**Minutes of the NJLA Public Policy Committee - July 15th, 2016 meeting**

**I.** Chair Eileen Palmer called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00am at the Monroe Township Public Library.

In attendance: Eileen Palmer - LMxAC; Pat Tumulty - NJLA; Chris Carbone - South Brunswick Public Library; James Keehbler - Piscataway Public Library; Jeanne Marie Ryan –Roselle Public Library; Janet Marler, Atlantic Cape Community College Library John Wallace - Atlantic Cape Community College Library/Ocean County Library; James Lonergan – New Jersey State Library; Kathy Schalk-Greene - LibraryLinkNJ; Amy Babcock-Landry - Livingston Public Library; Bob Belvin - New Brunswick Public Library; Dave Cubie - West Orange Public Library; Jennifer Podolsky - East Brunswick Public Library; Sarah Lester - Maplewood Memorial Library; Mary Romance; and Kristen Matteucci.

**II**. The minutes of the June 17th meeting were approved on motion Janet Marler and seconded by Bob Belvin. Lester, Matteucci, Podolsky, Romance, and Ryan abstained.

**III. Pat Tumulty’s Report/Legislative Update:**

**NJ Budget:** FY 2017 budget was reportedly a Democratic budget, without negotiation with Republicans; Gov. Christie red lined many items. While funding for libraries is no worse off than last year, we do not have the champions we need.

* [**Executive Order 209**](http://nj.gov/infobank/circular/eocc209.pdf)**:** Governor Christie signed an order to freeze (“place into reserve”) certain budget appropriations, including half of appropriations for Transitional Aid to Localities until the Plan Designs Committees identify revenues/health care cost savings.
* **Executive Order 210:** Governor Christie signed an order to shut down Transportation Trust Fund projects since funding has not been reauthorized (and the Legislature did not reach agreement on the gas tax).

**School aid reform**: Senate President Sweeney proposed a bill that pushes for a commission to study fully funding schools.

**Pre-K Our Way:** Going for ballot initiative for $25 million for expanded/mandatory Pre-K this November.

**Johnson legislation:** Pat Tumulty has not received any response yet from Senator Weinberg’s office on whether they will sponsor the bill in the Senate. She will follow up with the staff from Senator Weinberg’s office and report any progress to the Public Policy Committee at the next meeting. Part of the issue is that the legislature doesn’t meet as often in the summer.

**IV. Old Business:**

**School Library Advocacy:** James Keehbler reported on the status of the Unlock Student Potential (USP) campaign, which was launched after he and Maureen Donohue wrote School Library Programs in New Jersey report. Multiple organizations have signed on to the policy statement on school library programs (a Camden charter school, Middlesex County group, etc.) and the campaign is using a petition (see [unlockstudentpotential.org](http://unlockstudentpotential.org/)) to build a base of support to engage when/if legislation is introduced. School librarians have expressed interest in writing blogs for the site. Currently there are approximately 160 Facebook likes. James also reported that the Department of Education has a committee to implement ESSA, but that NJEA wants a different committee to implement it. It was suggested that talking to State Senator Ruiz might be worthwhile. The New Jersey State Library has also signed on to the document previously prepared by John Wallace that recommends that any school library should be staffed by a school media specialist.

It was suggested that a one-pager on Information Literacy be created. John also suggested a one-pager on how school librarians can bring ESSA to their community. ATask Force will be formed to address this issue. James Keehbler will lead the group, which will begin to meet in August.

**Construction Bond Bill:** Eileen Palmer asked Jeanne Marie Ryan to form a group to work on getting this issue on the ballot in 2017. Jeanne Marie Ryan asked for volunteers and Amy Babcock-Landry, Chris Carbone, Sarah Lester, Pat Tumulty, and John Wallace agreed to work with her. This group will start meeting in August.

**V. New Business:**

**Municipal Contracts for Library Services:**  Pat Tumulty shared the letter from the Englewood Library Board of Trustees that she received and referenced NJLA’s current guidelines regarding municipal contracts (<https://njla.org/content/sustaining-equitable-public-library-service>). The Public Policy Committee determined that there is no policy that prevents/prohibits Englewood Cliffs from obtaining services from another library at a lower price point. Pat Tumulty’s initial response to the letter took this position, and the committee will not respond further at this point in time. Pat Tumulty suggested that it might be a good idea to review the policy.

A few questions regarding which/how many municipalities contract for library services were raised during the discussion, including whether the population served increases for purposes of Per Capita State Aid when municipalities do contract out. James Lonergan will look into whether the New Jersey State Library collects this information and report back.

**Privacy & Security:** <https://libraryfreedomproject.org/ourwork/digitalprivacypledge/>

Eileen Palmer highlighted the need for patron privacy and introduced the Library Freedom Project’s “First Library Digital Privacy Pledge” to ensure that web services are secured using HTTPS within six months of signing. The [Electronic Frontier Foundation](https://www.eff.org/) supports this standard, and the New York Library Association recently signed on. The White House has also required government websites to be compliant HTTPS standards by the end of 2016. The New Jersey Library Association is now fully HTTPS compliant. Barriers/drawbacks may include some technical expertise to implement, some cost, and resistance from vendors. Amy Babcock-Landry moved and Dave Cubie seconded a motion that the New Jersey Library Association Public Policy Committee recommends to the Executive Board that the New Jersey Library Association sign the Library Freedom Project’s Library Digital Privacy Pledge for Membership Organizations. The motion carried, with one nay from Bob Belvin.

**Barriers to Access:** This item was placed on today’s agenda at last month’s meeting. Pat Tumulty brought up concerns regarding access to libraries (fines going back to the 1990s, charges for computer use, residency requirements for those who are homeless/don’t have ID, etc.). The committee discussed ideas and steps for what would need to happen for a cultural/paradigm shift to occur among library staff (training with front line staff, best practice recommendations, webinars, utilize Snapshot Days) to allow for equitable access. It was agreed thata workgroup will be formed to address access issue and/or recommend parameters for access. A general call to other committees/sections will be put out for collaboration.

**VI. Intellectual Freedom Committee Report:**

Amy Babcock-Landry reported that the first Intellectual Freedom meeting of the year will occur in August. They will be working with the Emerging Technologies section to plan a day long forum together.

**VII. State Library Report:** James Lonergan reported that the Attorney General’s Office wants him to add some content back to the thirty percent cuts that he was told to make in the State Regulations (which deal with the State Library Network, Library Aid and Grants, and Professional Certification). The statewide database contracts are in place as of July 1st.

The Career Connections website is up. An Early Literacy Program will be taking place September 27th, the Youth Service Forum will be October 20th, and the Adult Services Forum will be October 24th. Mini-makerspace grants will offer an opportunity for collaboration between public and school libraries.

**LibraryLinkNJ:** Kathy Schalk-Greene gave an update on what LLNJ is working on (communications with members and a LLNJ Board Retreat).

**VIII. Other:**

New York State announced free training sessions for non-medical personnel to be allowed to administer Narcan for opioid overdoses. Librarians have expressed interest in such trainings.

NJLA played a background role in confirming Dr. Carla Hayden as the Librarian of Congress.

Next month, the committee will discuss the Public Policy Forum and the legislative agenda.

The committee will also address broadband access - see [report](http://www.shlb.org/action-plan/papers/Connecting-Anchor-Institutions-A-Vision-of-our-Future/full/) from the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition.

**Meetings:** Generally will continue to meet on the first Fridays of the month, at the Monroe Township Public Library. Eileen Palmer will set the dates for the rest of the year.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:20pm on motion by Jenn Podolsky and seconded by Amy Babcock-Landry. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Matteucci

Intern

Reviewed by Jeanne Marie Ryan