

**LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on**  
**May 20, 2019**  
**at the Department of Administration,**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Conference Room B,**  
**One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908**

**Members Attending:** Heidi Blais, John Bucci, Aaron Coutu, Melody Drnach (Chair), Louise Herrington, Rosita Hopper, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Amanda Richman, Robert Sloan

**Members Absent:** Cristina Amedeo, Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Marcus Mitchell, Leslie Page

**Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):** Karen Andrews, Karen Mellor

**Guests:** Ellen Kooima, Trustee, Maury Loontjens Memorial Library (Narragansett); Karen Shabshelowitz, Trustee, Maury Loontjens Memorial Library (Narragansett); Walter Dzialo

**Materials Distributed:**

- LORI Standards Revision Draft
- LBRI Legislative Committee Report – May 20, 2019
- Grow with Google RI Library Tour Informational Brochure

**I. WELCOME**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the April 08, 2019 meeting**

**Moved by:** Mr. Norris

**Seconded by:** Mr. Bucci

The meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Welcome/Introductory Remarks

**A. Senator Jack Reed, Enlightenment Award**

In recognition of his long-term support of libraries, Senator Jack Reed was presented with Providence Public Library's Enlightenment Award at their annual gala on May 10. Ms. Mellor and Ms. Drnach attended the event. The Adult Commons area of the library will be named for Senator Reed.

**B. RI Library Association (RILA) Annual Conference**

The RILA annual conference is this week, May 22-23, at Bryant University in Smithfield.

#### IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

##### A. RI Library Association Annual (RILA) Conference

OLIS is a longtime sponsor of the annual RILA conference. This year's conference will kick-off yearlong programming on News Literacy that explores how to identify potential bias and misinformation in the news.

##### B. Ongoing

###### i. Continuing Education (CE) Programs

On June 4, the Young Adult (YA) Roundtable will review new YA books and collection development at Lincoln Public Library. The Children's Sensory Support Time Group will meet at North Providence Union Free Library on June 11 to discuss sensory activities and program ideas.

RILA's Financial Literacy Roundtable will host John Clarkson, Vice President of Security and Fraud for Pawtucket Credit Union, at Coventry Public Library on June 12 for 'Financial Crimes & the Latest Scams', a program designed to help people avoid financial schemes and scams that often originate online and target older citizens.

The Digital Innovation Roundtable (DIRT) on June 19 at Bristol's Rogers Free Library will discuss current year activities and initiate plans for the 2019/2020 season.

More detailed information about CE programs is available on the OLIS website.

##### C. Complete Count Committee; Census Workshops

60 people attended two Census Solutions workshops at Warwick Public Library on April 10. The morning program informed librarians and other attendees about the importance of an accurate census count. The Complete Count Committee met in the afternoon and is working to ensure maximum participation in RI's 2020 Census count, especially in hard-to-count communities.

##### D. Library of RI (LORI) Grants

Library of RI grant projects are underway at 15 libraries; projects must be completed by the end of August. If possible, some LORI projects may be showcased at the September board meeting.

##### E. Summer Reading Program (SRP)

More than 200 people attended the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Kids Reading Across RI (KRARI) Summer Reading Program (SRP) kick-off event at the State House on May 4. Seven libraries provided children's activities, and 8 organizations sponsored programming that included astronomy from Skyscrapers, virtual reality from the RI Computer Museum, and a coloring robot from the RI Museum of Art and Science.

The SRP theme is 'A Universe of Stories', and the KRARI book is the graphic novel, *Sanity and Tallulah*, by Molly Brooks. OLIS will sponsor 140 library programs this summer, one each for children and teens at each public library; SRP program activities begin mid-June.

#### F. Marrakesh Treaty

The United States ratified the Marrakesh Treaty, which permits exceptions to copyright laws to allow reproduction of print books in alternate formats for blind or visually-impaired people. The National Library Service, which provides services through Talking Books Library, is exploring how they can leverage the Treaty to make more materials available to patrons.

#### G. Diversity Summit

OLIS will host a Diversity Summit in mid-July at the University of RI (URI) to discuss ways to help libraries become more responsive and reflective of the communities they serve. Tentative topics include implicit bias and immigrant and refugee experiences. A committee of members from URI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies (GSLIS), Cornucopia of RI, the RI Library Association, public libraries and OLIS are developing the program. The summit will be followed by a series of programs throughout the year.

#### H. Grow with Google Tour

'Grow with Google' workshops will be held at Providence Public Library on May 29, and Newport Public Library on May 31. Google is partnering with the Public Library Association (PLA) to coordinate free workshops at libraries in all 50 states over 18 months to promote Google tools that enable jobseekers, small business owners and others to develop their digital skills. Google will provide technology, library staff training, and small grants to libraries that want to delve deeper into digital skills training.

### V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A. Federal & State Legislative Updates (Mr. Coutu reporting)

Senate Bill S0040, about public utility and carrier internet providers and Net Neutrality, passed in the Senate and was referred to the House Corporations Committee. Bills S0042 and H5252 that propose changing the section of the RI State Constitution referencing public library service was held for further study. Ms. Mellor attended a hearing for S0327 that re-defines library requirements under the public body definition in Open Meeting requirements, the bill was held for study. Bill H5158, which determines if a nonfiction book qualifies for tax exemption, was held for further study.

Several federal bills to expand national internet connectivity are moving through Congress. Senate Bill 1167, the Digital Equity Act of 2019 that establishes two National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) grant programs to promote nationwide digital equity and expand broadband access, has been referred to Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation.

Ms. Mellor reported that a \$17,000,000 increase for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding that would fully fund the increased base grant for states at \$1 million passed House Appropriations. It may be a greater challenge to pass such a bill in the Senate.

B. LORI Standards Revision Committee (Mr. Coutu reporting)

A draft of the revised LORI Standards has been prepared for presentation to the board. Mr. Coutu thanked the committee members for their hard work and the professionalism exhibited during discussions about contentious issues.

Ms. Drnach recommended that further discussion about the revised standards be held for today's Unfinished Business agenda item.

C. School Libraries Committee (Ms. Blais reporting)

The committee completed and issued a school library survey to which 157 school libraries have responded; a 61% response rate. Non-responsive libraries have been contacted and encouraged to respond before the survey closes this week. Best practices and research on the importance of school libraries in a child's education will also be included in the report.

## **VI. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

A. Mr. Norris

Mr. Norris extended his gratitude to Ms. Mellor and Mr. Coutu for their assistance with the Rhode Island Teachers of English Language Learners Conference held May 11. 160 people attended, and 2 librarians, Martha Boksenbaum, Youth Services Librarian from Cranston Public Library's Auburn Branch, and Bonnie Lilienthal, Senior Children's Librarian at Providence Public Library, assisted attendees. Librarians from around the state contributed booklists, display books, and other materials. The RI Library Information Network for Kids (RILINK consortium) provided information about their 'Read Aloud' program, for which they recently received a LORI grant.

B. Mr. Bucci

Registration for this week's RILA conference is still open. Keynote speakers will be Wanda Brown, 2019-20 American Library Association President-Elect, G. Wayne Miller, Visiting Fellow at Salve Regina University and Providence Journal reporter, and Michael Spikes, Consultant, Center for News Literacy at Stony Brook University. The Coalition of Library Advocates and School Librarians of RI will host a reception at the conference and will present their annual awards.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Review of the Revised LORI Standards

Mr. Coutu reported that revisions were made to clarify library terms, including the definitions of a library and librarian. Staffing requirements were outlined for different types of libraries, the process to submit complaints was detailed, and language was added to denote library compliance to RI general laws.

Ms. Mellor noted that the review would also align library definitions throughout all library regulations.

**Motion:** Dr. Hopper made a motion to accept the draft LORI Standards and post them for public comment.

**Seconded by:** Ms. Richmond

The LORI Standards draft was approved as presented.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Narragansett Public Library Funding**

Ms. Mellor reported that a 2016 bond was approved by Narragansett voters to purchase a building to renovate for a new library; the building was purchased in the fall of 2018. The town council elected in November 2018 voted to sell the purchased building in January 2019. In April 2019, the town council made a motion to cut the library budget by more than half. RI General Law 29.6.3 specifies that municipalities must level fund their libraries in order to be eligible for state grant-in-aid (GIA).

The RI Library Association, the Coalition of Library Advocates, and other RI library advocates and organizations are aware of the situation and have expressed their support for the construction of a new library for Narragansett through letters to the Town Council.

**Motion:** Ms. Blais made a motion for the LBRI to send a letter supporting the Narragansett Library to the Narragansett Town Council and Town Manager.

**Seconded by:** Mr. Bucci

The motion was approved, and Ms. Drnach will draft a letter of support.

## **IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Maury Loontjens Memorial Library Trustees, Ms. Ellen Kooima and Ms. Karen Shabshelowitz, thanked the board for supporting the Narragansett Library and discussed new library developments. Questions about the library situation may be directed to Laurie Kelly, President, Narragansett Library Board of Trustees.

## **X. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2019, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by:** Mr. Coutu

**Seconded by:** Ms. Blais

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.