

Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries

Grand Island Public Library
211 N Washington Street, Grand Island, NE
Friday, March 8, 2013, 10:00 A.M.

MINUTES

State Advisory Council members present: Deb Carlson (Chair), Ceri Daniels, Kate Borchman Hassebrook, Francine Canfield, John Dale, Beth Falla, Sherry Houston, Beth Kabes, Cecelia Lawrence, Pat Leach, Vickie Retzlaff, Christine Walsh, Janet Stoeger Wilke, Ellen Weed, Kara Welch, Merrillene Wood. The following Advisory Council members were absent: Robin Bernstein, Denise Harders, Trine McBride, and Betty Meyer. Also present: Commissioners Steve Batty, Sherry Crow, Charles Gordon, and Pat Gross. Commission staff: Rod Wagner, Sue Bilstoft, Jennifer Wrampe, and Richard Miller. Guest: Steve Fosselman.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Deb Carlson opened the meeting with a welcome and introduced those present.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion made by Hassebrook and seconded by Canfield to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes (November 16, 2012): Daniels moved, Houston seconded approval of minutes. After corrections Kabes moved, Walsh seconded. Motion approved.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Reports / Discussion:

Nebraska Library Commission – Rod Wagner thanked Steve Fosselman for hosting today's meetings. Wagner reported that eighteen internships have been awarded to public libraries from the 21st Century Librarian grants. He also noted that the Nebraska Book Festival will take place April 5 & 6 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Thompson Alumni Center. *O Pioneers!* the One Book One Nebraska title is available in book kits at the Commission and in the System offices.

ARSL Conference – Sherry Houston reported on plans for the Association for Rural & Small Libraries conference to be held in Omaha (September 25-28). Keynote speakers include Lee Rainie (Pew Research Center) and Sally Gardner Reed (United for Libraries) and walking tours in Council Bluffs, IA.

Nebraska Library Association – Christine Walsh reported. Stephanie Vance will be the conference keynote speaker. Vance is an advisor to the American Library Association's Washington Office, and frequent presenter on political advocacy. Program proposal forms will be live on the NLA website next week. A new practitioner journal has been launched; contributions are made via the NLA website.

Nebraska School Librarians Association Update – Beth Kabes reported that NSLA plans an advocacy workshop (August 2 & 3) during the Heartland Conference at UNO on the Common Core Standards. Speakers to the NLA/NSLA conference may include Barbara Stripling and Mark Aronson. A subcommittee is working on professional development and has spoken with Deb Levitov about advocacy.

Nebraska Libraries – Common Cause

Deb Carlson noted that “Nebraska Libraries – Common Causes” – recommended by Rod Wagner -- will be the theme for the work of the Advisory Council this year.

School Librarians and 21st Century Educational Challenges (21st Century Learner, Learning4Life, Common Core Standards -- As part of this agenda item, Wagner requested that Council members Beth Kabes (ESU 7 in Columbus) and Kara Welch (Ainsworth Community Schools), lead discussion on this topic. He pointed out that school libraries share interest in Common Core Standards with all education, that they have an effect on public libraries in their communities and on college and university libraries because of their influence on students entering higher education. All our libraries, then, share a common cause in working with our users. Wagner asked the two presenters to talk about the challenges that exist in Nebraska’s school libraries.

Welch and Kabes noted that Betty Meyer couldn’t be at today’s meeting but that she contributed to the content for the presentation. They said that although Nebraska has not adopted the Common Core Standards accepted by nearly all other states, the state does have standards. All Nebraska schools test using the same standards for language arts, math, science, and history/social studies, and all teachers have learned how to prepare assessments. Kabes believes that Nebraska will eventually adopt the national standards. Nebraska does not, unlike some other states, have statewide textbooks.

So what is the role of the school librarian in this educational effort? The school librarian can teach inquiry-based research, which is part of the core standards and can help students and teachers be aware of various databases students need to find the information required. “It’s what we’ve been doing all along,” noted Welch, but it is getting more challenging because of limited budgets for materials, etc. Other means school librarians use to meet these needs: heavy interlibrary loan use; finding additional resources; helping others evaluate resources; helping others use media in any form to support content knowledge; and helping users explore portals through use of the school library. Other challenges: the need to rethink the collections; limited funding; trying to meet Rule 10 (concerning required library staff size and qualifications); increased use of paraprofessionals who often lack the knowledge base of school librarians; and the need to convince state legislators of the importance of school libraries. While the state Department of Education does not have a library coordinator at the state level, Brent Gaswick serves as liaison to school libraries within the department.

A trend is developing in schools under the 1-to-1 programs in which students have a personal electronic device. Accessing eBooks with handheld devices is as yet an untouched issue in most

schools. New resources being explored by some schools include BrainHive (access to electronic books via subscription), ASIX 360 service (online video screening), and technology integration specialists. Other challenges/factors include Open Enrollment by which students can opt to attend other schools; and changing reading mechanics, which differ with modern students, probably due to increased use of electronic devices.

School librarians will need to demonstrate to legislators and funders that they do make a difference in students' lives. Increased federal funding could positively influence the development of school libraries, but Nebraska appears to be stepping back from such innovation. We need to get librarians to run for the state school board. There is still too much emphasis on inputs rather than on outputs (i.e., What real difference are we making?). Other challenges include equity of access, with the Panhandle somewhat behind the eastern part of Nebraska. About 50% of Nebraska's school districts now receive more money from local taxes than from state and federal funding.

Challenges related to the new technology in some schools include: students using MacBooks more for gaming than for school work; lack of teacher training on the new technology; cyber etiquette for students including bullying; the need to hold students accountable.

The group thanked Welch and Kabes for their excellent presentation.

Biennium Budget Status and Timetable and Advocacy for Libraries
(Discussion was postponed on these two agenda items until after lunch.)

Council Round Table – Successes and Challenges

Ellen Weed discussed her library at Norfolk Regional Center, mentioning that it does 60 to 80 interlibrary loans per month. The library had additional funding this year, resulting in new furniture and repainting. Her challenge is that she is considering retiring soon, and she would like someone to be hired before she leaves.

Ceri Daniels indicated that they have finished weeding the old paper files, but disposal of electronic files is still being addressed. Her law library's new software, called "Perfect Law," is a challenge to use.

Kara Welch is a member of the Ainsworth Public Library board and President of the Library Foundation. The library recently finished the second phase of its renovation of the old part of the library, following the building's addition.

Kate Borchman Hassebrook mentioned that the Lyons Public Library has 40 OverDrive users and the BTOP grant has provided electrical outlets for the library's new circulation system. The librarian is currently writing grants for electronic access to the local newspaper. The current library building continues to have structural issues.

Francine Canfield mentioned that Pat Wagner is coming to help Baright Public Library, Ralston, do strategic planning.

Sherry Houston commented that a lot of retired men are visiting the Sump Memorial Library, Papillion. She also said that the library has a consultant coming to help with strategic planning.

Pat Leach mentioned the new Assistant Director, Julee Hector, and Brenda Ealey as Manager of the Gere Branch, which has about one-third of Lincoln City Libraries' total circulation.

Merrillene Wood noted that a major renovation is planned at WNCC in Sidney to create a learning resource center/commons. There will be more traffic and less space for books. The library is getting rid of a lot of books and focusing on databases and must be careful to provide continuing access for students.

Beth Falla commented on Imperial public library space changes. The Reading Mastery program at the local school has resulted in children no longer reading independently. Home schooled kids and grandparents of public school kids continue to come into the library. Parents are up in arms, and reading skills are falling.

Vicki Retzlaff mentioned that Eric Green, the Panhandle Library System Coordinator, had been welcomed at a luncheon. She and two board members participated in the Library Commission's Big Talk from Small Libraries webinar. She also mentioned a new hallway in her library with computers as a result of the BTOP Grant and said that computer classes will start next week.

Christine Walsh described a brochure her library produced in conjunction with the city recreation department. Kearney Public Library's meeting room is receiving heavy use.

John Dale reported on the use of Ancestry.com and the Pronunciator at Wayne Public Library. He also mentioned that Wayne State College will be working with Jackson & Jackson to perform major renovations on Conn Library.

Janet Stoeger Wilke gave a history of construction modifications of the University of Nebraska Kearney's library including the doubling of its size in 1983, the celebration of its 50th anniversary in 2013, and the beta version of its new website. She mentioned that the Learning Commons was started because of a need for space for tutors. The library has now created a new position entitled Assistant Director of the Learning Commons. The library has written policies for its operation and for collaboration with others in the university. Wilke also mentioned the collaboration among UNK, Kearney Public Library, the Kearney schools and the Museum of Nebraska Art to bring in a national poet for a reading.

Cecelia Lawrence mentioned that North Platte Public Library held its BTOP open house on February 14. The library lost one of its beloved patrons from whom it inherited his book collection. It will have a special collectors' sale of this collection during the library's book sale. The local genealogical society inherited about \$300,000 and is purchasing a new microfilm/fiche reader and new genealogical databases. Lawrence mentioned that circulation statistics in the library are going down with very few people in the library after 7:00 PM.

Deb Carlson said that Scottsbluff Public Library's 100-book wall is now in operation; over 200 people attended the kick-off celebration. If a child reads all 100 books, they have the option of receiving a yard sign or a bumper sticker. The three copies of each title have proven not to be sufficient. Library Director, Abby Yellman has identified a service gap in the library's services, namely for patrons ages 20 through 45. The library has started a monthly book club entitled, "This is Not Your Mother's Book Club," and two younger staff members are leading the discussions. She mentioned that the library has an average of 25 kids after school every night with just a few of them causing multiple problems. The library's teen advisory board has a waiting list of 14 students who want to serve. She also noted sadly that Nancy Escamilla is moving to Lincoln.

Biennium Budget Status and Timetable

Rod Wagner reported that we still do not know the final status of the federal budget which affects the amount of LSTA funding we receive. We should know more in a few weeks. On the state level, the Governor's budget contains no additional state aid funds, which is consistent in the budget across state government. The Appropriations Committee's preliminary recommendation is the same as the Governor's; it wants the agencies to make the case for additional funding. The Library Commission's budget hearing was held on March 4. Those testifying included John Seyfarth, Barbara Hegr, Gail Formanak, and Francine Canfield. The committee will hold hearings through the end of March. After hearings are completed the committee will make decisions on budget recommendations to be presented to the full legislature.

Advocacy for Libraries

Francine Canfield, NLA Advocacy Chair, discussed testifying before the Appropriations Committee. She mentioned that people need to contact committee members, especially those who represent their district and push the idea of our public libraries serving as "pre-literacy" institutions. She said people should be simple and direct in their correspondence and thank committee members. She also described NLA's postcard project and said that all three postcards are on the NLA website. However, contact Francine for copies because the photos are copyrighted.

New Business

Election of Council Vice-Chair*

Merrillene Wood moved and Francine Canfield seconded the nomination of Ceri Daniels. All voted in favor. Motion was approved.

Recommendations and Resolutions*

No recommendations or resolutions were presented.

2013 Council Meeting Schedule: **July 19** (online), **November 15** (Lincoln)

The Advisory Council adjourned at approximately 2:20 PM.