**Minutes of the NJLA Public Policy Committee Meeting**

**September 9th, 2016**

1. Chair Eileen Palmer called the meeting to order at 10:07am at the Monroe Township Public Library

In attendance: Eileen Palmer - LMxAC; Pat Tumulty - NJLA; Chris Carbone - South Brunswick Public Library; Jeanne Marie Ryan –Roselle Public Library; Leah Wagner - Monroe Township Library; Marie Coughlin - BCCLS; Dave Cubie - West Orange Public Library; Anne Wodnick - Gloucester County Library; Kathy Schalk-Greene - LibraryLinkNJ; Susan Kaplan - Sayreville Public Library; James Lonergan – New Jersey State Library; Mary Romance; John Wallace - Atlantic Cape Community College; Janet Marler - Atlantic Cape Community College; and Kristen Matteucci, NJLA Intern.

**II.** The minutes of the Aug. 5th meeting were approved on motion by Leah Wagner and seconded by Janet Marler. Two abstained.

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

**Johnson legislation:** Senator Weinberg will be introducing the Senate version of the Johnson (A1427) legislation, purportedly today or next Monday.

**Construction bond bill (A222/S2171):** We now have both Democratic and Republican sponsors for this legislation. Senator Linda Greenstein (D) is sponsoring the bill with Senator Christopher Bateman (R) who is a prime sponsor.

**School library legislation:** Pat met with various people and committees to ask for support around potential legislation to require a school media specialist in every school as well as an information literacy curriculum for schools. An Assemblywoman (yet unnamed) may introduce such legislation. She will send information to the Office of Legislative Services to draft a bill. The PTA Association was very supportive. A representative from the School Board Association recognizes the values of school media specialists, but the association does not advocate for unfunded mandates. Pat couldn’t meet with the NJ Education Commissioner, Hespe, because he is stepping down from the position.

Janet Marler asked whether VALE is involved with our school library campaign. Pat confirmed that they have signed a letter and that members of VALE are on the school task force. Chris Carbone has also invited a retiring superintendent (of 30 years) to attend the next task force meeting. Eileen will ask James Keehbler to be present at the next Public Policy meeting to give an update on the Unlock Student Potential campaign.

**Other:** A vote on Casinos will be the only referendum on the ballot this November. The Pre-K Your Way campaign is also continuing to campaign for universal pre-school.

**IV. Current Projects**

1. **Update on Construction Bond Bill** - Senator Greenstein is sponsoring because Leah Wagner called to ask for support. Library in Cranbury (Greenstein's district) wants to build.
2. **Revision of Guidelines for Establishing an Interlocal Services Agreement -** The committee reviewed the additional language that Eileen and Amy Babcock-Landry wrote regarding open public processes, regular intervals for review, and a defined transition period. Marie noted that the emphasis on a **public** process is important. The new language was unanimously approved on motion by Mary Romance and seconded by Chris Carbone.

The group also discussed the greater implications of inter-local agreements for state standards and state aid, as James Lonergan had reported back that a “municipality contracting to provide library services for another municipality” does **not** increase “its population served for purposes of Per Capita State Aid.”

1. **Barriers to Access** - first working group meeting is scheduled for September 20th
2. **Continue Review of Legislative Platform** - Since last month’s discussion with the State Library, Chris has talked further with Mary Chute and Kathy Schalk-Greene about NJ Connect usage and about trying to develop a common legislative platform. Eileen will follow up with some specific “asks.”

The subgroup identified last month will be getting together next month to review the legislative agenda. They will bring revisions to the October meeting. Eileen extended an invitation to Anne Wodnick to join this group.

1. **2017 NJLA Conference Programs**
   1. Kathy contacted Patrick Sweeney from EveryLibrary regarding a pre-conference workshop about “Developing the Message.” The committee discussed how to draw more people than the typically self-selecting audience, including marketing it to trustees and friends groups, increasing social media promotion, and asking the PR committee to co-sponsor. James Lonergan reported that there may be partial funding available from LibraryLinkNJ to pay for Patrick’s fee. Eileen and Kathy (who agreed to moderate) will put this idea forward as a proposal.
   2. Leah Wagner will contact Monroe Council VP Stephen Dalina about presenting.
   3. We will propose a traditional public policy update.
   4. Eileen will talk to James Keehbler about proposing a school library program on behalf of the task force.
   5. Intellectual Freedom Committee may co-sponsor program on digital privacy
   6. Chris reported that a new library achievement task force may be forming to develop criteria for “blue ribbon” libraries and to recognize their success
2. **Public Policy Forum** - in accordance with NJLA’s Strategic Plan, each committee will be offering a continuing education event. Last year’s forum was successful, and the group decided to build on that success and host another day-long event. Content could include information about the Construction Bond Bill, telecommunications plans, and other “heads-up” items. It was suggested that the morning could consist of summaries of key points, while the afternoon could be more in-depth. We also want to allow a chance for people to ask questions and express concerns around policy. Eileen and Jeanne Marie will work on designating a date.
3. **ALA Protocol for Monitoring and Responding to State and Local Library Crises -** The committee reviewed this document from the ALA’s Office for Library Advocacy. Questions arose as to whether we like the document and whether we want to create our own version at the state level. A motion was made by Susan Kaplan and seconded by John Wallace to recommend that the NJLA Board look at the document and that ALA Counselor Jayne Beline bring it to the Chapter Relations Committee to discuss the effectiveness of the document. Motion carried unanimously.

**V. Intellectual Freedom** - no update as Amy Babcock-Landry was not present.

**VI. State Library Report**

Library Support Services

* The State Library’s new contracts with EBSCO and Infogroup for statewide databases/electronic resources for the next three years commenced on July 1st.
* NJSL has contracted with consultants (QualityMetrics, LLC) to begin work on the required independent evaluation of the New Jersey LSTA Five-Year Plan 2013-2017, which is due to IMLS next March.
* The NJ Department of Treasury has informed NJSL that $4,390.81 was raised in the first year of the Local Library Support Fund income tax checkoff. We are in discussions with Treasury as to the best way to distribute these funds, which could amount to less than $1.00 for a number of libraries and would average around $17.00 per library. After the Fund has been in place for a few years, if the total raised is still low, we would be interested in starting a conversation with NJLA and the sponsors of the legislation to possibly revise the legislation to allow for flexibility in how the funds are used and distributed. We would also request consideration of renaming the program to the “Public Library Support Fund,”
* NJSL has submitted a proposal to the Governor’s Office that eliminates or revises chapters or sections in both NJAC 15:21 State Library Aid and Grants and NJAC15:22 Library Network Services. All proposed amendments and deletions have been sent out on NJPubLibs and to the Library Network Review Board and will soon be submitted to the New Jersey Register for publication and public comment. Please note that both N.J.A.C. 15:21 and N.J.A.C. 15:22 expire on November 12, 2017 and are currently undergoing internal review by State Library staff.
* The State Library has moved the JerseyClicks.org webpage from a vendor-hosted website to our own.

Lifelong Learning:

* An early literacy program entitled Science and Math for Everyone program will be held for youth services librarians at the Somerset County Library in Bridgewater on Tuesday, September 27, 2016.
* 2016 Youth Services Forum: The Forum is scheduled for October 20, 2016 at the Monroe Public Library from 8:45 am – 3 pm.
* Grants for Mobile Mini-Makerspace Kits - NJSL and LLNJ will help fund the purchase of three mobile mini-makerspace kits for joint use by a partnering public library/branch and public school library (Kindergarten - Grade 8) at a maximum amount of $7,500 per award. For grant application and guidelines go here: <http://www.njstatelib.org/services_for_libraries/resources/grants/>
* NJ Division of Taxation Small Business Workshops: Nineteen libraries are hosting Small Business Workshops taught by the Outreach and Training Unit of the NJ Division of Taxation. The full list of libraries and dates will be posted on the NJ State Library's website soon.

Innovation & Strategic Partnerships:

* Andrea Levandowski will be convening the Career Connection libraries in September.
* Career Connections: Representatives from the participating libraries will visit the NJ State Library for a meeting to discuss grant implementation and strategies for assisting jobseekers.
* We are reconvening the SWAT Team of Library Transformers for 2016-17. The new team comprises: Cheryl McBride, North Brunswick Public Library; Anne Wodnick, Gloucester County Library; Carol Boutilier, Sparta Public Library; Will Porter, Roxbury Public Library. We will be meeting in September to discuss this year’s launch
* The Futures Conference will be held in Atlantic City, NJ over two full days, September 25 & 26, 2017 (Monday and Tuesday).
* Site Visits. Mary Chute and Peggy Cadigan have made site visits to three libraries: Burlington County Library, Cherry Hill Public Library and Asbury Park Public Library. Photos and descriptions from these visits will be posted to the NJSL webpage.
* Partnerships. Mary and Peggy also visited the Grounds for Sculpture and met with their Director of Corporate Engagement to discuss potential partnerships and the possibility of joint grant applications.

State Library Information Center:

* Author talks – A new year of author talks is being planned. The first two in September are The Pinelands – New Jersey’s Suburban Wilderness with Albert Horner and Courting Justice: 10 New Jersey Court cases that shook the Nation with Paul Tractenberg.
* Contact resulting from a Lunchtime Learning class: Recently Ben Saracco was contacted by a Grassroots Specialist in the Office for Library Advocacy at the American Library Association asking permission to feature his online privacy class materials on a new webpage they are creating called “Privacy Shifting.”

Talking Book & Braille Center:

* TBBC has begun to hold training classes to “Print Impaired” veterans of United States Military Services
* TBBC’s Summer Reading Program has over 60 children participating. This is the highest number of children in the last ten years.
* Next week Louisville, Kentucky both Mary Kaplan and Tara Kehoe will be presenting papers at the International Federation of Library Association (IFLA).

IT:

* In light of NJLA’s recent support of the Digital Privacy Pledge, we would like to remind everyone that JerseyConnect supports https for all web hosting customers. Libraries need to purchase their own digital certificate for their domain and once they do, JerseyConnect staff can assist them with implementing the certificate.
* JerseyConnect has started the process of upgrading the core network backbone from 1GB to 10GB. JerseyConnect has 3 upstream internet service providers and all 3 will be upgraded to a 10GB circuit.
* This year will be the last year that NJSL will pay E-Rate Central for managed wifi e-rate application support. This change is only for the managed wifi service, and EVPL application support will continue. Libraries interested in managed wifi hardware and e-rate subsidization should reach out to JerseyConnect via email info@jerseyconnect.net

The meeting adjourned at 12:19pm on motion by Kathy Schalk-Greene and seconded by Eileen Palmer. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Matteucci

Intern