

Metropolitan Library Service Agency Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 8, 2025
Virtual Meeting via Teams
10:00am-12:00pm

Advisory Board Members/Representatives Present:

Anoka:	Colleen Haubner	Ramsey:	Ray Lockman
Carver:	Jodi Edstrom	Saint Paul:	not present
Dakota:	Margaret Stone	Scott:	Jen Schultz
Hennepin:	Scott Duimstra	Washington:	Jacquie Kramer

Staff Present: Gina Goettl, Kathleen James, Mona Scott, and Sherry Wichitchu

I. Call to order

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

II. Introductions and Welcome

III. Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of agenda
- b) Approval of July 11, 2025 meeting minutes

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

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

IV. Discussion/Action Items

- a) St. Paul digital breach - tabled
- b) Statewide Read-In event

The event has been renamed to The Great North Star Read-Together. It will be on Saturday, September 20th from 11am until 1pm. There will be several locations in the Twin Cities and any of the library directors are welcome to host the read-

together at one of their system locations. Information about publicity and promoting the event is found on the [website](#).

c) Collaborative Initiative Project

On July 24th, ALA released a press release about a new ‘Libraries as Literacy Centers’ initiative. This project aims to elevate libraries as vital literacy hubs through customized support, professional learning communities and technical assistance. Over the next two years, the participating libraries will receive targeted training, engage in knowledge-sharing networks and pilot scalable strategies based on one or more of ALA’s three “Library as Literacy Center” models: Library as Literacy Center, Library as Place of Instruction, and Library as Literacy Convener. For this meeting, Wichitchu would like to explore the framework for our initiative relating to the ALA models, as well as the potential for collaboration with ALA/World Education.

The directors in general were supportive of joining this initiative as part of the Collaborative Initiative Project and would like to get more information. Wichitchu will reach out to ALA and World Education.

d) Round table sharing

ACL is in discussion to unionize staff. They are also finalizing a new branch manager and will launch a new catalog in the fall.

DCL will be posting the library director position soon, due to Margaret’s upcoming retirement. The Wentworth branch is being renovated, and they received a grant to make some improvements outdoors. Burnhaven is also being renovated.

HCL has two projects going now, Southdale and Westonka. There was a break-in recently at Southdale, but the facility is set to be demolished in August or September.

Like many other systems, RCL is working on their 2026 budget. There has been a lot of back and forth about preliminary numbers, and some planned hiring will not be happening.

CCL is planning for reductions in programming and outreach in the fall. There are several vacancies that have not been filled.

SCL is also having some hiring difficulties, although they are filling one position to avoid having to change library hours.

WCL is in the process of hiring a communication specialist. The Park Grove library renovation will start in January/February 2026 and it should take about a year.

V. Reports

Executive Director Update

The Executive Director report was distributed in the meeting packet.

MELSA will be discontinuing the Historic New York Times resource due to low usage and high cost.

Minitex is working on a dashboard to show the value of shared resources that are coordinated by Minitex. At CRPLSA, there was talk about AI, and Minitex is developing an AI policy to conform with the U of M's current approved platforms, Copilot and Gemini.

The legislative update is minimal, since it is a slow time of year. There is a possibility of introducing e-material legislation.

MOE letters will be coming out soon.

The Standards Survey Project is underway, and the survey is open through today. The preliminary results of the survey was shared at the meeting. There will be 24 interviews after the survey to determine whether standards are needed.

The completion of the strategic plan was pushed to January. There will be a member summit in October, and invites will be sent out shortly once the date is set.

The MELSA Communications Manager position will be posted soon.

Edstrom adjourned the meeting at 11:43am.