

MELSA ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Friday, February 12, 2020

9:00-11:00 am

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members present:

Anoka:	Colleen Haubner and Jacquie Kramer	Ramsey:	Karen Saltis
Carver:	Heidi Hoks	Saint Paul:	Catherine Penkert
Dakota:	Margaret Stone	Scott:	Jake Grussing
Hennepin:	Janet Mills	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 9:05 am.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

New advisory board members Colleen Haubner from ACL and Karen Saltis from RCL introduced themselves for the benefit of attendees who hadn't met them at the January meeting.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Agenda

Vrieze requested that Consideration of FY21 ACHF/Legacy budget change be added as item IV.D.

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes (January 15, 2021)

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

A roll call of the vote was called:

ACL – aye	CCL – aye	DCL – aye
HCL -- aye	RCL – aye	SPL – aye
SCL – joined meeting after this motion	WCL –joined meeting after this motion	

Motion carried.

IV. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

A. Consideration of proposed use/allocation of RLTA Category 3 Funds

After reviewing options, the MELSA Tech Team recommended that allocations for Category 3 funds (which can be used to improve internet access and access to technology with items that are not e-rated, including but not limited to digital or online resources) be made directly to the systems to address local needs.

Motion by Grussing, second by Hoks, to approve the proposed direct distribution of RLTA Category 3 technology funds to member library systems.

A roll call of the vote was called:

ACL – aye	CCL – aye	DCL – aye
HCL -- aye	RCL – aye	SPL – aye
SCL – aye	WCL – aye	

Motion carried.

B. Consideration of Collection Development Team recommendations for MELSA eContent purchasing and minimum commitment of Advantage sharing.

Hawkins summarized the Collection Development Team’s recommendations to the Advisory Board:

1) the initial minimum sharing level in the OverDrive collection be that each Advantage library share all OC/OU titles that they also do not own metered access licenses for, to be initially reviewed in September, and again in January and June thereafter.

2) adoption of a six-month purchasing plan for the shared collection, purchased with MELSA eContent dollars.

Hawkins added that the Team is developing a Collection Development policy. Grussing thanked Hawkins and the Team for their work putting this together.

Motion by Haubner, seconded by Hoks, to accept the Collection Development Team recommendations regarding sharing the Advantage collections and the six-month purchasing plan.

A roll call of the vote was called:

ACL – aye	CCL – aye	DCL – aye
HCL -- aye	RCL – aye	SPL – aye
SCL – aye	WCL – aye	

Motion carried.

C. Moved item D, Consideration of FY21 ACHR/Legacy budget change, to third on the agenda.

Proposed that the \$35,000 allocated for Teen Lit Con 2021 (which will not be held) be re-appropriated to the virtual summer program. Penkert asked James whether the money had to go specifically to virtual summer programming, or could it be used for in-person programs. Penkert felt that kids and families needed options beyond virtual this summer if at all possible. Stone noted that Dakota County Library is also talking about holding outdoor programs.

Stenftenagel pointed out that, although she understood the reasoning behind re-allocating Teen Lit Con dollars to the summer program, which focuses largely on younger kids, this meant that the money wasn't going toward teens as originally intended. Penkert agreed that teens have been very left out during the pandemic, though she, too, understood the re-allocation to the summer program.

Motion by Haubner, seconded by Grussing, to re-allocate the Teen Lit Con funds to the summer program in whatever forms it takes (virtual/in-person).

A roll call of the vote was called:

ACL – aye	CCL – aye	DCL – aye
HCL -- aye	RCL – aye	SPL – aye
SCL – aye	WCL – aye	

Motion carried.

D. Legislative Advocacy and Virtual Library Legislative Week

Vrieze and Hawkins, who is MLA Legislative Chair, reviewed the 2021 Legislative Priorities document. Penkert requested a chart showing which legislators should be visited in order for everyone to coordinate visits; Hawkins agreed to put a chart together. Haubner asked what should be sent to legislators ahead of time; the single sheet platform description followed up with the bills when those are available. (At the time of the meeting potential bills were taking shape in the Senate and the House but did not have numbers assigned yet.)

In addition to the RLBSS bill requesting increased funding (has been at \$13.57M for more than 10 years), there's also a legacy bill (no file numbers yet). While the libraries are recognized as using legacy funds well, there's no guarantee of continued funding, so it's important to advocate for this as well.

Overall, message is to keep it simple. Request a 15-minute meeting to review library legislation and try to have 3-4 people participate in each meeting.

E. Round Table Sharing

The primary discussion topics were 1) if/when systems might return to regular hours; and 2) when library staff would be able to be vaccinated, based on the categories.

Stone asked about if/when systems were planning to return to pre-pandemic hours. WCL isn't returning to regular hours yet, though Bayport is planning to return to regular hours on 3/1. CCL may not return to pre-pandemic hours since they're keeping some pandemic services such as curbside pick-up. SPL will not be returning to pre-pandemic hours, based in part on staffing. DCL has received permission to do some hiring, and will base hours in part on a survey of community members. Haubner asked Stone how DCL conducted the survey, and Stone described it as a multi-step process that took about a year. She'll pass along details to the group.

RCL is open for grab and go only, not for browsing. They are focused on determining when staff who are not able to work from home will be vaccinated. That led to general discussion of the vaccine categories and whether library staff who interact with the public in person are considered category 1B or 1C. This remains unclear. Penkert noted that it would be important for staff to be vaccinated in the spring in order for SPL to proceed with the interactive, in-person summer programming they are hoping to offer.

V. REPORTS

A. Executive Director and MELSA Staff Updates

Vrieze said that MELSA's strategic planning process would be virtual and would take place later this year.

Stone asked how MELSA had arrived at the new eLibrary title (MELSA Twin Cities Metro eLibrary), and Lederer, who facilitates MELSA's Promotions Team, described the team's process. Members felt that Metro wasn't specific enough, since there are metro library systems all around the country, but systems with cities further out from Minneapolis and St. Paul felt that Twin Cities alone didn't resonate for many of their users who do not think of themselves as living in the Twin Cities. Twin Cities Metro is widely used by media and generally understood to cover the 7-county area, so on the team's recommendation MELSA not only titled the eLibrary accordingly, but also updated its name and logo to MELSA Twin Cities Metro Public Libraries. MELSA will provide the library systems with 10,000 how-to bookmarks for getting started with Libby, as well as templates that systems can customize.

VI. ADJOURN

Stone adjourned the meeting at 10:38 am.