

# NJLA Professional Development Committee Agenda

Tuesday, June 24th, 2024, at 2 p.m.

**Start:** 2:19pm

**Attendance:** Katie Kotacska, Bonnie Lazafan, Susan Vignuolo, Matheson Westlake, Katy White

**Absences:** Christina Getaz, Neil Grimes, Yu “Jane” Jiang, Adriana Mamay, Nicole Marconi, Kate Mathe, Eric Schwartz, Jennifer Sulligan, Brandy Walthall

## 1. Acceptance of May Minutes:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tg52zFGHIIKQpvKCZ-EJM2MUCbVnuT0EjDzltkB5cOc/edit?usp=sharing>

## 2. Post NJLA 2024 Conference Updates- Bonnie & Susan

- a. How Did We Get Here? Breaking Down Barriers in Our Library Careers -- Friday, May 31st @ 11:40am-12:30pm
- b. Conference program went very well! 40 people attended.
- c. Future recording- Bonnie mentioned during the panel that we should have recorded the program. Susan, this is something you would be interested in doing since you will be taking over as Chair? (probably too much work . . .we'll opt to learn from our mistakes!)
- d. Bonnie will upload the slides.
- e. Next year, we should make sure we have cell phone contact information for all panelists.
- f. Next year, make sure a recap goes out in the newsletter.

## 3. Library Career Path Series- Katie, Susan, Christina, and Matheson:

- a. The latest episode is with Kiana Kirby, Technology Librarian at Westfield Public Library. Click [here](#) to view.
- b. Discuss video statistics.
- c. The next video will be premiering on June 26th, featuring Katrina Zwaaf from Somerset County Library System of New Jersey. She is the Cataloguing Librarian there.
- d. Interview backups - Susan, Christina & Matheson
- e. Library Career Path Series Interviews still needed to film:
  - i. Medical Librarian Update
  - ii. Corporate Librarian Update- Still on the search. Bonnie recommended reaching out to SLA for a potential corporate librarian interview for the New Librarian Series. Katie will reach out to them.
  - iii. We can ask at the conference for possible contacts and/or put out an open call in the NJLA newsletter.

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- f. Date to post series on Youtube discussion- will be posted biweekly as discussed with the members. This will help with renewed interest in the series. Here is the list of the librarians and the dates they will be posted to YouTube:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eHMDMXB9XgVNeHotWSXIR1IL6juKNoQHK1ggapNZx8o/edit?usp=sharing>
  - g. Playlist on Youtube- Katie created a playlist for the Library Career Paths to be compiled into.
  - h. Katy has asked Alicia to market the series. It will be featured in the NJLA newsletter that will go out tomorrow.
- 4. Social Media 101 Program Follow-Up- Katie:**
- a. Committee members discussed a follow-up program last meeting based on the survey results. Based on the results, the members felt that the topics of “social media strategy and library program effectiveness” would be a good follow-up. Katie will reach out to Jasmine to see if she is interested in doing a follow-up program.
  - b. Katie will check with Katy and Brett about getting access to post-conference data on programs people would like to see in the future.
  - c. Jasmine introduced us to Hope Holroid, who may be interested in funning a social media plan program. We are waiting to hear back form them.
- 5. Future Speakers/Programs- Katie & Susan:**
- a. Susan submitted the mini-grant application to NJLA for the program with Susanne Markgren and Linda Miles. Their program is called Career Satisfaction through Engagement and Empowerment: Strategies that Work. If accepted for the grant, we will be notified by June 15th.
  - b. Update on grant. We were accepted!
  - c. Susan will reach out about a date in January.
  - d. Katy will let us know how to submit invoices.
  - e. Future programming:
    - i. Susan will do some research on PD for paraprofessionals and maintenance/security. Katy suggested talking to Heather Christian.
    - ii. AI in Academic Libraries
      - 1. Collaborate with the College & Universities Section (CUS)
      - 2. Katie will reach out to Jonathan and then Susan will reach out to Adriana.
      - 3. Laura Jacoby is another possible resource.
- Other AI Speakers from NJLA Panel:  
<https://njlaconference.info/content/librarylinknj-ai-ambassadors-panel>
- iii. 1st Amendment Auditors

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1. Do we want to draw attention to disruptors? Every library has a different set of behavioral rules which makes this challenging content.

### **6. Newsletter Updates- Susan**

- a. Erica Deb reached out to Susan to express concerns about content being published through NJLA and LibraryLink. We need to discuss and make a decision.
- b. Katy will check with Brett about possible bylaw issues.
- c. Katie's colleague Christine submitted a "Well, How Did I Get Here?" so we are ahead of the game!!

### **7. Open Comments:**

### **8. Updates from NJLA Executive Board (copied from email)- Eric, Katy White**

Dear NJLA Members,

Thank you for a successful 2024 Annual Conference! Special thanks to the Conference Committee, Honors and Awards, Fundraising, Member Services, the NJLA Store, everyone who sponsored or facilitated a program, and everyone who jumped in to help at the registration table or behind a desk! With 999 attendees, including 61 exhibitors, we are back to pre-COVID attendance levels. Our post-conference survey was emailed directly to attendees, and we would love to hear your feedback.

NJLA's Executive Board met on Tuesday, June 18. Here are some of the highlights.

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- NJLA's Strategic Plan is scheduled to be finalized at the next Executive Board meeting on Tuesday, July . Thanks again to the conference attendees who engaged with the NJLA Core Values Poster, and to NJLA's Chapter Councilor to ALA, Laverne Mann, for creating it and managing the process. Pending Executive Board approval, NJLA's new mission statement will be, "**Developing library workers, uniting the library community,**" and NJLA's new Core Values will be:
  - Professional Development
  - Transparency
  - Member Engagement and Collaboration
  - Sustainability
  - Advocacy
  - Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
  - Unite All Library Workers and Advocates
  - Joy and Community

Following Executive Board approval, NJLA signed a contract with Hard Rock Casino - Atlantic City on June 18 for a merged conference in 2026–28 with the New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL). We are excited about this opportunity to unite library workers and advocates in person once per year, and to collaborate more closely on our shared goals and objectives.

The Executive Board approved a 2024–25 budget that reflects NJLA strong, stable finances. The budget includes funding to create an Event Planner staff position. We expect an experienced, talented Event Planner to help NJLA's committees create even better in-person experiences for NJLA members at the Annual Conference, single-day forums, and other events, while improving the experience for the NJLA volunteers who lead the planning and staff the events. We also expect NJLA's Event Planner to decrease costs and increase revenues.

We continued working with NJLA's lobbyists, Porzio Governmental Affairs, to advocate for fully restored, flat year-over-year funding for Library Network aid in

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New Jersey's 2024-25 state budget, and for New Jersey's Freedom to Read bill, which passed through the Assembly Education Committee on June 6. Brett Bonfield delivered testimony before the Education Committee, along with Public Policy Co-Chair, Jennie Pu, Permanent Construction Task Force member, Jeanne Marie Ryan, and the daughter of Nick Bastean, a member of the Public Policy Committee. We await the next committee hearing for the bill.

NJLA's Mini-Grant Task Force awarded its first grants. Congratulations to the Professional Development Committee for their "Career Satisfaction Through Engagement and Empowerment" program and the Retired Members Section for "Ready, Set, Retire."

### **A Note from Brett on the NJLA Store**

On May 24, just before this year's NJLA Annual Conference, I sent a note with an inaccurate and misleading headline, "NJLA Store Closing in 2025." While the rest of the information was true – Cheryl McBride will be retiring from the store after the 2025 NJLA Annual Conference and she plans to celebrate with a yearlong blowout sale to end all everything-must-go blowouts – I wrote a terrible headline. We expect the NJLA Store to continue in some form after Cheryl's retirement. We do not yet know what form it will take, and look forward to working with NJLA members to figure it out. While Cheryl is irreplaceable, the lesson she has taught us rings true. You like supporting NJLA and libraries in a variety of ways, and that includes by shopping! We expect to offer you that opportunity for the foreseeable future. I apologize for misleading you.

Board meetings are open and we welcome your attendance. Check [njla.org/executive-board-agendas](https://njla.org/executive-board-agendas) for dates and meeting links. You can also find

Organizational Updates at [njla.org/organizational-updates](https://njla.org/organizational-updates).

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We would love to hear your feedback about this update or any other NJLA service.

We appreciate you,

Brett, Katy, and Alicia

**11. Adjournment:**

**2023-2024 PD Meeting Dates:**

December 20th

January 24<sup>th</sup> - In-person meeting at JFK Library in Piscataway

February 28<sup>th</sup>

March 27<sup>th</sup>

April 24<sup>th</sup>

May 22<sup>nd</sup>

June 24<sup>th</sup> - In-person at Westerguard Public Library in Piscataway.

July 24<sup>th</sup>

August 28<sup>th</sup>

**2023-2024 committee members:**

1	Kotacska	Katherine	Middletown Township Public Library	kkotacska@mplmain.mtpl.org	Chair
2	Vignuolo	Susan	Piscataway Public Library	svignuolo@piscatawaylibrary.org	Vice Chair
3	Mamay	Adriana	Middlesex College Library	amamay@middlesexcc.edu	Conference Future Chair

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4	Sulligan	Jennifer	Somerset County Library System	jensulligan@live.com	Lead & Edu Chair
6	Getaz	Christina	Caldwell University	cegetaz@gmail.com	Member
7	Grimes	Neil	William Patterson University	grimesn@wpunj.edu	Member
8	Jiang	Yu "Jane"	Union College Library	yu.jiang@ucc.edu	Member
9	Lazafan	Bonnie	Springfield Public Library	blazafan@springfieldpubliclibrary.com	Member
10	Mathe	Kate	Mendham Borough Library	kdonnell@scarletmail.rutgers.edu	Member
11	Marconi	Nicole	Hoboken Public Library	nicole.marconi@hoboken.bccls.org	Member
12	Schwarz	Eric	Clarence Dillon Public Library	eschwarz@dillonlibrary.org	Member
13	Walthall	Brandy	Atlantic City Free Public Library	brandydwalthall@gmail.com	Member
14	Westlake	Matheson	Mercer County Library	mathesonwestlake@gmail.com	Member