

MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE LIBRARY BOARD

Monday, March 16, 2020

Virtual Board Meeting

OPENING

The Maryland State Library Board met in regular session on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. virtually through Google Hangouts. The following members were in attendance: Mr. Albert Martin, Chair, Ms. Andrea Berstler, Ms. Melissa Daggett, Mr. Jim Fish, Ms. Sharon Maneki, Ms. Sharan Marshall, Mr. Wilson Parran, 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 10:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the State Library Board of December 16, 2019 were amended to reflect the correct spelling of Mr. Martin's name. Mr. Fish moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Parran seconded the motion. The motion received unanimous approval.

STATE BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Ms. Padilla recommended that the board establish a nominating committee for the next Chair and Vice-Chair positions. She also suggested that the Board discuss and schedule the board meetings for FY 2021.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Ms. Maneki thanked Ms. Wheeler and Ms. Marshall for providing testimony at the hearings for the two Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped legislative items involving the name change from Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled and the appointment of a blind LBPH patron to the State Board. Bill SB326 has passed in the Senate and bill HR604 is getting a second reading in the House. Ms. Maneki is optimistic that both bills will be passed by Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

Mr. Alfred Martin stated that the funding for the State Library Resource Center in SB466 is on track to pass.

STATE LIBRARIAN'S UPDATE PERSONNEL

We have welcomed the following new staff:

- Donna Liberto, Administrator III, Finance and Support Services

Positions pending hire include:

- Administrative Specialist II, Finance
- Collection Development Librarian, LBPH

MSL HEADQUARTERS

- We moved into our new offices at 25 S. Charles, Suite 1310, Baltimore, MD 21201 on February 2, 2020.

STATE FY 2021 OPERATING BUDGET

- The Governor's proposed 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). Preliminary draft funding information was sent to the library systems in February.
- Under the legislatively mandated formula, spending for the Public Library Aid Program increases from \$16.00 in fiscal 2020 to \$16.50 in fiscal 2021. Spending under the State Library Network Program increases from \$1.81 in fiscal 2020 to \$1.85 in fiscal 2021 for SLRC, as well as an increase in the per capita grant from \$8.35 in fiscal 2020 to \$8.55 in fiscal 2021 for the three regional resource centers. The FY 2021 allowance for the Deaf Culture Digital Library is \$235,000. The FY 2021 allowance for the Enoch Pratt Free Library is \$3 million to increase operating hours and flat funding for the LATI program and funding for the ILL program.
- In addition, this budget includes approval and funding to convert the Capital Grants Administrator position from contractual to permanent.
- The analysis from the Department of Legislative Services concurred with the Governor's budget. Budget Hearings were held in the Senate Education, Business & Administration Subcommittee on February 15, 2019 and the House Education & Economic Development Subcommittee on February 20, 2019.

FEDERAL FY 2020 BUDGET

- On December 20, 2019, the President signed the final fiscal year 2020 spending bill for agencies including IMLS. The IMLS budget increases the Grants to States funding by \$6 million and overall IMLS funding by \$10 million.
- The Maryland State Library received \$3,096,917 for federal fiscal year 2020, an increase of \$91,346 or 3% over federal fiscal year 2019.
- The Senate confirmed Crosby Kemper III, executive director of the Kansas City Public Library as the next IMLS Director for a term of four years. Kemper has headed that library since 2005.

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 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.
- This year's "Dear Appropriator" letters, designed to make known to members of Congress the desire for and importance of continued support for LSTA funding and IMLS, have started to circulate in the House, asking Representatives to preserve more than \$210 million in federal library funding. The House deadline is March 28, 2019.
- One letter asks members of the House Appropriations Committee to fully fund the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the other asks the Committee to fully fund the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program. The more signatures we have, the better the chance that the appropriators will protect funding for LSTA and IAL programs. This is particularly important as the battle for domestic spending becomes more competitive and members of Congress look for programs to cut.
- Mr. Martin asked Ms. Padilla about the status of the Institute of Museum and Library Services funding. Ms. Padilla reported that Senator Van Hollen has signed in approval. She also reported the Senator Ben Cardin is pending. Ms. Padilla will follow up with the board about this status along with contact information for representatives. The deadline for signing is March 28, 2020.

CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

- ALA/PLA's "**Planning and Management of Buildings**" **online training session** ended February 23, 2020. 20 staff members from 18 library systems participated.
- The **Governor's Capital Budget for FY 2021** was released on January 15, 2020 and included \$7,300,000 for the program. The Department of Legislative Services recommended flat funding at the mandated amount of \$5,000,000. Testimony supporting the Governor's recommendation was presented by the State Librarian at MSL's Capital Budget Hearings on February 26 and 27, 2020. Approval of the Capital Budget by the General Assembly typically occurs in mid-April following the Conference Committee.
- MSL's **annual training session** for FY 2022 applicants is scheduled for March 20, 2020 at the Miller Library in Howard County. 24 participants from 15 library systems have registered to attend; 16 projects are currently being considered for submission. In order to meet the Governor's mandates regarding travel, this meeting will be held remotely. The grant deadline for the next funding cycle is May 22, 2020.
- Two **new facilities** are scheduled to open next month in St. Mary's (a mixed use Public Library and Senior Center in Leonardtown on April 28, 2020) and Anne Arundel Counties (The Michael E. Busch Library in Annapolis on April 29, 2020). This will bring the total number of new libraries supported with State funds since the program's inception in 2008 to 18.

UPDATES

CITIZENS FOR MARYLAND LIBRARIES

- Ms. Lynn Wheeler reported that the CML Trustees annual meeting will be held on October 17, 2020 at the new Michael Busch Library in Annapolis.
- The next CML board meeting will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2020 by conference call.
- CML will be sending awards updates by email.

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION STUDIES (iSchool)

- Mr. Butler reported that the University of Maryland will be closed until March 31, 2020. All classes will be conducted online until April 10, 2020. However, he is expecting that this will last until the end of the semester. All iSchool staff are teleworking and have offered assistance to the Maryland State Library with any teleworking needs.
- Mr. Butler also informed the board that the American Library Association accreditation review went really well.

ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY

Ms. Padilla gave the following update on behalf of Ms. Daniel.

All Enoch Pratt Free Library branches are closed because of COVID-19 concerns. Some of the branches may act as childcare facilities for children of first responders but schools and senior centers are likely to be the first option to provide the needed space.

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

This seat on the State Library Board is vacant.

MARYLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (MLA)

- Ms. Berstler reported that the MLA offices will be closed for two weeks because of COVID-19. All programs for the foreseeable future have been cancelled.
- The MLA conference that was scheduled for early May may be rescheduled for October. The official announcement is pending. The entire conference committee is in agreement about rescheduling and are recommending the rescheduling of the conference.
- The Maryland Association of Public Library Administrator's April meeting will most likely be cancelled. An announcement will be made shortly.
- The National Library Legislative Day has also been cancelled.
- Ms. Berstler provided an update on e-books. She reported that MacMillan is looking at new models for selling e-books to libraries. Their choices are metered by circulation, pay by use, or a combination of the two. She also reported that the Carroll County Public Library is shifting their materials budget to purchase more electronic materials to support customers while the libraries are closed.

MLA LEGISLATIVE AND ADVOCACY ISSUES

- Ms. Marshall reported that the legislative session will end on March 18, 2020 with the hope of restarting in May.
- Bill SB466 which would increase SLRC funding will probably pass in the Senate and is currently in the Ways and Means committee. She advised that the bill will probably die in the House.
- Bills SB524 and HB1000, Building Lifelong Library Learners Act, have both passed the House and Senate and will eliminate some form of fines for children. The bills, which prohibit accrual of new fines, would be effective at the start of fiscal year 2022. The bills would provide partial compensation to the systems by increasing spending by \$.40 per capita to \$1.97 per capita, to be rolled out over three years. The capital increase from the mandated \$5 million to \$7.5 million is also a part of the bills.
- Ms. Berstler reported that the planned bill has a complicated element in regards to the fees for returned materials. Mr. Martin stated that this will have a more deleterious effect on rural systems. Ms. Padilla advised that the funds will go directly to the county and not the library.
- Ms. Marshall emphasized the need to start building relationships with the newly elected officials in Annapolis.

SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA

Ms. Daggett delivered the following MSDE School Libraries Report submitted by Ms. Hicks:

MSDE Updates

- **Maryland Standards for School Libraries** – The Maryland School Library Media Standards for Learners, Librarians, and Libraries have been formally adopted! Professional learning materials are being constructed and trainings are ongoing.
- **School Library Media Online Reporting** – The 2020 survey is live as of February 10th. The survey will close May 8th.
- **New Learning Management System (LMS) / Position** - We are in the process of reviewing RFPs for a new LMS to host online student and professional learning and digital content. We have also posted the job that will manage the new LMS.
- **Upcoming meetings and important dates:**
 - Combined meetings with School Library Supervisors and Instructional Technology Liaisons – March 24, Carver Staff Development Center, Gambrills (assuming in-state meetings are not cancelled).

MDK12 Digital Library

- New products have been reviewed and approved for the RFQ process.
- Upcoming meetings:
 - March/April – virtual meetings to finalize price list

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.
- Eastern Shore districts continue to eliminate/reduce positions. The MASL Advocacy Committee, chaired by Emmanuel Faulkner (Baltimore City PS), is organizing responses to these cuts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were submitted.

STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

- Mr. Martin established the MSL Board Nominating Committee charged with making suggestions to the board for the FY 2021 Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Mr. Martin, Mr. Windley, Mr. Butler and Ms. Malmstrom volunteered to serve on the committee. Ms. Padilla will schedule a time for the nominating committee to meet.
- Volunteers for these positions were requested. Sharan Marshall expressed interest in becoming the Chair. Ms. Berstler is interested in becoming Vice-Chair. However, there may be a conflict for Ms. Berstler with the board Vice-Chair position and her Maryland Library Association position.
- Ms. Padilla advised that draft MSL Board Bylaws are in development and will be presented at the June Board meeting.
- The location of the June 15, 2020 board meeting has not been finalized.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Fish wished Ms. Marshall a happy retirement.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

PROPOSED FY2021 MEETING CALENDAR

- Friday, September 11, 2020
- Thursday, December 10, 2020
- Monday, March 15, 2021
- Tuesday, June 15, 2021

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.