

# **Metropolitan Library Service Agency Trustee Board Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, February 2, 2023  
Chanhassen Library, Wilder Room  
11:30am – 1:30pm

## **Trustee Members Present:**

|           |                  |             |                      |
|-----------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Anoka:    | Julie Jeppson    | Ramsey:     | Victoria Reinhardt   |
| Carver:   | Matt Udermann    | Saint Paul: | Beth Burns (virtual) |
| Dakota:   | Laurie Halverson | Scott:      | Barb Weckman Brekke  |
| Hennepin: | not present      | Washington: | Karla Bigham         |

**Staff Present:** Abigail Dillon, Gina Goettl, Kathleen James, Sally Lederer, Mona Scott, and Scott Vrieze

## **I. Call to order**

Chair Udermann called the meeting to order at 11:35am.

## **II. Introductions and Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

## **III. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda by Bigham. Second by Halverson.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

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

Motion carried.

Reinhardt entered the meeting at 11:40am.

## **IV. Consent Agenda**

- a) Approval of meeting minutes from the November 17, 2022 meeting
- b) Approval of bills and financial statements

Motion to approve the meeting minutes and bills/financial statements by Weckman Brekke. Second by Jeppson.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

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

Motion carried.

## V. Annual Meeting

a) Oath of office/conflict of interest statement

b) Election of officers

Motion to approve the following slate of officers for 2023:

President: Matt Udermann

Vice President: Laurie Halverson

Treasurer: Beth Burns

Motion made by Jeppson. Second by Halverson.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

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

Motion carried.

Motion to approve the following individuals to be check signers for the organization in 2023:

President: Matt Udermann

Vice President: Laurie Halverson

Treasurer: Beth Burns

Motion made by Weckman Brekke. Second by Halverson.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

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

Motion carried.

c) Committee appointments

Motion to appoint the following members to the following committees:

|                          |                                   |                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Finance</u>           | <u>Personnel</u>                  | <u>Nominating</u> |
| Chair: Burns (Treasurer) | Chair: Halverson (Vice President) | Udermann          |
| Bigham                   | Reinhardt                         | Halverson         |
| Goettel                  | Weckman Brekke                    | Burns             |
|                          | Jeppson                           |                   |
| Udermann (ex officio)    | Udermann (ex officio)             |                   |

Motion made by Burns. Second by Bigham.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

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

Motion carried.

- d) Setting of meeting dates for 2023  
Proposed meeting dates for 2023 were distributed to the Board of Trustees. The December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will need to be moved. Discussion took place and the 14<sup>th</sup> works for almost all commissioners, so December’s meeting will be on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to approve 2023 meeting dates by Weckman Brekke. Second by Halverson.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

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

Motion carried.

## VI. Discussion/Action Items

- a) Advocacy committee update

At the MELSA Board of Trustees meeting in November 2022, Chair Weckman Brekke appointed a committee to discuss and make recommendations for MELSA’s Advocacy and Communications work. Given the urgency of the current state legislative session activities, it was determined that the first few meetings would focus on our advocacy work with the legislature.

The committee has met three times since its inception and will provide a status report and preliminary recommendations for action at the February 2<sup>nd</sup> MELSA Board of Trustees meeting.

Vrieze has met with the Advocacy Committee to discuss the priorities of this committee. They are working on a document that summarizes these priorities; this document could be distributed to legislators. The committee proposed a book-related leave behind, such as providing the legislator with a book and putting the document as a bookmark in the book. There is a bill for a library funding increase in the works being authored by Senator Mary Kunesh. In the House it will be authored by Rep. Lucy Rehm. They were both very supportive about this bill, and it is planned that the bill will be heard on Library Legislative Day. Goettl will send out calendar invite for Library Legislative Day (Feb 28<sup>th</sup>) to the governing and advisory boards. Halverson recommended that the Advocacy Committee meet with Sam (the lobbyist) before Library Legislative Day to come up with a plan for the day. Vrieze will contact Sam to set up a meeting. Bigham suggested focusing on setting meetings with representatives on the Education Finance Committee. Weckman Brekke suggested that the testifier have a prepared response on challenged books in schools and libraries.

b) MELSA strategic outcomes update

MELSA has been focusing on Outcome I of the strategic plan, which includes advocacy efforts. We will be looking at MELSA Promotions to see which direction that group should take. Outcome II is another focus (racial and social equity). MELSA used grant dollars to fund a Digital Inclusion Survey implemented by the Wilder Foundation. Vrieze will be working with Hannah Buckland at the Office of Broadband Development to discuss how MELSA might partner with this office to implement the Digital Equity Act program. MELSA will also explore possibly expanding the Accessibility task force to a standing Interest Group or Team. Outcome III addresses changing workforce needs. MELSA has reimbursed member libraries for multiple training and professional opportunities. Outcome IV covers enhancing shared access to library services, and the main focus has been continued growth of the Metro eLibrary collection (Libby), and this last year MELSA had the most checkouts of any library consortium in world (over 9 million items checked out). There will also be a review of the e-Resources budget allocation and distribution as well as the Jobs and Small Business group scope. Udermann suggested having a round table discussion about access at the next trustees meeting in March so the library directors will be involved.

## **VII. Reports**

a) Executive Director/Staff Reports

Most of the reports were covered earlier in the agenda.

b) Update from January 27<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board meeting

Vrieze mentioned the challenge of the Advisory Board, given that many of the directors are interim. Many of these positions should be filled over the course of this year.

Motion to adjourn at 1:13pm by Jeppson. Second by Halverson.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

ACL - aye

HCL - not present

SCL – aye

CCL - aye

RCL - aye

WCL – aye

DCL - aye

SPL - aye

Motion carried.