



Minutes of the Maryland State Library Board Meeting Wednesday, June 10, 2020 Virtual Board Meeting

Opening

The Maryland State Library Board met in regular session on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. virtually through Google Hangouts. The following members were in attendance: Mr. Albert Martin, Ms. Andrea Berstler, Ms. Melissa Daggett, Mr. Jim Fish, Ms. Sharon Maneki, Ms. Sharan Marshall, Mr. Wilson Parran, Ms. Brittany Tignor, Ms. Lynn Wheeler, Mr. Robert Windley, and Ms. Irene Padilla, State Librarian.

Dr. Brian Butler and the following staff members were also present: Dr. Tamar Sarnoff, Mr. John Owen, and Ms. Jody Malmstrom.

Not present were Ms. Heidi Daniel and Ms. Laure Hicks. (Excused)

Mr. Martin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the State Library Board of March 23, 2020 were considered. Mr. Jim Fish moved to approve the minutes as presented; Ms. Andrea Berstler seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

Legislative Issues

Ms. Sharon Maneki informed the board about the status of the Senate bill, SB326 and House bill, HB604 regarding LBPH's name change and the appointment of a blind patron to the State Library Board. Ms. Maneki states that the Governor allowed these bills to become law without his signature. Effective October 1, 2020, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will be known as the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled.

Board Nominating Committee Report

The Board Nominating Committee put forth the following board officer names for consideration for fiscal year 2021:

- Ms. Sharan Marshall, Chair
- Ms. Lynn Wheeler, Vice-Chair.

Election of State Board Officers

Mr. Martin opened the discussion of the election of State Library Board officers and the candidates were considered. Mr. Martin moved to accept the Board Nominating Committee's recommendations to elect Ms. Marshall as Chair and Ms. Wheeler as Vice-Chair for fiscal year 2021. Ms. Maneki seconded. The motion received unanimous



approval

Review of State Library Board Bylaws

- Ms. Marshall and Ms. Malmstrom reviewed the proposed State Library Board Bylaws <http://bit.ly/MSLBoardGovByLaws>. Ms. Tignor questioned the legality on virtual attendance. Ms. Malmstrom confirmed that the law allows for flexibility in virtual versus in person attendance.
- After consideration, Mr. Martin moved to accept the proposed MSL Bylaws. Ms. Berstler seconded. The motion to accept the State Library Board Bylaws was accepted unanimously.
- Ms. Padilla requested that each Board member sign a form indicating that have received the Maryland State Library Board Bylaws (as approved by the Board on June 10, 2020) and understand its contents and their obligations and responsibilities as a State Library Board member.

State Librarian's Update

Personnel

We have welcomed the following new staff:

- Jordan Faranelli, Collection Development Librarian, LBPH
- Renee Croft, Capital Grants Administrator (contractual conversion)

Positions pending hire include:

- Administrative Specialist II, Finance

MSL Work Life during the COVID-19 Crisis

- All but three MSL employees have been teleworking since March 16, 2020. Those who are unable to telework have been on administrative leave.
- As noted in the report from the Library for the Blind, while most staff are teleworking full time, a small staff have been coming into the building on a daily basis to process delivery, send out books to patrons, and maintain the facility. During this period we have mailed out approximately 500 items per day for a total of 34,800 items including 101 digital talking book machines for patrons. It is impossible to overstate how proud we are of these employees for all of their efforts!
- Effective June 8, employee's currently on administrative leave are to return to work as soon as office areas and buildings are ready. Those on administrative leave are all LBPH employees. LBPH management has been working diligently to prepare the building for this event and are ready to welcome these staff back to the workplace.
- The State has directed that all other employees must continue to telework for the time being.

Open Meetings Act Compliance during COVID-19

- Jody Malmstrom sent the Board a power point presentation that was put together in conjunction with the AG's office for reference when moving forward with Board business, while continuing to maintain social distancing and also respecting the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.
- This is similar to the live presentation she gave many months ago, but also has some good information as a refresher.

Best Practices for Reopening Maryland Libraries

- The Maryland State Library established a task force comprised of representative Public Library Directors to help develop statewide guidance and recommendations on the phased reopening of Maryland public libraries during COVID-19. The resultant document is intended to assist with



the difficult decisions that Maryland's libraries will have to make about appropriate levels of service and staffing during the reopening of libraries.

- MSL is in the process of developing a **COVID-19 Resource Guide** that will feature this document, the *Governor's Maryland Strong: A Roadmap to Recovery*, links to specific resources including the State Library Resource Center's (SLRC) guidance on handling materials and links to individual county, state and LBPH plans.

State FY 2021 Operating Budget

- MSL received its FY 2021 Legislative Appropriation from the Office of Budget on June 4, 2020. The Operating Budget includes additional State funds to support the increases to the Public Libraries–Aid to Education, the State Library Network–Aid to Education program and the Library for the Blind.
- The library systems are delighted with this increase. Final funding information will be sent to the library systems this week.

Federal FY 2020 Budget

- The Maryland State Library received \$3,096,917 from IMLS for federal fiscal year 2020, an increase of \$91,346 or 3% over federal fiscal year 2019.

CARES Act Funding

- On April 13, 2020, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) informed MSL that the agency would receive \$547,267 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding to support two goals: (1) To prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19, and (2) To expand digital network access, purchase internet accessible devices, and provide technical support services.
- We gathered feedback from library directors, the MSL Network, and communities of practice to identify the best use of these funds. MSL established the following allowable expenses reflecting these needs as well as aligning with the stated goals from IMLS and our strategic plan. The guidance that was provided to systems is as follows:
 - Safety and protective equipment, including cleaning supplies, gloves, masks, plexiglass shields, and keyboard covers.
 - Support for social distancing measures through the purchase of queuing software and self-checkout machines.
 - Provision of internet access to residents through the purchase of WiFi hotspots, WiFi extenders for library property, and circulating laptops.
 - Staff training and development.
 - Workforce development support, and/or partnerships to expand broadband across the state.
- MSL distributed direct grants to the larger, central libraries, and block grants to the regionals to support smaller and rural libraries. The formula used to ensure equitable distribution took into account the size of the population served, the number of branches in each system and the most recent available information on the spending per capita.
- IMLS is also providing a CARES Act competitive grant opportunity. Maryland Public Library Systems were encouraged to apply for funding.

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.



- 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

- Since construction is designated as an essential service, most of the library capital projects have been unaffected by mandatory closures related to the pandemic.
- New libraries in Annapolis (Anne Arundel) and Leonardtown (St. Mary's) were completed in April, although dedication ceremonies were postponed and the facilities have not opened to the public.
- Construction remains underway on libraries in Baltimore City (Hampden), as well as Cecil (Northeast) and Montgomery (Long Branch) Counties.
- Following dramatic estimates for increased costs, the bidding environment became quite competitive during April and May. Bids actually came in lower than estimated for projects in Anne Arundel (Riviera Beach), Carroll (Westminster) and Queen Anne's (Kent Island) counties. Several more notices to proceed are anticipated later this summer.
- Eleven grant awards were extended through June 30, 2021 in order to allow libraries to spend down remaining grant balances.

FY 2021 Grants

- The General Assembly approved \$7,300,000 in State capital funding for FY 2021 projects as recommended by the State Library Board.
- The following grant awards will be taken to the Board of Public Works for final approval on June 17, 2020. The new grant period begins July 1, 2020.

• Allegany County Library, LaVale Branch	\$2,000,000
• Anne Arundel County Public Library, Riviera Beach Branch	\$2,500,000
• Frederick County Public Libraries, Middletown Branch	\$300,000
• Queen Anne's County Library, Kent Island Branch	\$2,500,000

FY 2022 Capital Grant Application Reviews

- Nine requests from nine library systems totaling \$8,587,000 were received for funding in FY2022 when the application cycle closed on May 22, 2020.
- A review team appointed by the State Librarian will meet on June 17, 2020 to develop a funding recommendation that will be presented to the Board in September.
- The Department of Budget and Management's Capital Budget Office has indicated that agencies should anticipate reductions in the FY 2022 State capital budget in order to offset increased operating costs related to the pandemic.

Public Libraries and State Networking Branch (PLSNB)

Special note: While all staff are working remotely, they have been exceptionally productive, creative and collaborative in identifying and responding to needs across the State. In addition to figuring out how to transform scheduled in-person training into on-line events, the staff has spearheaded a suite of new training, identified new tools to support library services and organized new statewide initiatives to assist Maryland's public libraries. Their contribution extends far beyond the items listed here.

Programs and Events



- **AskUsNow!**, Maryland's 24/7 online reference service, has been discontinued. While there was a bump in use after library buildings closed in March, there is no evidence that it was enough of a sustained increase to revisit the status of the project.
- Opinion Works is running the **State-Wide Public Opinion Poll**. The poll captures responses from both website solicitations and phone calls by a call center. While some of the questions needed to be reconfigured in light of recent events, we are hopeful that the survey will tell a compelling story about the role of Maryland libraries in people's lives.
- PLSNB staff, in partnership with LBPH, have launched **Resource Guides** for Maryland public library staff. These web-based guides provide comprehensive information on statistics, youth services, staff development, grant opportunities, and librarian certification guidelines; the guides also extend MSL's web presence to better serve our customers.
- Linda Zuckermann, the **Library Associate Training Institute (LATI)** Coordinator will be retiring at the end of June. Ryan O'Grady, formerly of SLRC, will be the new LATI Coordinator. The LATI graduation ceremony for the spring cohort has been moved to an online program.

Grants

- The 2020 MLA Conference was postponed until October 2020. We have shifted the funds that were set aside for the **2020 MLA Conference Grants** to the next funding cycle.
- MSL has distributed \$547,267 in **CARES Act funding** to Maryland's public libraries, and has encouraged library systems to apply for the IMLS competitive CARES Act grant cycle.
- The **FY 2021 Competitive Grants Cycle** is now open. In light of the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, MSL has set aside some of the funds from the competitive grants cycle to make the money available to support COVID-19 related projects.

Statistics

- To address the possibility of library budgets being impacted by State and county funding constraints, MSL has provided special webinars for directors, finance officers, and data staff on how to use Tableau, the statewide data visualization product, to perform "**What if**" analyses for budget forecasting.
- An ad hoc task force of data, communications, and marketing staff from across the State, was assembled to create **guidelines for tracking virtual programming statistics**. Their work has ensured that libraries across Maryland are collecting consistent and rigorous data, and the guidelines created will support data collection beyond the COVID-19 situation.

Youth Services

- The slate of programs for Youth Service Coordinators was moved almost entirely online. The **YSC Book Study** concluded virtually in two sessions to allow for the largest number of people to attend. Since the closure of Maryland libraries statewide, Carrie Sanders, the Youth Service Coordinator for MSL, has held weekly check-in calls with system youth services coordinators to allow the opportunity for collaborative sharing and discussion regarding revised youth programs and services.
- Carrie Sanders and Kelsey Hughes (PGCMLS) are leading online trainings statewide for library staff as part of the Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) "**Transforming Teen Services: A Train the Trainer Approach**".
- The **Summer Reading Program** is still scheduled to be held at libraries across the State. MSL has offered to support any library that needed virtual platform resources to do so. Our YSC has identified an additional online program from Everfi, called "Summer Slugger", to engage children. While the two marquee incentives provided by MSL, Orioles and Maryland Science



Center tickets, may not be available this season, our YSC is looking into alternate ways to encourage summer reading and learning, including supporting local businesses through gift cards and supporting local COVID-19 relief efforts.

- The 2020 **MD Teen Connect** Conference, focused on incorporating teen voices in our library programs, spaces, partnerships, and services, scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, was postponed and will be held as a virtual series this fall.

Organizational and Staff Development

- MSL has purchased licenses for **Zoom** for libraries in order to provide tools for creating virtual programming and to host virtual meetings while buildings are closed. Additionally, we are in the process of purchasing Zoom phone licenses that will allow systems to provide reference services while buildings are closed or to adjust to staggered scheduling of staff.
- Two new ad hoc **Communities of Practice** have been created to address needs in a virtual environment. The first is the Adult/Young Adult Programming group, which has been meeting to share programming and program ideas. The other is the Tech Programming group, which came out of a series of discussions held about using 3D printers to create PPEs for health workers.
- MSL's Online Learning and Innovation Coordinator has been coordinating and hosting **Tech Sandbox Sessions** to familiarize staff with a broad range of tools available to create innovative service models while buildings are reopening.
- The very first **Cultures Conference**, scheduled for July 15, 2020, has been postponed until summer 2021.
- MSL is planning the sixth annual **MD Tech Connect** conference for December 3, 2020. It will take place entirely online. Over 250 people from all types of libraries (including librarians from other states) attended last year.

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH)

Programs and Events

- **SB 326 and HB 604** both passed into law without the governor's signature, as of May 7, 2020. This is the legislation that provides for the library's name change to the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) and representation from the Library's patrons on the Maryland State Library Board, effective October 1, 2020. Many thanks to the National Federation of the Blind for their advocacy for these bills.
- Library staff have been **teleworking** since the March 13 order from the governor, with a small staff daily coming in to process delivery and maintain the facility. Staff continue to provide reference services, patron application processing and follow up, textbook conversion, programming and assistive technology classes, building maintenance and security, Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) services, and daily delivery. During this period we have mailed out 34,800 items including 101 digital talking book machines for patrons.
- In the midst of this environment we welcomed **Jordan Farinelli** as the new Collection Development Librarian. Jordan comes from a school library background and is a native of the area. In addition to her collection development duties, she supervises the Technical Services department and the Recording Studio.
- The Library has developed a **phased reopening plan**. The plan provides for safety and social distancing measures throughout the building for staff and patrons. These include the installation of plexiglass shields at the lobby and reference desks, as well as rearranging office and patron spaces.



- Since December, the **Maryland Accessible Textbook Program** worked with 29 students at twelve colleges across the state. They completed over 103 textbook conversions for the spring semester.
- The **Recording Studio** has submitted 189 Marylandia books to the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD). This represents an increase of 21 new titles since the mandatory telework began. These titles have been downloaded 12,475 times by patrons across the State of Maryland and across the country.
- The **Duplication on Demand** training will begin once staff are able to be in the building as most of the functionality is based through the local network.
- Outreach librarian Ashley Biggs continues to cooperate with the **UMD Extension Office** to host a series of **monthly teleconferences** focusing on a variety of health and wellness issues.
- Youth Librarian LaShawn Myles and Outreach Librarian Ashley Biggs are working on virtual programming for **Summer Reading**, including a writing series and a “choose-your-own-adventure” program.
- Jerry Price continues to hold the monthly **LBPH Technology User Group (TUG)** via conference call. The addition of the teleconference option has resulted in an increase in participation overall. He also has held 40 one-on-one classes on Assistive Technology in April by phone. Jerry has also created resources for navigating Google Suite in an accessible way.
- LBPH currently serves **6,860 Active Patrons** in every county in the State of Maryland.

Updates

Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML)

Ms. Wheeler reported to the board that the CML board meeting will be held on June 20, 2020 and the annual trustee meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2020. The annual trustee meeting will be held at the Michael Busch Library in Annapolis. Ms. Wheeler requested agenda items such as “Anything citizens can do to be helpful?”

College of Information Studies (iSchool)

MLIS Program Updates

- The MLIS Program has hired two adjunct faculty from the field who will bring new expertise to the curriculum/students:
 - Emily Wagner, Deputy Director of Advocacy Communications in the ALA's Advocacy and Public Policy Office
 - Joe Sherren, Collections Manager Montpelier Mansion/Historic Site
- Bruce Deartsyne is offering a 1-credit summer course, entitled “Leading Information Programs in a Time of Crisis”
- The MLIS Program hosted an ALA accreditation panel in February 2020 and will finish re-accreditation in June 2020 with a meeting with the Committee on Accreditation.
- In response to student anxiety about finding jobs/internships, we reached out to the field (including members of MSL) and received invaluable feedback and advice that was shared with students
- The MLIS Program is collaborating with other iSchools to host a virtual career fair for students in the fall and to plan a future joint new student recruiting event.
- The MLIS Summer Book Club for incoming and current MLIS students will be reading Susan Orlean’s “The Library Book”. We hope to make this an annual summer event.



Student Awards and Recognition

- The iSchool awarded over [\\$109,000 in scholarships and awards](#) to our outstanding students over the 2019-2020 academic year. Many of these scholarships were made possible by donations from MLIS alumni, and a large majority of these awards were received by MLIS students.

Innovations / Service to the State of Maryland

- Dr. Jen Golbeck and Dr. Beth St. Jean have been invited to join the [Federation of American Scientists' COVID-19 Rapid Response Task Force](#). Dr. Jen Golbeck will provide expertise in big data and technology issues surrounding COVID-19, while Dr. Beth St. Jean will focus on societal and international implications of COVID-19.
- Dr. Mega Subramaniam is serving on UMD [President-Designate Darryll Pines Transition Team Steering Committee](#). Dr. Pines will be UMD's 34th President beginning in July 2020.
- Capstone projects were completed by InfoSci undergraduates and graduate students in the Human-Computer Interaction Masters (HCIM) program and the Masters in Information Management (MIM) program this semester as part of our focus on enabling every student to have an experiential learning opportunity
- Dr. Jonathan Lazar gave testimony to both the State Senate and the House of Delegates on HB 1314/SB 757 in March 2020, a bill which proposed to eliminate the segregated voting and potential loss of ballot privacy that blind voters often face in Maryland
- The Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory (HCIL) held its 37th Annual Symposium on May 28, 2020 in a virtual format. The symposium drew a record 400 registrations from across the world. During the full day of activities, students, staff, and faculty from the iSchool and other UMD campus units presented research work on a wide range of topics, including accessibility, education, computer security, design, and games (<https://hcil.umd.edu/events/event/hcil-annual-symposium/>).
- The HCIL enhanced its Medium publication titled "Sparks of Innovation: Stories from the HCIL" (<https://medium.com/hcil-at-umd>), which focuses on communicating HCI research results to a general audience. Blog posts on the HCIL Sparks site, which now number more than two dozen, are written to be approachable and understandable to anyone
- Dr. Mega Subramaniam has started writing a monthly article series on the topic of "*Public libraries serving teens in the era of COVID-19*" for School Library Journal
- [first article](#) in this series was published on May 31, 2020
- The goal of the article series is to come up with a detailed explanation similar to the "phasing" approach that the federal and state governments have employed as a roadmap to going back to "new normal" operations
- Between each monthly article, there will be virtual engagement opportunities
- She will facilitate weekly virtual Zoom sessions where we listen, co-create, and crowdsource challenges, solutions, and best practices from library staff nationwide
- The interest form is available at the end of the article. Please distribute widely

Select Research Grants

- Dr. Susannah Paletz received an internal grant (\$49,980) from the UMD Applied Research Laboratory for Intelligence and Security to create, with a team of researchers, a multidisciplinary framework of requirements for AIs to work in human teams

Faculty Awards / Recognition

- Dr. Mega Subramaniam received the 2020 [Young Adult Library Services Association \(YALSA\)'s Outstanding Achievement Award](#), in February 2020, for her "significant, unique,



sustained devotion to young adult services”). Dr. Subramaniam was also interviewed by Linda Braun for an article “Why it is essential to serve youth outside of the library: An Interview with Mega Subramaniam” in [Young Adult Library Services](#) magazine (see page 9-10)

- Dr. Jonathan Lazar received an Exemplary Researcher Award at the University of Maryland Research Excellence Celebration in February 2020

Faculty Presentations / Workshops

- On April 16, 2020, Dr. Beth St. Jean participated in a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Forum on Postsecondary Response to COVID-19 panel, “How can we crowdsource scientists to improve public information?”
 - <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/04-16-2020/how-can-we-crowd-source-scientists-to-improve-public-information-nasem-forum-on-postsecondary-response-to-covid-19>
- On March 3, 2020, doctoral student Fiona Jardine gave a presentation at the *Public Interest Technology University Network (PIT-UN) Conference on Undergraduate Informatics Education (Informatics Education 2020)* in Austin, Texas about her work with fellow doctoral student, Gagan Jindal, and Dr. Beth St. Jean to develop a new health informatics undergraduate specialization and a specific course on consumer health informatics and health justice
- Dr. Jonathan Lazar gave a presentation titled “Accessible Technology for People with Disabilities” to the Disability Law and Policy class at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government on April 14, 2020
- Dr. Jonathan Lazar gave a presentation as a part of the “Universal Design - ensuring equitable access to education in the transition to online teaching and learning for students with disabilities and vulnerable students” webinar on May 8, 2020, sponsored by the Washington College of Law at American University

Faculty Publications

- Dr. Beth St. Jean, Dr. Paul Jaeger, and doctoral students Gagan Jindal and Yuting Liao have just finished editing a volume of the *Advances in Librarianship* book series entitled, “Roles and Responsibilities of Libraries in Increasing Consumer Health Literacy and Reducing Health Disparities”. The volume will be published by Emerald in late November 2020.
- Dr. Beth St. Jean and Dr. Ursula Gorham are co-authoring an introductory textbook on information behavior for undergraduate students in Information Science programs. Their book will be published by Rowman & Littlefield.
- In early April 2020, Dr. Beth St. Jean’s essay, “Why disadvantaged populations are at greater health risk from COVID-19 – and how libraries are helping, despite closing” was published on:
 - AFRO.com <https://www.afro.com/news-release-why-disadvantaged-populations-are-at-greater-health-risk-from-covid-19-and-how-libraries-are-helping/>
 - and WhatWeekly.com <https://whatweekly.com/2020/04/03/why-disadvantaged-populations-are-at-greater-health-risk-from-covid-19-and-how-libraries-are-helping/>
- Dr. Jonathan Lazar published a paper titled “Segregated Ballots for Voters With Disabilities? An Analysis of Policies and Use of the ExpressVote Ballot Marking Device”, about the situation for blind voters in Maryland, in the *Election Law Journal: Rules, Politics, and Policy*. Dr. Lazar also published two book chapters about accessibility, in *In M. Rubery and L. Price (Eds.), Further Reading. Oxford University Press*, and *In K. Ellis, G. Goggin, and B. Haller (Eds.), Routledge Companion to Disability and Media*.



- Dr. Mega Subramaniam and Dr. Tamara Clegg have a book chapter titled “Designing learning experiences with and for families”. In *M. Lopez, B. Mehra & M. Caspe, (Eds.), (2020). A librarian’s guide to engaging families in learning. Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO.*
- Doctoral student Salma Elsayed-Ali, Dr. Beth Bonsignore, Dr. Hernisa Kacorri, and Dr. Mega Subramaniam have a work-in-progress paper accepted at the 2020 Interaction Design and Children Conference titled “Designing for children’s values: Conceptualizing value-sensitive technologies with children”

Bachelor of Science in Information Science (InfoSci) Program Update

- Launched in Fall 2016, the Bachelor of Science in Information Science (BSIS/InfoSci) Program is now the third largest major at UMD with expected Fall 2020 enrollment of around 1,300
- The BSIS/InfoSci program is now offered at both College Park and Shady Grove. The first Shady Grove class graduated in May 2020, bringing the total number of InfoSci graduates to more than 600.
- There is ongoing effort to expand and enrich the BSIS/InfoSci program curriculum. Most recently, several practicum-oriented courses are added to the program, including a supervised internship course, and a supervised research course. The 2020-2021 academic year will see a revision and restructuring of focus and specialization areas, including Data Science, Cybersecurity, and Digital Curation, in an effort to provide better academic growth and career readiness for our students

New Full Time Faculty Hires

- Zubin Jelveh, Ph.D. (New York University)
- Galina Madjaroff Reitz, Ph.D. (University of Maryland, Baltimore County)
- Diana Marsh, Ph.D. (University of British Columbia)
- Ido Sivan-Sevilla, Ph.D. (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- Victoria Van Hying, Ph.D. (University of Sheffield)

Enoch Pratt Free Library (EPFL)

Ms. Padilla discussed the EPFL workforce development project, the obstacles with access to broadband in Baltimore City and that the library plans to begin sidewalk service in the near future.

Maryland Library Association (MLA)

MLA COVID Response

- MLA Offices have been closed since March 14, 2020. The staff are working remotely and have managed things very well. Meetings for the board and individual units are conducted via Blackboard or other platforms. Overall, the organization has been very flexible in making adjustments to how it operates in order to continue to conduct business during this time.

MLA Year End

- MLA Held its end of the year annual business meeting on Friday, May 8th. Award winners were announced and the gavel was virtually handed from current President Andrea Berstler to 2020-2021 President Morgan Miller.

MLA/DLA Conferences

- The **2020 Conference** is tentatively rescheduled for October 19-21, 2020. The Executive Director, in cooperation with the Board and conference chair will continue to review the status of the pandemic situation and consider options for this event as we get closer to the date.



- The **2021 Conference** committee has been formed and will begin work this month on next year's event. Much consideration will go into the format of that conference, in light of what we have learned this year.

Training

- **MLA's** use of online training prior to the COVID crisis has allowed much of its training to move from in person to online. Library Leadership Division held several highly successful training on Leading from Home. Immediate Past President Joe Thompson has moderated several MLA Conversations with current and upcoming MLA leaders. Margaret Carty has arranged for the traditional Leadership Training for new Board members to be held online over 3 sessions.

Library Legislation

- Much of the legislation in which MLA was called to testify has not been signed due to the COVID crisis. We anticipate seeing some of this same legislation return in the 2021 legislative cycle.

Officers for 2020-2021

President

Morgan Miller

Cecil County Public Library

Vice President/President Elect

Mary Anne Bowman

St. Mary's County Public Library

Conference Director

Tyler Wolfe

Baltimore County Public Library

Secretary

Conni Strittmatter

Baltimore County Public Library

Treasurer

Carl Olson

Towson University, Cook Library

Past President

Andrea Berstler

Carroll County Public Library

ALA Councilor

David Dahl

University of Maryland

Executive Director

Margaret Carty

Maryland Library Association

Other News

- MSL, along with Carroll County Public Library, was awarded the 2020 Excellence in Marketing Award from MLA for the work on the Day by Day State Literacy Calendar. These perpetual literacy calendars were produced with original artwork from Maryland author/illustrator Marcia Leiter. Funding for this project was provided by Maryland State Library, through an LSTA Grant from IMLS. Congratulations to MSL for sponsoring and coordinating this effort.
- Ms. Berstler gave an updated report on the eBook problems libraries have been facing. Macmillan has backed off of their strict requirements. The new goal for MLA is to get the big publishers to renegotiate contracts and to bring them back to the table. MLA has an appointment with Senator Raskin to discuss the eBook issues.
- Ms. Berstler indicated that this was her last report as MLA President, indicating that she has truly enjoyed working with you all. MSL is a wonderful organization, and sets an example of the positive and productive work that can be accomplished when the state library and the library community work in cooperation with one another. Much of this is due to the wonderful leadership Maryland's libraries cultivate and enjoy. Kudos to Irene Padilla and her staff for their work maintaining that environment.

MLA Legislative and Advocacy Issues



- Ms. Marshall reported that COVID-19 has devastated state budgets.
- The Capital Budget passed the assembly but has not made it to the Governor's office.
- The MAPLA Legislative group has developed talking points to address budget issues.
- The MLA Legislative Committee has adjourned for the summer.

School Library Media

Ms. Laura Hicks reported the following:

- The Sesum-Kerwin bill was not funded and is reverted back to the FY2019 funding which is based on casino funding.
- On Friday June 16, 2020, an online resource goes live which will discuss how to social distance at school. Ms. Hicks presented the following MSDE updates:

School Library Media Online Reporting

- The close of the survey has been extended to June 30th.
- At this point, all but one school system have entered at least some data. Almost half of the school systems have completed the survey as of June 1.

New Learning Management System (LMS) / Position

- We are in the final stages of reviewing vendors and products for a new LMS to host online student and professional learning and digital content.
- We are still expecting that the job that will manage the new LMS will be filled.

Continuity of Learning

- The Office of Instructional Technology and School Library Media (OITSLM) collaborated with MSDE content specialist to develop the [Parent](#) and [Teacher Resources](#) documents that were posted on the MSDE website in support of remote teaching and learning.
- We are currently working with Local School Systems (LSS) to develop a portal of modules that will support the teacher identified areas of need related to distance learning. Educators will be able to earn points by completing modules. Educators will be able to benefit from a program developed by the Office of Instructional Assessment, Professional Learning, Title IIA, & English/Language Arts in which educators are able to record learning activities that provide points that can culminate and convert to CPDs.

Upcoming meetings and important dates:

- Maryland public schools are closed for the 2019-2020 school year. Local systems are implementing continuity of learning plans.
- Combined OITSLM meetings for the fall will be determined by 2020-2021 school year planning.

MDK12 Digital Library

- Price list for SY21 is complete. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) reflecting updated Bylaws was sent to Local School Systems and private schools. Only those that return the signed MOU will be listed as members in good standing moving forward.
- Upcoming meetings:
MDK12 Steering Committee - year end meeting will be held in late June

Local School System - Library Media Positions

- Still no update on the Maryland Teacher Staffing Report. It is expected that the School Library Media Specialist will still be classified as a critical shortage area.



- Anticipated budget shortfalls have the MASL Advocacy Committee, chaired by Emmanuel Faulkner (Baltimore City PS), concerned. They are working on distributing one-pagers for advocacy to all school systems.

Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL)

Ms. Tignor reported the following:

- MASL is currently working through our annual strategic planning process. One of the areas of concern includes developing a way to ensure consistent representation at meetings across the state. We are continuing our efforts to provide members with professional development opportunities and will have a specific focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion this year in light of recent racial injustices.
- Over the past year, we have completely revamped our website to allow for greater communication to the public and also between members. As of now, we are still planning to have our conference face to face on October 16, but that will be pending recommendations from the state. A virtual conference will be offered if the face to face option is not possible.

Awards:

- The Maryland School Librarian of the Year Award (SLOY) was announced. After sending out the nominee packets multiple times, we ended in a tie and chose to announce two Maryland winners.
 - Donna Mignardi, MASL Communications Chair, from Calvert High School in Calvert County, and
 - April Wathen, MASL President, from Lettie Marshall Dent Elementary in St. Mary's County were named Maryland School Librarians of the Year.
- Maryland School Librarians were awarded four American Association for School Librarians (AASL) Grants this year.
 - Jennifer Sturge, MASL President-Elect and Calvert County Teacher Specialist for Libraries, was awarded the ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant which will allow MASL to run a book study for a cohort of school library leaders.
 - Ramona Kerby, McDaniel College, received the AASL Distinguished Service Award for her service to the profession.
 - Tatanisha Love, MASL Delegate and Baltimore County School Librarian, received the Inspire Special Event Grant to develop a summer reading program in which students will read *New Kid* by Jerry Craft.
 - Brittany Tignor, MASL Past-President and Worcester County School Librarian, received the Inspire Collection Development Grant to make her library more accessible by expanding the audiobook collection.

Advocacy Concerns:

- There is a severe School Librarian shortage this year. When schools are left with School Librarian openings and a lack of certified applicants, they either place an unqualified person in the position or get rid of the position altogether. Depending on district policies, applicants can be considered if they hold teaching certificates and are working towards library certification or have library certification and are working towards teaching certification. Please encourage your colleagues to apply.
- Broadband access in rural areas has become more important than ever with the prevalence of online instruction. There are areas across Maryland that cannot access the internet even with hotspots or cell phones. Because of this, students are left without access to education and



library resources. Ms. Tignor explained issues of broadband availability in rural areas. The WiFi hotspots do not work in some places because the towers are out of reach. She asked Citizens for Maryland Libraries' help in providing WiFi access.

- Ms. Wheeler stated that she would add this to the CML agenda for their June 20th meeting. Ms. Marshall recommended that Ms. Tignor meet with Mr. John Venditta (Director of the Eastern Shore Regional Library) who serves on the Rural Maryland Board.
- MASL is planning training on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

Other Business

Ms. Irene Padilla thank Mr. Al Martin for his many years of service to the State Library Board. She also thanked Ms. Andrea Berstler for her year of service.

Public Comment

No public comments were submitted.

State Library Board Member Discussions and Updates

None

FY2021 Meeting Calendar

Friday, September 11, 2020

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Monday, March 15, 2021

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Meeting Adjourned

Ms. Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 p.m. Mr. Butler seconded. The meeting was adjourned.