summer through a combination of virtual participation or through physical game boards provided to families through curbside service or outreach at community meal sites. Despite most libraries being closed during the summer months, more than 32,000 children participated in summer reading programs. Library staff offered over 3,600 virtual programs to children and families, from story times to craft programs, performers, and more. More than 112,000 youth participated in these virtual programs, either through live viewing or recordings.
- The 2020 **MD Teen Connect** Conference is postponed until spring of 2021 when a virtual event will occur April 6-9, through a series of asynchronous/synchronous sessions providing learning and discussion opportunities surrounding many aspects of teen services.
Carrie Sanders and Kelsey Hughes (PGCMLS) presented at the annual MASL conference and at the MLA/DLA conference on the Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) **"Transforming Teen Services: A Train the Trainer Approach"**. Training topics included youth development, guided facilitation, connected learning, and computational thinking.
- Carrie Sanders worked on a national three day virtual **Media Mentorship Forum**, based on the Media Mentorship project that started in Maryland a few years ago. Nearly 300 people from across the country came together to learn about how public libraries and librarians work with community partners and families to support digital literacy and digital equity.
- The **Maryland Day by Day Early Learning Calendar** is now live online! You can visit the [Day by Day Calendar](#) site to see how MSL staff created an engaging, interactive version of the popular calendar.

Statewide Programming Update

- MSL has convened a statewide task force focused on sharing programming amongst public libraries. Guidelines for sharing programs have been developed and a new series titled "**Maryland Libraries Together**" will focus on engaging communities in enriching educational experiences that advance an understanding of the issues of our time.
- MSL has purchased the advanced edition of **KnowBe4**, a platform to support



cybersecurity awareness in public libraries. This advanced subscription includes more training to target social engineering, which can greatly support the reduction of successful phishing attacks.

- The final **MD Tech Connect 2020 is Going Virtual!** session was held on December 9, 2020. There were 19 programs presented over three months. Highlights included sessions with Apple and Microsoft trainers, a closing keynote session with Dr. Mega Subramaniam, and a bonus session with Dr. Jennifer Golbeck, both from University of Maryland iSchool.
- The statewide Community of Practice on **Workforce, Career, and Entrepreneurship** will host a presentation on January 26, 2021 with Scott Sanders, Executive Director, National Association of State Workforce Agencies, to provide an update on current trends and issues.

Updates

Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML)

- Ms. Wheeler provided an update on new members and an announcement of executive board roles as well as a summary of the CML conference.
- Ms. Wheeler shared with the board the Autumn 2020 edition of The Citizen Newsletter which can be found at the following link: [The Citizen Newsletter - Autumn 2020](#)

College of Information Services (iSchool)

Along with his update, Dr. Butler provided the board with updates on the increase in both undergraduate and graduate students that are enrolled in the iSchool. He also reported on the following:

- The status of the renovation of Hornbake facilities project.
- The early stages of the prison librarianship program, information literacy speaker series, and digital creation. (CAFÉ: Center for XX Futers).
- The University of Maryland has named Darryll J. Pines as its new President.
- In addition, he provided the following update for the iSchool:
 - ALISE/Bohdan S. Wynar Research Paper Competition
 - Mega Subramaniam, University of Maryland; Natalie Pang, National University of Singapore; Shandra Morehouse, University of Maryland; and S. Nisa Asgarali-Hoffman, University of Maryland, Baltimore County received the ALISE/Bohdan S. Wynar Research Paper award for their paper entitled “Positioning Vulnerability in Youth Digital Information Practices Scholarship: What are we Missing or Exhausting?”
 - MD Tech Connect Presentations (Mega Subramaniam, Jen Golbeck)
 - Mega Subramaniam gave the closing keynote at MD Tech Connect, “In Librarians We Trust: Digital Privacy Literacy Learning in Libraries.” Jen Golbeck also presented a bonus session “How to Avoid Dystopia: Privacy, Artificial Intelligence, and Setting the Future Straight”.
 - MLA Conversations PD Talk (Ana Ndumu)
 - Dr. Ana Ndumu (Assistant Professor, University of Maryland, College Park



iSchool) and Dr. Ida Jones (University Archivist, Morgan State University Richardson Library) presented on “HBCUs and LIS: Rich History, Rich Potential,” a timely conversation on the connection between HBCUs, anti-racism, and Black librarianship. Attendees heard how HBCUs contribute to the library profession and learned about an IMLS-funded project at Morgan State University.

- Access to Justice Talk, December 2020
 - The MLIS program hosted a conversation with Reena Shah, Executive Director of the Maryland Access to Justice Commission, and Catherine McGuire, Head of Reference and Outreach at the Thurgood Marshall State Law Library to discuss their collaborative efforts to provide public libraries with tools and resources that facilitate community access to legal information and services.
- Music Library Association Event
 - The MLIS Program hosted Lisa Shiota, Publicity and Outreach Officer for the Music Library Association, to discuss what it means to be a Music Librarian with students and faculty.
- Student Archivists at Maryland (SAM)
 - The Student Archivists at Maryland (SAM) student group has been hosting career panels for students. Guests have included Emma Sundberg, curator at the Durham Museum in Omaha Nebraska and LOC archivist and UMD alum Maggie McCready.
- MacLeod Lecture Planning
 - The MLIS Program is currently co-planning the next MacLeod lecture series presentation with DCPL. The event will likely take place, virtually, in April 2021 and feature a publisher and author to speak diversity in children’s literature.

[Enoch Pratt Free Library/State Library Resource Center \(SLRC\)](#)

Ms. Daniel provided the board on Enoch Pratt Free Library and SLRC services.

- Public services – computer appointments for public at 3 locations had to close. Health officials said back to curbside only.
- January 11th – all locations will have curbside; issues with sufficient janitorial staff.
- Trying to plan in uncertain times, working in budget. New city administrator and new mayor. Keep pushing to keep \$3M in budget for expanded hours.
- PNC grants – (1) Penn North branch- longer term loan wifi hotspots and chrome books and access to information navigators (staff). Advertised by postcard – very effective. (2) East side – point to network Digital harbor assoc. Extenders at SE anchor and antennas expanded across homes in the neighborhood.
- Gender inclusion training. Diversity training for runners.
- Cook Ross consultants will provide bias training in January.
- Darcell Graham is assistant director for public services.
- Upcoming state conferences





Maryland Library Association (MLA)

Ms. Miller presented the board with the MLA update:

- She discussed that the strong engagement of patrons at events is very strong. The program, Teens Give Back has fifty participants making and sending cards to veterans.

Operations

- MLA Offices have been closed since March 14, 2020. Staff continue to work remotely and are doing so very effectively. Their reentry into the MLA office building will be coordinated through Pratt.
- The slate of candidates for 2021-2022 officers is being finalized.

Programs

- MLA continues to deliver a popular weekly series called MLA Conversations, hosted by Joe Thompson via Blackboard. The hour-long segment features interviews and conversations with Maryland library leaders.
- Divisions, committees, interest groups, and panels continue to offer relevant discussions and networking events through their virtual platforms.

MLA Conference

- The 2020 Conference launched October 6th and has gone very well. Participant engagement has been sustained throughout and the conference is viewed as a model for other state library associations. Information can be found on the MLA Conference site, <https://www.mladacon.com/conference>. We are extremely grateful for MSL's continued support of MLA conference grants to library systems.
- The 2021 Conference will be virtual and will take place in May, 2021. The theme is "Libraries Without Limits." Conference proposals have been evaluated and the program is in development.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism Initiatives

- In response to racial violence and unrest throughout the country, MLA issued a statement against racism that can be found here: https://www.mdlib.org/files/docs/mla_statement_against_racism.pdf.
- Under the leadership of Michelle Hamiel (Prince George's County Memorial Library System), MLA's Equity Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force has been actively meeting and adding new members. The task force is finalizing a set of guidelines for inclusive meetings and programs to be used by all divisions, committees, and interest groups. The task force is also exploring the creation of a Black Caucus of MLA by researching other successful state models, as well as increasing our partnership around career pipelines with the state's HBCUs.



Library Legislation

- Maryland Library Legislative Day- With COVID restrictions in place and the General Assembly conducting virtual meetings with constituents, Legislative Day is transitioning into a 2-week virtual event that will take place January 14-30th, 2021. Save-the-dates will be sent soon.
- Building Lifelong Learners Act, HB1000/SB524- MAPLA coordinated letters from county library systems requesting that legislators overturn the Governor's veto of
- HB1000/SB524. The bill, sponsored by Senator Sarah Elfreth during the last legislative session, mandates fine-free borrowing for minors, increases state library capital grant program funding, and provides a moderate per capita increase in FY22. The outcome of the veto override will be known early in the session. Additional, ongoing strategies for strengthening and sustaining state library funding are being developed.
- Maryland Public Libraries are closely following state discussions around broadband expansion, especially the development of proposed legislation being sponsored by Delegate Brooke Lierman and Senator Sarah Elfreth to "broaden the reach and mandate" of the Office of Rural Broadband to address disparities in all 24 jurisdictions, "not only so that every resident in Maryland can be connected to the internet, but also that every resident in Maryland knows how to use the internet."
- Ebooks and Antitrust Issues- after receiving the Attorney General's opinion on the matter at the request of Senator Nancy King, the Legislative Panel is exploring options for submitting legislation similar to that introduced in New York state, which would require publishers to sell ebook licenses to libraries at a reasonable rate that allows them to make them available to their customers.

Other News

- Work on a new MLA strategic plan will commence in early 2021.

School Library Media

Ms. Hicks provided the following MSDE updates:

Continuity of Learning

- The [School Library Media Together Recovery plan](#) continues to get attention as a result of continued virtual instruction. The return-to-school scenarios for face-to-face instruction are referenced as LSSs plan for a return to face-to-face and hybrid instruction.

Upcoming meetings and important dates:

- The second combined OITSLM meeting for the 2020-2021 school year will be held virtually in late March. The School Library Media Supervisors continue to meet monthly with very robust turnout.

MDK12 Digital Library

- [Vendor Day](#) - We had 6 new products introduced to the Steering Committee in



October. We have moved forward with trials for all but one. The trials will continue through December. We will then vote on which products to extend RFQs to in February. The goal is to have an updated price list available for members in April.

Upcoming meetings

- New product evaluations - Feb 4
- End of the year meeting - May 6
- 2021-22 meetings will be scheduled starting in late June.

Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL)

Brittany Hulme-Tignor presented the following information:

- The Board developed a process for ensuring representation on library boards

Member Benefits

- Listserv to encourage communication among members.
- MASL Job Board- MASL has partnered with MemberClicks to offer a Job Board that is geared towards the Maryland School Library community. This will both serve as a member benefit and a way to generate additional income for our organization. In order to populate jobs on the board and drive members to begin applying, we are offering free posts until the end of December. If you have an open position that a school librarian might be interested in, please let me know and I will pass on the discount code.

Advocacy Committee

- Every Library Conference
- Future offerings: Building capacity in members by offering advocacy related conversations with national library voices.

Professional Development

- Leadership Course with Book Study Maximizing School Librarian Leadership: Building Connections for Learning and Advocacy, facilitated by Monique Gillis with a live webinar with Judi Morellion. Funded by AASL ABC-Clio Leadership Grant.
- EDI Committee- Stamped Book Study, Webinar with Joquetta Johnson Examining Your BlindSpot
- Talk About It Tuesday- Monthly Open Ended Discussions to support professional growth and connectedness
- Google Applied Digital Skills by Sherry Gick- 40+ in attendance

Communications

- Recognizing the Maryland Monthly Amazing School Librarian
- Consistent Social Media presence
- Monthly Newsletter
- Opportunities for publication through blogging and book reviews



Conference October 16, 2020

- Virtual Event via Whova
- LiLead Panel
- Ellen Oh and Dhonielle Clayton from #WeNeedDiverseBooks
- 36 Breakout sessions available for a year
- 318 Attendees

Black-Eyed Susan Program

- The program is still moving forward. The committee is reading and planning for next school year. Lists for 2021 voting are available at maslmd.org. Voting will begin in January.

Awards

- SLOY Process will begin this month.
- Scholarship for members to attend ALA Mid-Winter.
- MASL is nominating two Executive Board members as LJ Mover & Shakers

Other Business

Ms. Padilla discussed the analysis of the Maryland Statute as it relates to regional libraries. This analysis will be performed by Ms. Padilla, Ms. Marshall and Ms. Malmstrom. They will be looking at restructuring operations and bylaws of the regional libraries. This analysis may be on the March agenda.

Public Comment

No public comments were submitted.

State Library Board Member Discussions

Ms. Marshall wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Monday, March 15, 2021
- Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.