

Metropolitan Library Service Agency Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 14
Virtual Meeting via Teams
10:00am – 12:00pm

Advisory Board Members/Representatives Present:

Anoka:	Colleen Haubner	Ramsey:	not present
Carver:	Jodi Edstrom	Saint Paul:	Maureen Hartman
Dakota:	Margaret Stone	Scott:	Jake Grussing
Hennepin:	not present	Washington:	Jacque Kramer

Staff Present: Abigail Dillon, Gina Goettl, Kathleen James, Susan Marschalk, and Mona Scott

I. Call to order

Chair Haubner called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

II. Introductions and Welcome

Pang Vang has been confirmed as the official library director for Ramsey County.

III. Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of agenda
- b) Approval of meeting minutes (May 10, 2024)

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

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

IV. Discussion/Action Items

- a) Elect Vice-Chair of Advisory Board

Motion to return to alphabetical list by county name to determine who will be chair and vice-chair by Stone. Second by Kramer.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

Edstrom will be the vice-chair.

b) Opioid epidemic strategies discussion

Hartman wanted to see what other libraries are doing in response to this public health crisis. The main issue with SPPL has been people smoking opioids in the bathrooms of libraries. They are working with Ramsey County Opioid Response Initiative and Public Health for solutions. Some other libraries have become Naxalone access points, looking into installing vape detectors, and having fentanyl strips available. Some counties are not providing support at this time and have been instructed to leave this to the police department. This will be added as an agenda item for next month to get input from Ramsey and Hennepin County.

c) MELSA Finance Committee decisions on combining Phase & Formula Funds

The Finance Committee met at the beginning of June.

The Finance Committee approves these recommendations from the Advisory Board:

1. Combine Formula and Phase allocations into one annual allocation with no spending requirements using the 2024 Formula calculations and distribution method approved by the Board of Trustees in March.
2. Use the MELSA fund balance to hold the Phase portion of the combined allocations to 2023 amounts for Dakota \$10,009, Hennepin \$10,089, and Ramsey \$18,648.
3. Eliminate the technology spending requirement and request procedures for existing Phase balances and allow funds to be released to systems in 2024.

The Finance Committee requested the Advisory Board discuss a new name for this combined fund. Haubner requested the Advisory Board think about a new name to present to the Trustees once the Board of Trustees approves the combination of Formula and Phase allocations. This will be an agenda item for the next Advisory Board meeting.

d) CRPLSA report

The focus of the CRPLSA meeting was legislative priorities for 2025. For 2024, dangerous weapons in public places did not pass. This is not a huge priority for greater Minnesota, but they support this bill. The legislative forum is coming up August 1st. They would also like to focus on an increase in Legacy funds for next year. The directors would like to hear more about the Safe Libraries proposal from Tami Lee of State Library Services. Marschalk will ask her for more details and see if she can come to a future Advisory Board meeting. Hartman mentioned that having Tami Lee visit our Advisory Board meeting occasionally would be very helpful to learn more about State Library Services' priorities and so SLS can understand MELSA's priorities (at least once a year). Stone suggested having Maggie Snow from Minitex visit once a year.

The directors expressed an interest in discussing the 2024 legislative platform results, in particular the Access to Library Materials and Rights Protected bill. Some of the directors said that their County Board has delegated book challenges to the Library Advisory Board. The language on the new bill is vague and confusing, and some of the libraries will be discussing it with their county attorneys. Haubner mentioned this item should stay on our agenda to continue the conversation.

e) LSTA competitive round – due July 12

Kathleen James will be applying for the LSTA grant. She applied for it last year, but there was a glitch in the system, so she is applying again. The project is to create an 8-episode podcast series partnering a school and a public library in the same city or county that has a teen book club. Each episode will feature a different MELSA system. The primary piece of each episode is a book club discussion facilitated by the two librarians. The format of these discussions will vary from episode to episode. Each library will have the opportunity to talk about the work at their library for teens. Some time will also be given to a quick MN author interview, a Teen Lit Con headliner's book, writing or another YA lit-connected topic. Audio only. Podcast recordings will live on the Teen Lit Con site.

Motion to approve MELSA LSTA grant application by Stone. Second by Edstrom.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

- f) Identifying 2025 legislative priorities

Hartman expressed that she would like to see MELSA be involved in collaboration related to digital inclusion and equity, which is a statewide priority. Haubner proposed adding this agenda item to the July meeting to have a more detailed discussion. The directors expressed an interest in having Sam Walton, the MLA lobbyist, come to a future Advisory Board meeting.

- g) Round table sharing - tabled

V. Reports

MELSA team reports

MELSA Executive Director search update

The statute has passed, and the job description has been posted. It closes on July 5th. The job description has been posted on many local websites.

Collection Development team update: OverDrive weeding practices

The team is currently working out weeding procedures for non-fiction subjects, so they are not overwhelming for systems with smaller collection teams.

Lucky Day update – MELSA has added a few titles to the Lucky Day collection. These are not-for-sale items that MELSA already owns but the publisher is no longer selling. Kramer asked for some clarification on the process, since she was unclear that this pilot was happening. The Collection Development team made this decision together. The Board asked that the Collection Development team members be reminded to communicate any major decisions to their respective directors, especially if a roll call vote is taken, and that Dillon be sure to include any such decisions in his updates to the Advisory Board.

Pride Festival – MELSA will have a table again this year, with staff from all libraries working at the table.

Teen Lit Con report – tabled to July

Haubner adjourned the meeting at 12:07pm.