

Metropolitan Library Service Agency Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 16th, 2023

St. Anthony Library, Minneapolis meeting room

10:00am-12:00pm

Advisory Board Members/Representatives Present:

Anoka: Colleen Haubner (virtual) Ramsey: not present
Carver: Jodi Edstrom Saint Paul: Maureen Hartman
Dakota: Jennifer Reichert Simpson Scott: Jacob Grussing
Hennepin: Johannah Genett, Amy McNally
Washington: Jacquie Kramer

Staff Present: Abigail Dillon, Gina Goettl, Sally Lederer (virtual), Mona Scott, and Scott Vrieze

I. Call to order

Chair Grussing called the meeting to order at 10:06am.

II. Introductions

III. Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of agenda
- b) Approval of meeting minutes (May 12, 2023)

Motion to approve the agenda and meeting minutes by Hartman. Second by Genett.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

ACL - aye HCL - aye SCL – aye
CCL - aye RCL - not present WCL – aye
DCL - aye SPL - aye
Motion carried.

IV. Discussion/Action Items

- a) Legislative session results

This legislative session was particularly successful:

- Legacy Funding for Regional Public Library Systems - \$2.75 million (up from \$2.5 million)
- Regional Public Library Systems Funding - \$4 million increase (about \$1 million more for MELSA)
- MultiCounty MultiType Regional Library Systems - \$700K for operating and \$1 million one-time grants for media specialists
- Minitex – funding for online nursing and health databases
- Bonding bill also passed - additional \$4 million for libraries around the state of Minnesota.

Grussing mentioned that the trustees requested an op-ed in the Star Tribune from the library directors, thanking legislators for the increase in funds, a rough outline of how the funds might be spent, and communicate what the libraries provide to residents in the metro area.

b) Discussion of MELSA Accessibility Task Force

Motion to support the current mission of the Accessibility Group: to maintain the Disability Awareness site and meet as needed to share information about accessibility issues at their systems. MELSA staff will continue to explore additional training focused on patrons relating to accessibility and disability issues. Motion by Hartman. Second by Kramer.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

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

Motion carried.

c) Potential new/revised expenditures based on additional RLBSS funding

As a result of this year’s legislative session, MELSA will be receiving an additional \$1 million in the upcoming state fiscal year (FY2024) that begins on July 1st, 2023.

DCL is interested in a direct distribution of Legacy funds and increased funds for Libby (e-book/e-audiobook collection).

HCL is struggling with their collection budget, so a direct distribution could be helpful with this area. The directors expressed that they did not want the teams and interest groups putting together large proposals for additional funding. They would like to get feedback from these groups, but they don’t want them to spend their time formulating elaborate proposals. A concern was brought up about Libby and that it seems impossible to keep up with the demand. The directors are committed to Libby as a platform and would like to continue to make this a

funding priority. They are concerned about publishers and increased licensing fees. It may be worth exploring legislative avenues to address this issue. MELSA-led training could also be valuable, such as ASL, DEI, project management, and leadership development. There could be value in using direct distribution dollars for training because the separate member libraries have slightly different priorities that may not be useful to other systems. MELSA could help fund cohort training and certification for library staff so they could move up within the organization without them having to go out and get a graduate degree independently.

The three allocation areas the directors agreed on were training, collection, and direct allocation. In July, the directors can focus on the strategic plan and how the funding options correspond with the strategic plan.

For a future meeting agenda: the directors would like to discuss open meeting laws and how they apply to the Advisory Board.

d) Discussion of Brave Books events

A few of the member libraries talked about looking at their meeting room policies and guidelines, as well as program guidelines. DCL mentioned that when they were contacted, this organization was told that they would need to include a note on any publicity materials that this is not a DCL-sponsored event.

e) Round table sharing

DCL is working on their budget, and South St. Paul Public Library will be joining them in January.

SPPL is also working on their budget, and it is usually finalized in December.

There will be a couple of deputy director positions opening. They are also in the middle of a public safety survey within the community, and they will be reviewing their safety procedures within the organization.

SCL is also in budget season. New Prague now has extended access as of June 1st. They will also be partnering with Family Resource Centers with a couple of their branches.

CCL is also in budget season. One of their priorities is adding WiFi hotspots to their regular budget (instead of a one-time expense). They will be posting a branch manager position at Chaska soon.

HCL – Osseo Library will be adding extended access hours soon, most likely in August. HCL is launching a new literacy program in October.

V. Reports

a) Executive Director and MELSA staff updates

MELSA will have a table at Pride next weekend, next to the HCL table.

b) Next steps for Advocacy/Promotions Task Force

Grussing, Stone, and Haubner are on this task force and will be looking at a long-term advocacy/communications plan and how that aligns with MELSA services.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:04pm by Kramer. Second by Edstrom.

All in favor signified by saying aye.

ACL - aye HCL - aye SCL – aye

CCL - aye RCL - not present WCL – aye

DCL - aye SPL - aye

Motion carried.