

Metropolitan Library Service Agency Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 12, 2024
Rockford Road Library, Crystal, MN
10:00am-12:00pm

Advisory Board Members/Representatives Present:

Anoka:	Colleen Haubner	Ramsey:	Pang Yang
Carver:	Jodi Edstrom	Saint Paul:	Maureen Hartman
Dakota:	Margaret Stone	Scott:	Jen Schultz
Hennepin:	Scott Duimstra	Washington:	Jacque Kramer

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

I. Call to order

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

II. Introductions and welcome

III. Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of agenda
- b) Approval of meeting minutes (June 14, 2024)

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

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) Acquisition of ConsumerReports.org for MELSA Electronic Resources Collection

The regional e-resources collection does not include a consumer resource. What is available, either locally or through Minitex, is frequently unable to address customer needs as reported by library reference staff.

Member library reference staff have had trial access since mid-April. Staff have highly endorsed CR.org as the best option to meet user information requests.

There is \$130,000 available in the Electronic Resources budget for new acquisitions. ConsumerReports.org is a third-party resource available through EBSCO. Because we are bringing all eight systems into the subscription we receive a 50% discount on individual subscription pricing. They also guarantee not to exceed 3% increase for renewal years 2 & 3. They have seen 5 to 7% increases in the last few years.

SYSTEM PRICING YEAR 1	
Anoka	\$15,837
Carver	\$7,386
Dakota	\$26,399
Hennepin	\$38,142
Ramsey	\$12,316
Saint Paul	\$15,837
Scott	\$7,386
Washington	\$12,316
1-year Total	\$135,619

Regional Pricing	
Year 1	\$67,810
Year 2	\$69,844
Year 3	\$71,940
3-year Total	\$209,594

Motion to recommend to the Board of Trustees the acquisition of ConsumerReports.org as an electronic resource. Motion by Stone. Second by Duimstra.

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.

b) Identifying new name for combined Phase/Formula funds

The directors had several suggestions, and “Library Systems Allocation” was one of the popular ideas.

Motion to rename the former Phase/Formula funds Library Systems Allocation Fund (LSAF) 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.

c) MELSA Executive Director search update

The consultant is going through the applications to send them on to the Personnel Committee. The Committee will be meeting after the Trustees' meeting next week, and interviews will be taking place on Monday, July 29th.

d) Discussion of priorities for the 2025 legislative session

The MLA legislative forum is coming up on August 1st. Marschalk met with Sam, the MLA lobbyist, to discuss priorities. Marschalk is also attending the CRPLSA meeting at the end of July and will forward the agenda to the Advisory Board.

Yang entered the meeting at 10:27am.

The e-book pricing issue is a federal issue, but the lobbyist suggested we bring it up at the state level as well. Hartman met with the St. Paul mayor, and he suggested that MLA do a legal analysis and present it to the Attorney General to try and curb prices. Duimstra mentioned that OverDrive needs to be included in this discussion, because they are the funnel in terms of access to e-books/e-audiobooks and they have an influence on the prices. They would also like to focus on prohibiting guns from public facilities. Hartman would like to revisit the librarian requirements statewide (remove the MLIS requirement for those working in libraries). This may not be a legislative priority, but MELSA should be prepared to respond if there are legislative priorities at the opposite end from greater Minnesota (requiring an MLIS degree for librarians). Hartman will meet with Marschalk prior to the CRPLSA meeting to discuss this issue. Our lobbyist is planning on coming to the August Advisory Board meeting.

e) Equity Fund guidelines presentation at the MELSA Board of Trustees meeting

Kramer will be talking to the trustees at next week's meeting for approval. It was approved by the Advisory Board in January 2024.

f) Continued discussion of drug use in libraries

Marschalk asked that a member of the Advisory Board speak at the Trustees meeting in either August or September about drug use in libraries. RCL did a review of their policies and procedures, including drug use. They worked with Public Health to update their drug use procedure. Drug use is an ongoing issue, and it is something the libraries will play a part in managing, since this problem is

not going to go away. HCL has a project focused on harm reduction that is about a year long, and they received opioid settlement funds to continue this program. Duimstra will send HCL's PowerPoint presentation on the harm reduction program to the Advisory Board.

g) Gun locks – resources that are available and being used successfully

SPPL has partners that fund gun locks and these locks are provided at a few SPPL locations. They would like to establish more of a standardized process. RCL has gun locks at a couple of locations. DCL is considering looking into this. Haubner would like to keep this on the agenda.

h) eBook pricing - tabled

i) Round table sharing - tabled

V. Reports and Communications

a) Report on 2024 Teen Lit Con

The report on Teen Lit Con was distributed in the meeting packet. Hartman suggested having the attendees sign in or collecting demographic information in some way.

b) Report on Pride Festival, Collection Development update

Dillon is still gathering numbers for visitors to the booth at Pride, but the event was a success. They distributed many buttons and Libby/smARTpass brochures. For the Collection Development update, the team has been tracking the OverDrive cost per copy over the years. That number has been going up every year, and the average cost in 2024 is \$50.68.

c) Upcoming quarterly CRPLSA meeting July 24-26

Haubner adjourned the meeting at 12:00pm.