

Metropolitan Library Service Agency Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 11, 2022
Virtual Meeting via Teams
9:00 – 11:00 am

Advisory Board Members/Representatives Present:

Anoka:	Colleen Haubner	Ramsey:	not present
Carver:	Heidi Hoks	Saint Paul:	Catherine Penkert
Dakota:	Margaret Stone	Scott:	Jacob Grussing
Hennepin:	Johannah Genett, Amy McNally		
Washington:	Amy Stenftenagel		

Staff Present:

Gina Goettl, Kathleen James, Mona Scott, and Scott Vrieze

I. Call to order

Chair Stenftenagel called the meeting to order at 9:07am.

II. Introductions and Public Comment

III. Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of agenda
- b) Approval of meeting minutes (February 11th, 2022)

Motion to approve the agenda and meeting minutes by Haubner. Second by Stone.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

ACL - aye HCL - aye SCL – not present

CCL - aye RCL - not present WCL – aye

DCL - aye SPL - aye

Motion carried.

IV. Discussion/Action Items

- a) Consideration of Requests for Phase Funds (WCL, ACL)

Requests for distribution of Phase funds have been received from Washington County Library and Anoka County Library. With the recommendation of the

Advisory Board, this request for funds will be presented to the MELSA Board of Trustees for approval at the March 17th, 2022 meeting.

Motion to recommend the MELSA Board of Trustees accept the following requests for distribution of Phase funds: Washington County Library in the amount of \$66,453, and Anoka County Library in the amount of \$131,998. Motion by Stone. Second by Hoks.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

ACL - aye HCL - aye SCL – not present

CCL - aye RCL - not present WCL – aye

DCL - aye SPL - aye

Motion carried.

b) Legislative advocacy update

Vrieze provided updates from the legislative session last week, and it appears there is strong support for RBLSS funding. An infrastructure bill is also in progress, but we are waiting for bill jackets. Various library systems shared their experience during legislative week. It was proposed to have a discussion with State Library Services to see if the application process for the Capital Projects Fund could be simplified, and it was hard to tell how much legislative progress was being made with this Fund. Hennepin has decided not to go after these funds because the amount of money available is not worth it based on the amount of time it would take to apply.

Grussing entered the meeting at 9:36am.

c) Strategic Planning: updates to Outcomes and Initiatives

Vrieze refined Outcomes and Initiatives based on feedback from trustees and advisory board. These outcomes and initiatives will be presented at the trustees meeting next week.

d) Round table sharing

Operational changes were discussed. Washington County has removed all their mask requirement/recommended signage and remove program capacity limits and distancing requirements. Hennepin County has lifted its mask requirement as well and staff are still supplied with KN95 masks, but they are not required. Dakota County has also lifted its mask requirement. Carver County has not mandated mask wearing for 3 months and programs have not been in person, but they are thinking of moving to some in-person and hybrid programs. Anoka County has also not had a mask mandate for a while and would like to ease back into in-

person programs. St Paul has recently dropped the mask requirement and now masks are just encouraged. Scott County dropped the mask requirement for staff a couple of weeks ago – there has not been one for the public for quite a while. Vrieze asked directors for guidance about MELSA teams and whether they should start meeting in person. The general feedback was that it would be acceptable for meetings to occur in person.

V. Adjourn

Stenftenagel adjourned the meeting at 10:30am.