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Maine Library Commission Minutes, February 9, 2015

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Maine State Library Commission

****FEBRUARY 9, 2015 MEETING MINUTES ****

Meeting called to order at 1:00PM.

Attendance

Commission Members Present: Beth Edmonds (Chair), Joyce Rumery (Vice Chair), Steve Podgajny, Richard Thompson, Cora Damon, Avery Olmsted, Art Turley, Debe Averill, Charles Campo, Jeff Cabral, and Michael Hayes (by video). Also Present: James Ritter, Janet McKenney, Peggy O’Kane, Adam Fisher, James Jackson Sanborn (by video).

Minutes from the December 15, 2014 Maine Library Commission meeting were approved.

Petition by Maine Health Learning Resource Center

Petition by Maine Health Learning Resource Center to be part of the Maine regional library system as an approved library into SMLD was read and a motion was made and seconded to their approval.

Janet McKenney updated the commission on efforts of the Maine Health Learning Resource Center to enhance their special library status, indicating they were recently included as an ILead partner.

Steve Podgajny said that they would be a great addition to the system.

Commission unanimously approved the request.

Update by Janet McKenney, Director of Library Development

Still waiting to hear on IMLS leadership grant, but we are optimistic that we will receive an answer in March.

NYPL WIFI project will be launched at Cherryfield Library on March 2.

A lot happening with MSLN and ERate – looks like we will have a good number of libraries with 100MB connections, which is good.

Ilead gearing up and all of our mentors and tutors are lined up for the first event.

Continuing ED continues to be very popular as librarians seek opportunities for professional development

Lynda.com model has changed and we are in discussions with them about continuing the project.

Looking to have the Governor name April as Early Literacy Month in Maine.

Update by James Ritter, State Librarian

Plan document needs to be updated and brought current with where we are at now and reflect where we want to go over the next couple of years.

Many of the core tenets on the plan are pretty sound. Throughout the plan, you frequently see the same three words “delivery, innovation, shared resources”

Organizational realignment at the Maine State Library will organize staff around three primary activities: collection development, resource sharing, and public services. Tying it all together is the message of service.

When I look at the current strategic plan, I don't see anything inconsistent with this model.

Goals need to be updated, but the work that has been done has set us on a good path.

Janet, Jamie and Adam will come up with something to bring back to the commission for review and refinement.

Department of Education – we have a good relationship with the agency. Apple went out and provided three sessions with learning with their devices and we were invited to those sessions. Janet provided a presentation on Marvel in conjunction with those events. Looking into including public libraries on the contract to allow the purchase of technology used in MLTI at a discounted rate. That would allow parents to visit their local library for technical support on the equipment. We are looking at ways to expand the way that Maine State Library can support school libraries and this would be a good place to start.

Calendar of events is posted on the wall to help us connect the dots between all of the different initiatives that are coming-up. We have a few staff development days planned in the year ahead where we will have the office closed.

Shifting space around – Janet, Cheryl and David will move into the suite of offices where Linda's office was located. Their old space will be used to house a maker space.

In the next couple of weeks we will be in front of Education and Cultural Affairs and Appropriations. LD 344 (confidentiality on patron records) will go directly to Judiciary. We don't have specific dates on the scheduling of these items yet.

Discussion about revenue sharing cuts

Commission members discussed the potential impact of cuts to revenue sharing. Although public hearings on the proposal, the Commission has the option to weigh in by letter to the Appropriations Committee. Members of the Commission expressed interest in distributing information to libraries on the proposal and encourage them to talk with their legislators about what it means to their institutions.

Changes in commission membership

Karen Baldacci has tendered her resignation to the Commission due to time commitments and Avery Olmsted's appointment is still pending. There are still a couple of openings available on the board and Commission members were encouraged to think of good candidates to approach.

James Jackson Sanborn, Maine InfoNet

- InfoNet will be engaged in strategic planning in the near future. Vose Library in Union recently became the first library to come online with the new MILS catalog and others are lined up to get their collections in soon.
- LD 13 hearing and work session went well. Committee voted unanimous OTP. Fiscal impact statement came out as revenue neutral. Although those developments look positive, staff from the Governor's Office have asked questions about the proposal and may have concerns about where this fits in within the greater context of tax reform.

CMLD letter to commission

Letter from the CMLD Executive Board spoke to concerns from the Central Maine Library district regarding perceived disparities in comparison to other regions of the state. CMLD also felt that they were not fully included in the selection of the new state librarian.

Some of the issues brought up with regard to ILL is consistent with comments from the other districts.

Steve Podgajny suggested a study committee to look at the problem.

James Ritter talked about pulling together a group to identify best practices for ILL. Discussions with MA with regard to an interstate van delivery system.

Beth Edmonds asked if any consideration had been given to reconfiguring the consultant model to shift away from regions to more about specialties.

Janet McKenney noted that many states have moved away from the area-based model and one of the obstacles that could come up is the fact that the consultants have such strong relationships with some of the libraries they have historically served.

The Chair proposed creating a committee to include James Ritter, Janet McKenney, James Jackson Sanborn, Art Turley, Sherry Wyman, Steve Podgajny and Barbara McDade. Jeff Cabral suggested that Helen Fogler be approached to serve on the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.