

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
STATE LIBRARY BOARD
July 24, 2023

INDEX

Members joining in person:

Alison Clemens, Mary Etter, Sandy Ruoff, Allen Hoffman,
Sheri Szymanski

Members joining via Teams:

Melissa Wlodarczyk-Hickey, Judge Henry Cohn, Justice
Steven Ecker, Sally Whipple

Members absent: Jessica de Perio Wittman

Others joining in person:

Deborah Schander, Dawn La Valle, Matthew Geeza, Jane
Beaudoin (CSL), Ellen Paul (CLC)

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 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 MOVED seconded (M. Etter) TO MAKE THE TERM FOR THIS
ELECTION OF OFFICERS A FOURTEEN MONTH PERIOD IN ORDER TO
BRING THIS AND FUTURE ELECTIONS IN LINE WITH THE STANDARD
SEPTEMBER ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS SCHEDULE. PASSED
unanimously.

Sandy stated that she would like to nominate Allen Hoffman to be the Chair.
There were no other nominations from the floor. It was MOVED (S. Ruoff)
seconded (M. Etter) TO ELECT ALLEN HOFFMAN AS THE CHAIR OF THE
STATE LIBRARY BOARD. PASSED unanimously.

Alison nominated Jessica de Perio Wittman to be the Vice Chair. There were no
other nominations. IT WAS MOVED (A. Clemens) seconded (S. Ruoff) TO
NOMINATE JESSICA DE PERIO WITTMAN AS THE VICE CHAIR OF THE
STATE LIBRARY BOARD. PASSED unanimously.

MINUTES

It was MOVED (S. Szymanski) seconded (S. Ruoff) THAT THE MINUTES OF
THE MAY 22, 2023 STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS
PRESENTED. PASSED unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was no Board comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

**ELECTION OF
OFFICERS**

MINUTES
Motion

**BOARD
COMMENTS/
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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. She highlighted a few things from her report. In June Deborah, Governor Lamont, and Department of Education Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker hosted a press event in Memorial Hall to launch a re-envisioned Governor's Summer Reading Challenge for 2023. Deborah thanked Melissa Hickey for her role in coordinating this with the Department of Education.

Yesterday marked the end of the Digging Into History: On the Road with Rochambeau Program. This second part of the Digging Into History program brought 13 students from France to join 19 Connecticut students to excavate a Revolutionary War-era encampment in Bolton that was once occupied by the comte de Rochambeau. Deborah listed the many organizations involved in making this program a success. There was a closing ceremony last night where students were able to talk about what they learned and their experiences working with colleagues of their own age. Kudos went to Project Director Christine Pittsley and Jennifer Matos, Administrator of the Museum of Connecticut History.

CT Library for Accessible Books (CTLAB) and Perkins Access are working together to create accessible libraries and museums. We are partnering with 13 libraries and museums across the state to help make exhibits more accessible to visitors who are blind or visually impaired. This work will be under the direction of Matt Geeza and the CTLAB staff.

The State Library is continuing its partnership with FamilySearch in identifying and unlocking Connecticut State Library digital assets that FamilySearch had restricted for remote access on their website. They are continuing to scan our resources to make them accessible digitally to many researchers and we are increasing access to the resources we already have. Deborah thanked Mel Smith for leading this effort.

OTHER REPORTS

The update that was received from the Association of Connecticut Library Boards was included in the Board's meeting packets. There were no questions on what was submitted.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Update: Deborah went over the State Library's financial report which was included in the Board's meeting packet. Deborah pointed out that the report is an update as of May 31, 2023, so it doesn't reflect the end of the year close out. We anticipate that there will be a lapse in the Personal Services line which is the personnel budget line. The law and legislative library materials budget is typically spent to 99.9% thanks to Carol Trinchitella being extremely careful with her spending.

STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

OTHER REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS Budget Update

The closing of the legislative session has set our biennial budget for FY2024-2025 and we did see some successes which Deborah noted in her written report. There was an inflation increase for the existing resources in the Connecticut Digital Library and \$500,000 in passthrough grants to support three literacy initiatives in Connecticut. The budget also includes \$225,000 per year for the restoration of grants-in-aid to public libraries and the cap on state support of public library construction grants were raised from \$1 million to \$2 million per grant. The Middletown Library Service Center also received funding for a renovation. Deborah is working with the Office of Policy and Management on these appropriation details.

Legislative Update: Deborah stated that thanks to the team efforts of the State Library, CT Library Consortium, CT Library Association and other organizations there was success in adding language that supports libraries facing book challenges, SB 2 regarding sanctuary libraries. Public libraries are now required to have collection policies approved by their governing authority in order to receive a grant-in-aid. If they experience a book challenge, these collection policies govern.

Legislative Update

Ebook legislation did not go forward but there is now strong support from key legislators who expressed an interest in raising this matter again in the next legislative session.

Bylaws Committee: The State Library Board Bylaws Committee members are Justice Ecker, Sally Whipple, Sandy Ruoff and Sheri Szymanski. Sheri reported that the first meeting of the Bylaws Committee was at noon, before this full meeting of the State Library Board. At that meeting Sheri was elected Chair. The Committee will be working with Deborah to update the current Bylaws which were last revised in 2014. The next meeting of the Bylaws Committee is scheduled for August 21 at 1pm.

Bylaws Committee

NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Appointments to the Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development: The fact sheet on this matter was included in the Board's meeting packet. It was MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (S. Ruoff) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENT OF ELAINE BRAITHWAITE TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR LIBRARY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2023 AND ENDING JULY 31, 2025. PASSED unanimously.

Appointment to
ACLPD

Motion

Changes for the 2023-2024 Version of the State Grant Program for Public Library Construction Timetable and Guidelines: The recommended changes address issues revised by legislative actions. It was MOVED (S. Szymanski) seconded (A. Clemens) That the State Library Board approve changing the *State Grant Program for Public Library Construction Timetable and Guidelines* for 2023-2024 to:

State Grant
Program for Public
Library
Construction
Timetable and
Guidelines

- Update maximum award amount for Category 1 projects adding percentage of project language for libraries in distressed communities.

Motion

- Clarify scope of construction project throughout the Timetable and Guidelines.
- Include DECD grant funds as non-eligible matching funds.

Fiber to the Library
Grants-In-Aid

PASSED unanimously.

Fiber to the Library Grants-in-Aid, Internal Connections, Phase 2:

Motion

These are competitive grants to principal public libraries to help them complete their high-speed connections to the Connecticut Education Network (CEN). It was MOVED (S. Ruoff) seconded (S. Szymanski) THAT THE STATE LIBRARY BOARD APPROVE A NINETEENTH ROUND OF GRANTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DIVISION OF LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT.

- \$22,260.00 to Beacon Falls Public Library
- \$88,290.00 to Berlin-Peck Memorial Library, Berlin
- \$6,129.00 to Bethel Public Library
- \$3,235.00 to Burnham Library, Bridgewater
- \$56,100 to Burlington Public Library
- \$43,200.00 to Canterbury Public Library
- \$16,205.00 to Chaplin Public Library
- \$14,994.00 to Chester Public Library
- \$21,040.00 to Cragin Memorial Library, Colchester
- \$26,575.00 to Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, Coventry
- \$55,495.00 to Derby Public Library
- \$63,570.00 to East Hartford Public Library
- \$35,965.00 to Library Association of Warehouse Point, East Windsor
- \$17,667.00 to Hall Memorial Library, Ellington
- \$53,350.00 to Enfield Public Library
- \$8,500.00 to Kent Library Association
- \$6,612.00 to Killingworth Library Association
- \$47,262.00 to Middlebury Public Library
- \$57,210.00 to Russell Library, Middletown
- \$44,007.00 to Licia & Mason Beekley Community Library, New Hartford
- \$79,170.00 to New Haven Free Public Library
- \$13,048.00 to Public Library of New London
- \$24,460.00 to Norfolk Library
- \$49,755.00 to Portland Public Library
- \$43,726.00 to Prospect Public Library
- \$18,729.00 to Minor Memorial Library, Roxbury
- \$9,390.00 to Scotland Public Library
- \$6,030.00 to Sherman Library Association
- \$112,945.00 to Ferguson Library, Stamford
- \$10,820.00 to Stonington Free Library
- \$40,195.00 to Thomaston Public Library
- \$50,245.00 to Wallingford Public Library
- \$85,519.00 to West Haven Public Library
- \$17,033.00 to Willington Public Library
- \$52,035.00 to Wolcott Public Library

Executive Session
Motion

PASSED unanimously.

At 1:33 p.m. Deborah requested that the Board go into Executive Session so that she can update them on potential litigation.. It was MOVED (M. Etter) seconded (S. Ruoff) THAT THE MEETING BE MOVED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A POTENTIAL LITIGATION MATTER AND THAT DEBORAH SCHANDER AND DAWN LA VALLE BE INCLUDED IN THE DISCUSSION. PASSED unanimously.

At 1:47 p.m. the Board came out of Executive Session. No action was taken while in Executive Session.

At 1:47 p.m. it was MOVED (S. Szymanski) seconded (S. Ruoff) TO ADJOURN. PASSED unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Monday, September 18 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Schander, Secretary

Jane Beaudoin, Recorder