

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

Friday, January 10, 2025  
Centennial Library, Circle Pines  
10am-12pm

## **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, Gina Goettl, Kathleen James, Mona Scott, and Sherry Wichitchu

## **I. Call to order**

Chair Edstrom called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

## **II. Introductions and Welcome**

## **III. Consent Agenda**

- a) Approval of agenda
- b) Approval of meeting minutes (December 6, 2024)

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

All in favor signified by saying aye.

ACL - aye	HCL - aye	SCL - aye
CCL - aye	RCL - aye	WCL - aye
DCL - aye	SPL - aye	

Motion carried.

## **IV. Discussion/Action Items**

- a) Continuation of Advisory Board priorities for collaborative spending assignments of the 2025 fund balance

Prior discussion has been about using this money for a shared ILS or Discovery Layer spending, but the preferences were mixed. Wichitchu would like this advisory board to think outside these boxes and have a recommendation to present to the Finance

Committee by March. The current Collaborative Initiatives amount assigned from 2023 funds is \$900,000, to be requested again for assignment from year end 2024 funds in March 2025. Haubner suggested ADA improvements (including accessible furniture) and updates to children's areas (adding interactive equipment). There was agreement in the group about improvements to spaces, particularly children's areas, though County oversight might influence purchasing capabilities. Hartman thought intentional community partnerships could have potential. Duimstra mentioned that we can look at state legislative priorities, such as broadband access. Opioid response is another area that could be developed further. Kramer would like to see some of this money go towards professional development. The directors agreed with this and would also like to see an action component that demonstrates the value of the training. Edstrom is interested in Youth Services training, and James shared that the Youth Services Team is working on doing a science of reading training. Schultz suggested that some of this money could go into our Equity Fund, since many of the ideas are related to equity. Having shared outcomes demonstrates the value of MELSA and collaborative spending. The directors agreed that it is important to tell the legislature the story of how the extra money has been spent and continue to focus on collaborative spending when possible and getting the best value for our money. One of the ideas is to focus on a project geared towards early childhood literacy over the course of a few years. An initiative of that magnitude will need a vision statement, goals, project manager, annual measures and reporting, communication plan, and patron surveys. Wichitchu suggested taking a step back further and simply proposing a multi-year initiative with shared outcomes. Further discussion needs to take place at future advisory board meetings to develop what this initiative will focus on. MELSA's strategic plan is due to be redone this year, and the advisory board expressed an interest in waiting until the strategic plan is done to make a more specific plan for an initiative. This is a new undertaking by MELSA and the advisory board wants to be intentional about this process. Wichitchu would like to have a statement of intent from the advisory board in February that will go to the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees in March. Members of the Advisory Board will draft a statement and will finalize the statement at the February meeting.

b) Round table sharing

(i) Library Legislative Day February 20<sup>th</sup> planning

- c) SPPL is trying to get as many people as possible, including representatives from the library staff, city council, and the Friends. ACL is in the process of setting up meetings. Due to construction at the state, some of those meetings may be virtual or at the State Capitol. DCL is planning on gathering a group of people to set up some meetings

and make connections.

SCL may coordinate with DCL on a couple of meetings.

RCL is planning on dropping off some impact documents and having some meetings around digital equity. SPPL will coordinate with RCL on the digital equity piece, as there is some overlap.

HCL will have staff attend and they will highlight early literacy and tutoring efforts.

This will be Wichitchu's first legislative day. She plans on meeting with the MLA lobbyist and Commissioner Halverson before Library

Legislative Day and having introductory meetings with legislators and will be participating on Library Legislative Day with local constituents.

d) Report from Sherry Wichitchu, Executive Director

A new RFI will be going out for delivery services in the next couple of months. MELSA staff will be reviewing existing teams and special interest groups and bringing this review to the board in February or March.

Wichitchu will be traveling to Washington DC for the Voices for Libraries advocacy event in March.

Tami Lee is available to attend the February meeting and would like to know what topics the advisory board is wondering about. In the past, the State Library Services Director came to advisory board meetings once a year to meet everyone and hear what's new at State Library Services.

The next CRPLSA meeting is in April in the Twin Cities, and Wichitchu would like to have a combined meeting with the advisory board during this time for the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The advisory board would like to hear about what is new with CRPLSA and the challenges the library systems in greater Minnesota have been facing (as well as general challenges in greater MN).

e) Collection Development Team report

The team is in a holding pattern as they await direction from the Task Force.

f) Updated about Prince-themed library cards

Duimstra received a positive response from Paisley Park about Prince-themed library cards. Prince's estate is working on putting a contract together, and any of the MELSA member libraries can participate (this would be a separate contract for each member library). They are working on deciding on the image and the terms of the contract, and they are not sure yet what the costs would be. They are hoping to have this in place by April.

g) Update about Star Tribune article

Hartman met with Chris Hewitt from the Star Tribune in December. He is just in the beginning stages of research for the story, and she gave him a lot of background. There was a follow-up at the end of the year, and that was the last Hartman heard about the article.

Edstrom adjourned the meeting at 11:55am.