

LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND
The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on
November 18, 2019
at the Department of Administration,
2nd Floor, Conference Room B,
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members Attending: Heidi Blais, John Bucci, Aaron Coutu, Melody Drnach (Chair), Rosita Hopper, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Leslie Page, Amanda Richman

Members Absent: Cristina Amedeo, Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Louise Herrington, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Marcus Mitchell, Robert Sloan

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

Guests: Julie Holden, President, RI Library Association (RILA); Stephen Spohn, Executive Director, Ocean State Libraries (OSL); Walter Dzialo

Materials Distributed:

- Proposed Library Board of RI Meeting Schedule for 2019-2020, Rev. November 18, 2019
- [National Agenda for eBooks, The Summit Report](#)
- eBooks at Ocean State Libraries Presentation
- Legislative Report, November 2019

I. WELCOME

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:19 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES from the September 16, 2019 meeting

Moved by: Mr. Bucci

Seconded by: Mr. Norris

The meeting minutes were approved as presented.

III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Ms. Drnach attended two events organized by Senator Jack Reed's Office and featuring the Senator and Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress; the events took place at Cranston Public Library on November 4. 'The Future of Libraries' panel discussion, coordinated by OLIS at the request of Senator Reed's office, showcased various innovative programs at RI libraries, and 'Celebration & Kickoff: 20th Anniversary of the Veterans History Project' updated veterans and librarians on this Library of Congress project while focusing on new opportunities for engagement with the project by veterans and libraries.

The Future of Libraries panel included Maria Cotto, Bilingual Children's Librarian, Pawtucket Public Library; Ed Garcia, Director, Cranston Public Library; Cheryl Space, Director, Providence

Community Library; Stephen Spohn, Executive Director, Ocean State Libraries; and Karisa Tashjian, Education Director, Providence Public Library. For more information on the event, visit the OLIS website at <http://www.olis.ri.gov/about/news/2019/veteranshistory.php>.

IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

Rhode Island was honored to host the Librarian of Congress, Dr. Carla Hayden, for the two events at Cranston Public Library. Senator Reed and Dr. Hayden moderated an outstanding panel that presented innovative library projects.

A. Ongoing

i. 2021 State Budget

The 2021 budget is in development; Governor Raimondo will post the state's proposed budget in January. OLIS requested funding at the current service level, including 13 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions; currently 12 positions are funded.

ii. Public Library Annual Survey

The annual public library survey process is complete. Except for Narragansett's Maury Loontjens Memorial Library, all public library applications for grant-in-aid (GIA) have been approved. Narragansett has not met the GIA Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement and has filed a request for a waiver of the MOE requirement.

B. Census 2020

The RI Census Complete Count Committee is developing a marketing campaign for the census; materials will be available to libraries. OLIS will offer Census Solutions workshops in January to inform and encourage libraries to engage with Census activities, especially in hard-to-count areas. Ms. Mellor has a seat on the Complete Count Committee.

The RI Foundation is coordinating two rounds of grants for organizations to support census activities at the local level, especially in hard-to-count areas; \$425,000 in grant funding is available. The first grant round closes on November 25, and the second closes in January; more information about the grants is available on the OLIS website.

C. Summer Reading Program Changes

OLIS will no longer fund performers or coordinate the Summer Reading Program Performers' Showcase. To address concerns expressed to OLIS about the changes, OLIS is developing a presenters' database and will invite presenters to share information about services, fees, and block-booking discounts. The database is slated for completion in January and contingent upon performer participation.

A youth services coordinators workshop, scheduled for January 28 at West Warwick Public Library, will demonstrate the database resource, inform attendees how to schedule and arrange block-booking of performers, and provide an opportunity for attendees to network and coordinate block bookings.

D. Upcoming

i. Public Library Directors Meeting

A Public Library Directors meeting will be held December 6 at East Providence Public Library.

ii. Continuing Education (CE), Current & Upcoming (Ms. DiMichele reporting)

Copyright law and guidelines are complicated, so OLIS is offering a series of workshops on the topic. Fairly Useful: Copyright in Libraries, Part Two is November 19 at the Warwick Public Library.

The third of four workshops to assist libraries with planning projects for summer learning will be offered on November 20 at Greenville Public Library. This program explores design thinking for connected learning projects; a workshop last month focused on more broadly defined summer learning projects. On December 10 the last of the programs will focus on the practical steps in writing a summer learning grant application. The three programs are presented by OLIS staff.

OLIS launched its Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) book club as part of its ongoing offerings on EDI. Its first meeting is November 21 and the book is *White Fragility* by Robin D'Angelo.

The Whole Book Approach, a program of the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, will be presented on November 26.

Exploring Needs Assessment Tools and Techniques will assist libraries assessing community needs when preparing to apply for a grant, to write a long-range plan, or plan a new library program. OLIS staff are presenting this program.

The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness Workshop will feature Ryan Dowd, the Executive Director of a large homeless shelter outside of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Dowd is nationally renowned for his work training libraries, police departments, schools and other organizations on how to work compassionately with homeless individuals, who often have various challenges in their lives. The workshop takes place on December 11.

E. Revised Library of Rhode Island (LORI) Standards (Ms. DiMichele reporting)

The LORI Standards were posted on the Secretary of State's website for a 30-day comment period. Receiving no substantive comments, the standards were recently cleared by Legal Services, and must receive final approval by the RI Department of Administration before going into effect. They will become effective January 1.

Ms. DiMichele thanked Board members who served on the LORI Standards Committee.

F. Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA)

Ms. Mellor attended the annual COSLA meeting in Hartford, CT, November 4-6. Topics discussed included how libraries can provide more access to open data, national broadband policy, and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Initiative.

The Acting Director of the American Library Association (ALA), Mary Ghikas, spoke about changes at ALA including a review of organizational effectiveness and restructuring to provide members with better access. A permanent executive director is expected to be hired soon.

Cyndee Landrum was hired as the new Deputy Director for Library Services at the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The President has nominated Crosby Kemper III as the new IMLS Director to replace outgoing director Kit Matthews, who is from the museum community. Mr. Kemper has served as Director of the Kansas City Library since 2005.

G. Library Construction

i. Application

The new construction application is being drafted, along with support resources for public library construction and renovation.

ii. Jamestown Philomenian Library

Jamestown has been awarded a Champlin grant for library renovations. Ms. Mellor met with Jamestown library staff, board and town officials at Champlin Foundation offices to discuss Jamestown's library construction project and overall program regulations and requirements.

iii. Narragansett, Maury Loontjens Memorial Library

The prospective buyer of the building originally purchased by the town for renovation as the new Narragansett library, has withdrawn from the deal with the town.

iv. Providence Public Library

Providence Public Library anticipates library renovations to be complete in time for a March 30, 2020 reopening; Senator Jack Reed will attend the celebration. Ms. Mellor will tour ongoing renovations on December 4 at 5pm; contact Ms. Mellor if you wish to accompany her. Members who want to see the library renovations at another time may contact OLIS for arrangements. The April or May LBRI meeting will be held at Providence.

V. SPECIAL TOPICS: eBooks

A presentation on the status of eBooks in Rhode Island was presented by Ms. Julie Holden, President of the RI Library Association (RILA) and Assistant Director at Cranston Public Library, and Mr. Stephen Spohn, Executive Director of Ocean State Libraries (OSL).

Ms. Mellor provided updates on Macmillan Publishing's library eBook embargo. At the recent COSLA meeting, John Sargent, Macmillan's Chief Executive Officer, affirmed the publisher's position that libraries are negatively impacting sales of eBooks; eBook providers are responding by charging libraries more for eBooks and imposing embargos on the selling of new eBook titles to libraries.

Mr. Spohn described issues and challenges associated with providing eBooks. OSL has partnered with OverDrive for 15 years to make eBooks available to libraries, and their use has grown 16% annually the last 5 years. Ebooks have an average wait time of 36 days and represent 13% of FY19 total circulation. For the most part, purchased eBooks are not owned by libraries but leased, their copy use is limited, and they expire after two years. Libraries pay substantially more for eBooks and audiobooks, versus much lower costs paid by individuals for the same media.

Ms. Holden reported on responses to publisher embargoes. The American Library Association is encouraging state library organizations to seek enactment of state legislation to support a fair and equitable market for eBooks. RILA is working with legal counsel to bring the issue to the RI Attorney General and is working on legislation to be introduced in the 2020 session. RILA will be meeting with Representative David Cicilline, chairman of the Antitrust Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, which has previously investigated unfair practices regarding the pricing of digital materials. Libraries in other states are boycotting Macmillan Publishing. Plans are being developed to educate the public about the cost and availability of eBook titles

Mr. Spohn will provide updates to the board in 6-9 months.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Bill changes in the handout are primarily the addition of bill sponsors. Broadband accessibility bills have bipartisan support with disagreement on implementation. A second bill was added to file copyright complaints using small claims court.

B. Federal Budget (Ms. Mellor reporting)

The federal budget is operating under a continuing resolution that expires soon. If another continuing resolution does not pass, a budget freeze will impact OLIS federal funding.

VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

No board member reports.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Blais inquired how the school library report will proceed. Ms. Mellor reported that OLIS will be publishing the report soon following departmental review.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

XI. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2019, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., at the Department of Administration, Conference Room B, 2nd Floor, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Mr. Norris

Seconded by: Mr. Coutu

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.