

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
STATE LIBRARY BOARD
May 22, 2023

INDEX

Members joining in person:

Melissa Wlodarczyk-Hickey, Mary Etter, Sandy Ruoff, Allen Hoffman

Members joining via Teams:

Alison Clemens, Judge Henry Cohn, Jessica de Perio Wittman, Justice Steven Ecker, Sally Whipple, Sheri Szymanski

Members absent: none

Others joining in person:

Deborah Schander, Dawn La Valle, Gail Hurley (CSL)

Others joining via Teams:

Jane Beaudoin

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Vice Chair Alison Clemens. Jane Beaudoin took roll call attendance of board members. No attendance of the members of the public attending the meeting was taken.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Alison asked Allen Hoffman for the report of the Nominations Committee. Allen stated that he has not received any nominations to fill the Chair position until September. He suggested that the election be tabled to the next regularly scheduled meeting if there were no nominations from this discussion. Alison stated that her workload prevents her from putting her name forward to be Chair. It was suggested that the election be tabled so that Alison and Allen can make some direct inquiries to Board members about becoming Chair. It was agreed.

Deborah reminded the Board that the Chair's primary role is to confer with the State Librarian on the meeting agenda and preside over the meetings. The meeting preparations are handled by the State Librarian's office.

MINUTES

It was MOVED (S. Szymanski) seconded (A. Hoffman) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 27, 2023 STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED WITH ONE REVISION. Mary Etter is listed as present and absent. With that revision the motion PASSED with one abstention (J. de Perio Wittman).

It was MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (A. Hoffman) THAT THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 19, 2023 STATE LIBRARY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. PASSED with two abstentions (Jessica de Perio Wittman and S. Ruoff).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1:15 p.m. it was MOVED (S. Ecker) seconded (M. Etter) THAT THE MEETING BE MOVED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A BREACH

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MINUTES

Motion

Motion

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion

OF CONTRACT MATTER AND THAT DEBORAH SCHANDER AND DAWN LA VALLE BE INCLUDED IN THE DISCUSSION. PASSED unanimously.

At 1:45 p.m. the Board came out of Executive Session. No action was taken while in Executive Session.

BOARD COMMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was no Board comment.

**BOARD
COMMENTS/
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Deborah stated that her written State Librarian's Report was included in the Board's packets and welcomed questions. The bulk of her report will be in the Legislative and Budget Update portions of the agenda. Deborah highlighted some recent staff awards. Christine Gauvreau received the CEN Leadership Award at the Connecticut Education Network's 2023 annual Member Conference. Kymberlee Powe was named one of *Library Journal's* national 2023 Movers & Shakers in the Educators cohort. Allen Ramsey is a 2023 recipient of the Victoria Irons Walsh Leadership Award from the Council of State Archivists. Alison congratulated all of the award recipients on behalf of the entire Board.

**STATE
LIBRARIAN'S
REPORT**

OTHER REPORTS

The updates that were received were included in the Board's meeting packets. There were no questions on what was submitted.

**OTHER
REPORTS**

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update: Deborah went over the State Library's financial report which was included in the Board's meeting packet. The biennial Budget process is going well and there have been successful conversations with the legislature. The Appropriations Committee proposed the adding of \$500,000 per year to support three literacy initiatives in the state and \$225,000 per year for public library incentive grants. The Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee's proposals included a renovation at the Middletown Library Service Center and raising the cap on public library construction grants from \$1 million to \$2 million.

OLD BUSINESS
Budget Update

Legislative Update: Deborah stated that the legislature is still considering two pieces of legislation related to the State Library. One is regarding eBooks and licensing costs and the other is about book censorship. The eBook legislation has brought together the State Library, CT Library Consortium, CT Library Association and other organizations to work with the legislature. The Government Administration and Elections Committee's version of the bill is moving forward hopefully this week. We are pleased with the visibility this bill has gotten as it is a matter that is costing libraries a great deal of money.

Legislative Update

The second bill is regarding sanctuary libraries. This bill is intended to strengthen the role of libraries as more and more books are being challenged.

The State Library is working with other library organizations on this bill. It has been moved to the House calendar and we hope to hear more soon.

Bylaws Revision Committee: Alison opened the Bylaws Revision Committee matter up for discussion. Deborah stated that the State Library Board's Bylaws were last revised in 2014. There was some discussion on whether the Board would like this to be a special committee or a standing committee and also regarding its membership. It was MOVED (A. Hoffman) seconded (M. Etter) THAT SHERI SYZMANSKI, SALLY WHIPPLE, SANDY RUOFF AND JUSTICE ECKER BE APPOINTED TO THE BYLAWS REVISION STANDING COMMITTEE AND THAT THE CHAIR WILL BE DECIDED AT THE FIRST MEETING. PASSED unanimously.

Bylaws Revision Committee

Motion

NEW BUSINESS

Revision of Connecticut Digital Library Advisory Board (CDLAB) Bylaws: The fact sheet on this matter was included in the Board's meeting packet. It was MOVED (S. Szymanski) seconded (S. Ruoff) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVE THE REVISION OF THE CONNECTICUT DIGITAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD BYLAWS AS APPROVED BY THE CONNECTICUT DIGITAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD AT ITS APRIL 5, 2023 MEETING. PASSED unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Revision of CDLAB Bylaws

Motion

Appointments to the Connecticut Digital Library Advisory Board (CDLAB): It was MOVED (A. Hoffman) seconded (S. Ruoff) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS OF ANTHONY MARROCOLLA OF THE FERGUSON LIBRARY IN STAMFORD AND DAVID SCANLON OF THE HAMDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY TO THE CDLAB IN THE CATEGORY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIAN FOR A TERM BEGINNING JUNE 1, 2023 TO MAY 31, 2025, AS APPROVED BY THE CDLAB AT ITS APRIL 5, 2023 MEETING. PASSED unanimously.

Appointments to the CDLAB

Motion

Alison asked if there was any other business to come before the Board.

It was Moved (M. Hickey) seconded (M. Etter) TO ADD SLB DOC 23-7 REGARDING STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AGENDA FOR ACTION BY THE BOARD. PASSED unanimously.

Public Library Construction Grant Recommendations Motion

It was MOVED (M. Hickey) seconded (S. Ecker) THAT, PENDING REVIEW FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD AFFIRMS THE STATE LIBRARIAN'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW THE PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT FOR THE BLOOMFIELD PROSSER LIBRARY AND THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD RESCINDS ITS APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT FOR THE BLOOMFIELD LIBRARY MCMAHON BRANCH BARRING FORFEITURE BY BLOOMFIELD LIBRARY FOR BOTH PROJECTS BY 4:30 PM ON JUNE 9, 2023. PASSED unanimously.

Motion

At 2:18 pm, it was MOVED (S. Szymanski), seconded (S. Ecker) TO ADJOURN.
The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Monday, July 24.

Motion

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Schander, Secretary

Jane Beaudoin, Recorder