

MELSA ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Friday, April 9, 2020

9:00-11:00 am

Virtual Meeting via Teams

Members present:

Anoka:	Colleen Haubner and Jacquie Kramer	Ramsey:	Karen Saltis
Carver:	Heidi Hoks	Saint Paul:	not present
Dakota:	Margaret Stone	Scott:	Jake Grussing
Hennepin:	Chad Helton	Washington:	Amy Stenftenagel

Staff Present: Sarah Hawkins, Kathleen James, Sally Lederer, Mona Scott and Scott Vrieze

I. CALL TO ORDER

Stone called the meeting to order at 9:06 am.

II. INTRODUCTIONS and WELCOME

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes (March 12, 2021)

Motion by Grussing to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Hoks.

All in favor signified by saying/gesturing aye:

ACL – aye

CCL – aye

DCL – aye

HCL – aye

RCL – aye

SPL – not present

SCL – aye

WCL – aye

Motion carried.

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Collection Development Team policy recommendations for Metro eLibrary/OverDrive collection

Vrieze asked Hawkins, who facilitates the Collection Development Team, to review the team's recommendations, which are described on the agenda and cover four categories: 1) holds ratio (not to exceed 10:1); 2) percentage of collection budget (Advantage Libraries plan to purchase at least 20% of their collection development budget in OverDrive); 3) Advantage Library activation of the Public Library Connect feature for school libraries that are OverDrive customers (libraries are free to do so); and 4) the Recommend to Library feature, which will be activated for all patrons. (Patrons can recommend 3 titles every 28 days, and MELSA will consider purchase of titles that have been recommended by at least 8 patrons.)

Grussing motioned that the Advisory Board accept the Collection Development Team's recommendations regarding hold ratios, percentage of collection budget, Public Library Connect, and Recommend to Library. Seconded by Stenftenagel.

All in favor signified by saying/gesturing aye:

ACL – aye	CCL – aye	DCL – aye
HCL – aye	RCL – aye	SPL – not present
SCL – aye	WCL – aye	

Motion carried.

B. 1. Consideration of MELSA LSTA Grant Proposal: ASL Training

James, who facilitates the Youth Services Team, summarized that team's recommendation that MELSA pursue staff training in American Sign Language (ASL). The Accessibility Task Force, facilitated by Scott, also expressed interested in ASL training for staff. The goal would not be fluency, but staff confidence in using some library-specific language to provide a welcoming library experience for deaf/hearing impaired visitors. State Library Services indicated that this type of training would fit LSTA grant criteria. An LSTA grant could provide funding for an ASL basics series with a recorded on-demand option to maximize staff participation. This could be expanded statewide.

Saltis motioned and Grussing seconded that the MELSA Advisory Board support moving forward with a regional LSTA grant to fund an ASL training series for library staff.

All in favor signified by saying/gesturing aye:

ACL – aye	CCL – aye	DCL – aye
HCL – aye	RCL – aye	SPL – not present
SCL – aye	WCL – aye	

Motion carried.

(Note: Vrieze suggested that Item B.2. be discussed after item D. Federal ARPA technology funding.)

C. Discussion of options for MELSA Fund Balance Assignment

The MELSA Board of Trustees formally approved the provision that proposed a one-time collaborative purchase for member library systems in the amount of \$175,000. This item is actually deferred until the May Advisory Board meeting for decision-making, but was included on this agenda to remind the group to anticipate/prepare for that conversation. MELSA is not assuming that library systems want to spend this on continued Hot Spot support, particularly since there may be other funding available to do that.

Scott noted that May 10 is the date when we expect to know more about the federal eRate application rules and process.

No action needed at this time.

D. Discussion of Federal ARPA funding sources.

Continuing discussion from item C, Stenftenagel asked when the contracts end on the current Hot Spots. Scott said the first batch end in June and the second batch in September.

Group agreed to wait until May, when more information would be available, to discuss further.

B. 2.

Stone asked whether any systems were planning LSTA grant applications, which have an April 23 deadline. No one indicated that they were preparing applications at this time.

Stone suggested moving the Executive Director report ahead of the Round Robin discussion.

V. Reports

Executive Director Report. Vrieze and Hawkins updated the group on the legislative bills for RLBSS (increases included in both House and Senate bills) and Legacy (\$2.5 million for regional library systems, with an amendment that legacy funds can't be used for drag storytimes though legacy funds have never been used for drag storytimes). Cautiously optimistic about RLBSS, which still has a long way to go in committees.

IV E. Round Robin Sharing

Haubner asked whether MELSA has offered training on dealing with difficult patrons. Scott said that MELSA held de-escalation training through People Inc., which received favorable reviews. Others mentioned People Inc. as a good resource for training.

Grussing was happy to report that they were piloting Bibliotecha Open Plus service, which will launch after it makes it through Scott County Public Health channels. It will be open 6 a.m. – 10 p.m. 7 days a week, providing a convenience for users but also likely proving the value of staff at the same time.

Discussion centered around vaccinations, which were now going well, and increasing hours en route to getting back to pre-pandemic hours.

Saltis talked about the Healing Circles facilitated conversations that RCL is offering in person and virtually.

VI. Adjourn

Stone adjourned the meeting at 10:10 am.