

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
STATE LIBRARY BOARD  
Held via Teams  
May 23, 2022

INDEX

Members joining via Teams:

Judge Henry Cohn, Jessica de Perio Wittman, Mary Etter, Bob Harris, Maureen Sullivan, Melissa Wlodarczyk-Hickey, Sheri Szymanski

Members absent: Sandy Ruoff, Justice Steven Ecker, Alison Clemens, Allen Hoffman

Others joining via Teams:

Deborah Schander, Dawn La Valle, Jane Beaudoin. Members of the public joining via Teams were not identified.

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**MINUTES**

It was MOVED (M. Hickey) seconded (B. Harris) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE March 28, 2022, BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. PASSED with two abstentions (M. Hickey, S. Szymanski)

**BOARD COMMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There was no Board Comment.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

**STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

Deborah referred to her full written report that was included in the Board's packets. She is finding it difficult to keep her report shorter in length because of all the great work the staff is doing. Work is being done to deepen relationships between the State Library and other organizations. She met with the State Hospitality Task Force which is made up from organizations such as museums and venues that bring culture and tourism to the state. Deborah highlighted the Hiking Through History program led by Curator Patrick Smith with the most recent hike being at the Windsor Locks Canal State Park. Deborah hopes to be hiring a new Museum Administrator and Curator soon. This is a priority as the Museum is another way for the State Library to interact with students and other members of the public that the rest of the library may not otherwise work with.

Spring and Summer bring more conferences and workshops for the staff to attend. Deborah and other members of the staff, participated in the Connecticut Education Network (CEN) Conference and the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) Conference. Mel Smith recently gave a presentation to the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Group and Kevin Johnson has been presenting soldiers William Webb and Jordan Freeman to different organizations. These outreach presentations are well received and increase awareness of the State Library.

**MINUTES**

Motion

**BOARD  
COMMENTS/  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**STATE  
LIBRARIAN'S  
REPORT**

**OTHER REPORTS**

Maureen stated that the updates received from external organizations were included in the Board’s meeting packets and also distributed via email to the list of those groups invited to share with the State Library Board. There were no updates that prompted a request for a verbal presentation to the Board at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Budget Update: Deborah reported that the governor has signed the budget which included a couple of changes for the State Library. The Public Records Administration unit received funding for a new position. The paperwork for this position, which will focus on electronic content management, has been started. IT Optimization funds will be transferred for IT services to the Bureau of Information Technology Solutions in the Department of Administrative Services. One hundred thousand dollars was added to the general operating fund for Braille materials to public libraries, and there was also \$100,000 added to a new budget line for the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. This will allow the Division of Library Development team to continue expanding services to the blind and print disabled community. The State Library is waiting for its final book budget. Overall, it was a modest increase to the budget which hasn’t been seen in several years. The State Library will be meeting its budget again this year but meeting budget isn’t the same as having financial flexibility for innovation. Deborah continues to be very careful with the budget and spending which means many necessary and difficult decisions.

Legislative Update: Deborah reported that the State Library had a few bills to watch in this last legislative session. SB 131 “An Act Concerning Electronic Book Licensing” did not move forward but Senator Hwang is very keen on raising more awareness on this topic over the summer and in the next legislative session.

SB 397 “An Act Concerning Library Service for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Have Other Disabilities” was introduced proposing that the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped be administered by the Department of Aging and Disability Services. This bill did not move forward although there is language in the budget implementor bill that requires the State Library to consult with the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) Advisory Committee on certain matters, which is already a normal practice. Deborah stated that there has been a great deal of time spent and many meetings related to the LBPH Advisory Committee. During that process, it became apparent the Advisory Committee has had some confusion on the nature of its role with respect to the State Library and the State Library Board; the committee’s most recent bylaws revision (in 2001) was also not properly executed. Maureen Sullivan, Dawn La Valle, Matt Geeza, and Deborah Schander have been meeting with the Advisory Committee at its regular quarterly meetings to clarify the committee’s purpose, roles of all involved parties, and are now focusing on reinvigorating the membership with the appropriate oversight by the State Librarian and State Library Board. Maureen stated that working with the LBPH Advisory Committee had been going on for more than 7 months. Maureen informed the Board of all the hard work that Deborah, Dawn La Valle, and Matt

**OTHER REPORTS**

**OLD BUSINESS**  
Budget Update

Legislative Update

Geeza have been doing on this matter. Deborah returned the compliment to Maureen also adding that she has been a wonderful sounding board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Maureen stated that the next four items on the agenda are resolutions for staff who have retired from the State Library. She recommended that the Board pass each one by acclamation.

Resolution for Debra Pond: It was MOVED (B. Harris) seconded (J. de Perio Wittman) THAT ON THIS 23RD DAY OF MAY 2022, THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY BOARD HEREBY UNANIMOUSLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY ACKNOWLEDGES DEBRA POND'S 21 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY, EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION FOR HER LOYALTY AND LONGEVITY, AND EXTENDS ITS SINCERE WISHES FOR MANY FULFILLING AND PLEASURABLE RETIREMENT YEARS. PASSED unanimously.

Resolution for Carolyn Picciano: It was MOVED (M. Hickey) seconded (S. Szymanski) THAT ON THIS 23RD DAY OF MAY 2022, THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY BOARD HEREBY UNANIMOUSLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY ACKNOWLEDGES CAROLYN PICCIANO'S 34 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY, EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION FOR HER LOYALTY AND LONGEVITY, AND EXTENDS ITS SINCERE WISHES FOR MANY FULFILLING AND PLEASURABLE RETIREMENT YEARS. PASSED unanimously.

Resolution for Nancy Lieffort:  
It was MOVED (M. ETTER) SECONDED (B. HARRIS) THAT ON THIS 23RD DAY OF MAY 2022, THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY BOARD HEREBY UNANIMOUSLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY ACKNOWLEDGES NANCY LIEFFORT'S 26 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY, EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION FOR HER LOYALTY AND LONGEVITY, AND EXTENDS ITS SINCERE WISHES FOR MANY FULFILLING AND PLEASURABLE RETIREMENT YEARS. PASSED unanimously.

Resolution for Judy Crooks: It was MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (B. Harris) THAT ON THIS 23RD DAY OF MAY 2022, THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY BOARD HEREBY UNANIMOUSLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY ACKNOWLEDGES JUDY CROOK'S 36 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY, EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION FOR HER LOYALTY AND LONGEVITY, AND EXTENDS ITS SINCERE WISHES FOR MANY FULFILLING AND PLEASURABLE RETIREMENT YEARS. PASSED unanimously.

Library Services and Technology Act Five-Year Plan, 2023-2027: Division of Library Development (DLD) staff, using different principles, developed this Five-Year Plan to be transformative, creative, and future ready. Maureen thanked Dawn La Valle and the DLD staff involved in preparing this plan. Deborah stated that all states' DLD sections are required to submit new LSTA Five-Year Plans at the same time throughout the country. She gave kudos to Dawn and her staff for their commitment to resource sharing, professional development, and social

**NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution for Debra Pond

**Motion**

Resolution for Carolyn Picciano

**Motion**

Resolution for Nancy Lieffort

**Motion**

Resolution for Judy Crooks

**Motion**

LSTA Five-Year Plan, 2023-2027

justice/diversity, equity, and inclusion. The focus on these issues is an important role for the State Library, and we are in a position where we can talk about what we have in our state and openly integrate it into our plan. This is a strong guiding document that will lead us through the next few years. Melissa Hickey added that this resonates with her and her work at the Department of Education and found the Plan to be very thoughtful and appreciated the focus on equity and the different aspects of access. It was MOVED (M. Hickey) seconded (S. Szymanski) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD AFFIRMS THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY'S LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT (LSTA) FIVE YEAR PLAN 2023-2027. PASSED unanimously.

**Motion**

Maureen stated that we will stay tuned to the safety of when to meet in person and will check with the Board before a decision is made.

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With no other matters to come before the Board, at 1:30 It was MOVED (B. Harris) seconded (M. Hickey) TO ADJOURN. PASSED unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 25, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deborah Schander, Secretary

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Jane Beaudoin, Recorder