

**Minutes of the NJLA Public Policy Committee Meeting**

**October 14th, 2016**

1. Chair Eileen Palmer called the meeting to order at 10:05am at the Monroe Township Public Library

In attendance: Eileen Palmer - LMxAC; Pat Tumulty - NJLA; Chris Carbone - South Brunswick Public Library; Leah Wagner - Monroe Township Library; Marie Coughlin - BCCLS; Anne Wodnick - Gloucester County Library; Kathy Schalk-Greene - LibraryLinkNJ; James Lonergan – New Jersey State Library; Mary Romance; John Wallace - Atlantic Cape Community College; Janet Marler - Atlantic Cape Community College; Jennifer Podolsky - East Brunswick Public Library; Maryann Ralph - Plainsboro Public Library; Sarah Lester - Maplewood Public Library; James Keehbler - Piscataway Public Library; Keith McCoy - Somerset County Library System NJ; Amy Babcock Landry - Livingston Public Library; and Kristen Matteucci, NJLA Intern.

**Updated agenda**: The Alliance Project will be added to the agenda.

**II.** The minutes of the Sept. 9th meeting: Kathy Schalk-Greene requested a revision to Section IV, Part “e” regarding 2017 NJLA Conference Programs. Kathy reported that partial funding from LibraryLinkNJ may be available for the conference program. Approved By Anne Wodnick and seconded by Leah Wagner. All in favor.

**III. Pat Tumulty’s Report/Legislative Updates:**

**Johnson legislation:** A1427/S2633 has been voted out of the Assembly! The vote was 52 in favor, 14 against, 9 not voting, and 5 abstentions. Pat followed up with “No” votes. Democrats from Monmouth County voted against because they’re worried about tax implications. The five who abstained were not impacted by the bill, as they do not have municipal libraries in their districts. Senator Weinberg has introduced the bill in the Senate. The bill is now active until January 2018.

**A4226/S2595:** Assemblywoman Eliana Pintor-Marin (sponsor) has introduced this bill, which would take a number of job titles out of Civil Service, including the New Public Library Director’s position. Because Newark’s population has decreased to under 300k, it is no longer identified as a city of the first class, meaning that the law has to be re-written to take/keep certain jobs out of Civil Service. NJLA supports Newark PL and this bill, but will not testify or take action to push it through. The Director position will still require an MLIS degree.

**League of Municipalities Conference:** November 15th - 17th in Atlantic City. Volunteers neededto help with the NJLA table.

**IV. School Library Task Force**

James Keehbler gave a report on the Task Force’s recent and upcoming advocacy activities, their ESSA and legislative strategies, and the assistance they are requesting regarding the Unlock Student Potential campaign. (See attached 2-pager). *Selected highlights:*

**Advocacy To Date**

* The Task Force has met with several legislators or their staff (Senator Ruiz, Assemblywomen Sumter and Jacey) and stakeholders such as the PTA and Larry Feinstein of the School Board Association. Overall, these visits have gone well, although some stakeholders will not support unfunded mandates.

**ESSA Strategy**

* Pat Tumulty and James Keehbler have been invited to participate in the NJDOE’s ***ESSA Stakeholder Focus Group.***
* The Task Force is pushing for legislation requiring a full-time School Library Media Specialist in every school with at least 300 students, and part-time for schools under 300, based on existing or pending legislation in other states.
* The Task Force also aims to obtain legislation requiring Information Literacy be taught in all NJ schools K-12. Or it may be possible to have Info Literacy added in Administrative Code for K-12
	+ James Lonergan & John Wallace have gathered Administrative Code from other states re: information literacy and school library programs to help formulate input to the NJDOE.

**Upcoming Advocacy**

* The Task Force will have tables at the NJASL Conference in November and the VALE Conference in January 2017.
	+ The letter from academic librarians has been key in highlighting gaps in college preparedness, especially as Information Literacy is a standard set by Secretary of Higher Education, but there are no such regulations in K-12. Info Lit is resonating with people.
* The Task Force is creating advocacy videos (at the suggestion of the PTA), developing resolutions which public library boards can pass in support of school libraries, building coalitions and alliances (people/groups like NAACP seem especially interested partnering to increase equity of opportunity), etc.
* The ALA invited the Task Force to do a panel/webinar on their efforts

**Assistance Requested**

* Send relevant stories, videos, blog posts, etc. to James Keehbler and/or Task Force members
* Sign the petition at [www.unlockstudentpotential.org](http://www.unlockstudentpotential.org) and
* Follow & share *Unlock Student Potential* on Facebook
* Participate in Snapshot Day on Tuesday

**Other**

* Pat noted that ESSA is only 10% of school budgets, but that it drives planning.
* Janet Marler suggested speaking with private school librarians to help highlight the difference in equity
* NJASL is not set up to do policy advocacy; ESSA issues are not on their Board Meeting agendas. However, they’re interested in participating in Legislative Days and appreciate NJLA’s work.

**V. Current Projects**

1. **Alliance for NJ Libraries:** Chris Carbone reported on a project to build a network of allies who support and value the work of libraries. Organizations would sign on to a simple statement in support of libraries services and lend their name and logo. We would target not only educational organizations, but also think outside (ahem, *beyond)* the box to include social workers, nurses, health organizations, etc. At this point, we’re not asking for support for any specific bills, but this project would help create a directory which we could use to contact allies with a more specific ask in the future . Chris plans to talk to the NJLA Board on Tuesday to get approval for going ahead with the concept.

The group agreed that we need to examine what NJLA can offer in return. We do not currently have clearly defined guidelines around endorsements or procedures to determine when we let others use our logo or link to our webpage, etc. The committee discussed remaining politically neutral as a 501c3 and finding the appropriate level of reciprocity. Mary Romance suggested highlighting the ways in which we support our allies by training their students and building their workforce through Info Literacy. Presenting/hosting workshops at allies’ meetings was also suggested.

Amy, Bob, Jen, Eileen, Janet, and Mary are interested in helping Chris develop such guidelines (unless the Executive Board takes this up).

1. **Construction Bond Bill:**  Goal is to get this on the November 2017 ballot, which means it needs to be done by June of 2017. Committee members will advocate for the bill at the League of Municipalities Conference. We may also want to reach out to trade unions, especially as the casino referendum looks like it will not pass.

Sarah Lester stated that the Mayor DeLuca of Maplewood has an upcoming library construction project and would like to talk with other interested mayors to support the bill. Group noted that we can have DeLuca sign the work group’s forthcoming resolution to show his support; we will add his name to a website for the campaign. It was also suggested NJLA distribute a letter/flyer to mayors to raise awareness of the bill and ask if they’d like to add their name in support.

Volunteers for creating the Construction Bond website were suggested. James Keehbler will reach out to John Daquino (skilled with WordPress). If that doesn’t work out, Eileen can lend the LMxAC PR person, and Amy volunteered to work with that person.

1. **Barrier to Access:** This group met for the first time in September, drawing members from various committees. The group used the research prepared by Kristen Matteucci to frame the issue and guide discussion around a broad range of barriers to access (including issues around fines, fees, and loan periods; requirements for library cards; physical barriers for those with disabilities; etc.). The group had a robust conversation, but is not clear on the way forward at this point, as recommendations for specific policies may not (yet) be appropriate. John Wallace suggested creating an institutional self-assessment. Barriers to access may also be a useful topic for Continuing Education, presentations to Trustees, or potential chapter discussions in the future. Kristen will forward her research to the Public Policy committee as requested.
2. **Public Policy Forum:** Forum will be Wednesday December 7th at Monroe Township PL. Eileen is dubbing it Public Policy 201 with a primer on basic issues in the morning and a review of current issues in the afternoon. Potential presentations to include review of NJ government structure (John Wallace), overview of the State Library and LibraryLinkNJ as well as specific projects (Kathy Schalk-Green and James Lonergan), info on Digital Privacy Pledge (Amy Babcock Landry and TJ), best practices for communication, emails, OPRA, etc. (Sarah Lester and Marie Coughlin), Confidentiality 101 (Leah Wagner), updates on School Library Task Force (James Keehbler), Construction Bond (Jeanne Marie Ryan), and planning for telecommunications (gigabit) upgrades (Eileen Palmer). Programs to be in the 30 minute range. Lunch included.

Eileen will create agenda to share with us. She’ll reach out to Melissa at NJLA to set up registration.

**e**. **Review of legislative platform:** This group has not met yet, as members have continued to meet with the State Library to pull together a draft agenda with a more unified ask. We have been working with the State Library to develop a study to evaluate the effectiveness of what we’re doing now. While there is a consensus that we need a statewide plan for telecommunications upgrades, we’re still missing a vision for how to get to gigatbit access. Mike from the State Library has emphasized that JerseyConnect is not in crisis at this time, but he is planning for the next five years.

**f.**  **2017 Conference Programs:**

1. Eileen will talk to Kathy about potential LLNJ funding for Patrick Sweeney’s (Every Library) pre-conference program on Developing the Message
2. Leah Wagner spoke to Monroe Council Vice Chair, Stephen Dalina, but details not firmed up. Leah and Eileen will pursue and see what happens.
3. James Keehbler to give update on School Library Task Force
4. May co-sponsor a program with the Library Achievement Task Force - Eileen will talk to Brett Bonfield.
5. Public Policy Update (co-sponsored by Intellectual Freedom)
6. Digital Privacy (co-sponsored by Intellectual Freedom)

**VI. Intellectual Freedom Report:**

Amy Babcock Landry reported that IFC is working on conference proposals.

1. Highlight the Digital Privacy Pledge and HTTPS in a less technical fashion. Emphasize why it’s important and how to implement it.
2. Self-censorship and the role it can have on collection development (possibly co-sponsor with children/young adult sections)

IFC will be co-sponsoring a spring program with the Emerging Technologies section. This will focus on the more technical aspects of HTTPS, Tor, and digital privacy, as privacy and surveillance is the next forefront of the Intellectual Freedom movement. Eileen reported that she recently heard chilling news from DC policy wonks that we may see legislative attempts to require libraries to keep certain records that we currently do not track.

Amy handed out copies of bill A2114, which would require the police to obtain a subpoena to seize cell phone data. IFC is requesting the NJLA support the bill. This will be put on the agenda for next month.

**VII. State Library Report**

**Library Support Services**

Per capita state aid checks totaling $3,639,240 have been sent out to 12 counties and 271 municipalities.

The 2017 1/3 mill figures have been sent out on NJPUBLIBS and posted on the per capita state aid webpage. The statewide 1/3 mill average has increased 2.03% from last year.

NJSL staff met with our consultants (QualityMetrics, LLC) to begin work on the required independent evaluation of the New Jersey LSTA Five-Year Plan 2013-2017. NJSL will set up a state-wide survey, focus groups, and interviews to gauge progress towards the goals outlined in the Plan, with a special emphasis on evaluating the Talking Book and Braille Center and our statewide databases/e-resources.

The Library Network Review Board will be meeting the afternoon of November 30th immediately after the LLNJ membership meeting at the Monroe Township Public Library.

**Lifelong Learning**

The *Science and Math for Everyone: Exploring Science and Math Concepts Through Storytimes Training* for youth services librarians was held on Sept. 27th, with 49 attendees and excellent reviews. The training was conducted by professional early literacy consultant Saroj Ghoting.

Grants for Mobile Mini-Makerspace Kits – Deadline to Apply November 1: <http://www.njstatelib.org/services_for_libraries/resources/grants/> NJSL and LLNJ will help fund the purchase of three mobile mini-makerspace kits for joint use by a partnering public library/branch and public school library (Kindergarten - Grade 8) at a maximum amount of $7,500 per award. Focused on small communities (population of less than 15,000).

The 26th Youth Services Forum is scheduled for October 20, 2016 at the Monroe Public Library from 8:45 am – 3 pm. The keynote speaker will be Lourdes Tango who will talk about unconscious bias as it relates to librarians and service providers. There are about 145 registered for the program.

Career Connections: On September 23, thirty representatives from the eighteen Career Connections libraries attended a cohort-building meeting at the New Jersey State Library. On October 28, representatives from the Career Connections libraries will gather in Trenton again at the Department of Labor and Workforce Development building to meet their liaisons at One Stop Career Centers. This meeting will review the protocol for referrals between libraries and One Stops and provide everyone an opportunity to network.

Division of Taxation Trainings: 18 trainings are scheduled across New Jersey for representatives from the Division of Taxation’s Training and Outreach Unit to discuss the basics of starting and registering a business. A list of locations is available on the NJ State Library website: http://www.njstatelib.org/TaxationUniversity

**VIII. Other**

**LibraryLinkNJ**

Kathy Schalk-Green reported that LLNJ administered a survey regarding its delivery service and garnered an 81% response rate (the other 19% are being pursued). LLNJ will use this info to build a communications database.

Membership meeting, entitled “Don’t Just Survive; Thrive,” will be held Nov. 30th to address planning in strained times.

Regarding the strategic planning process, LLNJ is reviewing consultant proposals and the board will select one at the meeting next Thursday.

**Keith McCoy**

A Somerset County library patron has found a chink in the state library law regarding the sale of library discards. It is not lawful to give books to Friends groups to dispose of books, as previously thought. Instead, discarded books must be gathered to be auctioned off. There is legislation in other states to exempt discarded library materials from going to public auction, so we need to identify legislators who will put up such a bill to close the loophole. There is no cost to such legislation. This issue will be placed on next month’s agenda.

James Keehbler reminded the committee to make nominations for the Executive Board elections.

The meeting adjourned at 12:19pm on motion by John Wallace and seconded by Kathy Schalk-Green. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Matteucci

Intern