

Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries

Nebraska Library Commission
1200 N Street, Lincoln, NE
Friday, July 18, 2014, 2:00 P.M.-3:30 P.M.

MINUTES

State Advisory Council members present: Ceri Daniels (Chair), John Dale, Jean Hellwege, Beth Kabes, Pat Leach, and Sam Shaw. Other members present via webinar: Robin Bernstein, Kate Borchman Hassebrook, Francine Canfield, Robin Clark, Beth Falla, Sherry Houston, Cecelia Lawrence, Janet Stoeger Wilke, Kara Welch, Merrilene Wood, and Abigail Yellman. The following Advisory Council members were absent: Denise Harders, Trine McBride, and Vickie Retzlaff. Also present: Commission staff: Rod Wagner, Richard Miller, Christa Burns, and Linda Jensen.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Ceri Daniels opened the meeting with a welcome. She introduced new Advisory Council members Sam Shaw (library director at Nebraska State Penitentiary; he replaces Ellen Weed). Jean Hellwege (media specialist at Scott Middle School replaces Betty Meyer as NSLA representative).

Approval of the Agenda: Motion made by John Dale and seconded by Merrilene Wood to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes (March 14, 2014): Rod Wagner mentioned a few typos that will be corrected. Motion made by Beth Kabes and seconded by Pat Leach to approve the March 14, 2014, minutes with corrections. Motion approved.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Reports / Discussion:

Nebraska Library Commission – Rod Wagner

Since the last council meeting there has been a lot of discussion and work on changing the configuration of the Nebraska regional library systems. A task force worked on addressing financial constraints on the regional systems and offered some options for reducing the number of regions in Nebraska. The Library Commission and the regional systems presented a webinar on April 22, 2014 to offer information and for questions and input. At its May 16, 2014 meeting the Nebraska Library Commission approved a change from six regional systems to four. The proposal was adopted, with modifications. Some of the western Nebraska counties were moved to the central region of Nebraska. Work is now underway with the current six regions to transition to four regions by January 2015.

The Library Commission is working with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Service as part of a broadband grant project involving digital literacy training. Librarians may attend one training each month, September 2014 to November 2014. There will be various training sites in Nebraska to provide basic and advanced technology training to library staff. UNL Extension Service has grant funds available for mileage reimbursement. More details will be available soon.

Laura Johnson, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator sent a survey to public librarians last week regarding different types of technology training. The survey will be available through Monday, July 21, 2014.

The Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant for the Library Commission will end October 31, 2014. It has supported many scholarships for graduate level training, bachelor's level education, associate level education and numerous internships. There is a story bank on the Library Commission's website with many stories about the grant throughout the years.

Nebraska Library Association – Robin Clark

Robin Clark, NLA President, provided a written report. She reported that plans are progressing for the 2014 NLA/NSLA Conference to be held at Marina Inn, South Sioux City, October 8-10, 2014. The keynote speaker is American Library Association President Courtney Young.

Nebraska School Librarians Association – Jean Hellwege

Laura Pietsch has been elected President-Elect of NSLA and Betty Meyer is the new AASL Liaison. Laura reported that she is very excited about the number of media specialists (sixteen) presenting at NLA/NSLA Conference this year.

2015-2017 Library Commission Biennium Budget Request – discussion

Rod Wagner reported that the Library Commission is currently preparing documents for its budget request which will need to be submitted by September 15, 2014. The State's biennium budget will be addressed beginning with the start of the state legislative session in January. Early in that session the Governor will present budget recommendations for the biennium. Generally, budget hearings take place February through March. At that time, the Library Commission will have an opportunity to meet with the Appropriations Committee to make its case on the budget request. Prior to the budget hearing, the Appropriations Committee will present its preliminary budget recommendations and identify issues or questions directed to the Library Commission. After budget hearings are held the Appropriations Committee will review their preliminary recommendations and make decisions on committee recommendations to the full legislature. In May the legislature will take up budget bills, enact appropriations, and send bills on to the Governor. The Governor has the opportunity to veto appropriations, but the legislature may override his vetoes. The new state fiscal year begins July 1, 2015.

There will be some issues related to the budget request. A new Governor will take office in January and at least one-third of the legislature will be new senators (17+). Four senators from the current Appropriations Committee membership will be leaving due to term limits. They

include John Harms, John Wightman, John Nelson and Danielle Conrad from that nine-member committee. Despite a sizable state general fund balance it is always difficult to obtain funding increases. Active and broad-based support will be needed for increased state funding for library programs and services.

For the current biennium, the Library Commission was successful in receiving new funding of \$150,000 for each year of the 2013-2015 biennium. The funds supplement local funds for purchase of eBooks and digital audiobooks. The funds were apportioned to the 150 Nebraska libraries that are part of the OverDrive Library Group consortium and the Omaha, Ralston and Lincoln public libraries,

Wagner said that a successful budget request needs to demonstrate and be convincing that it provides a broad-based public benefit, as the eReads project does. It needs to appeal to the Governor and the legislature as a use of funds that would have a beneficial result. It is best to submit one or a few items representing our greatest needs for consideration, as the legislature will ask us to prioritize anyway.

Wagner asked the group for input about possible budget requests for the upcoming biennium. John Dale asked if a new Appropriations Committee chair has been appointed. It was noted that legislative committee chairs will be determined when the new legislature convenes in January. Heath Mello, current Appropriations Committee chair, is likely to seek re-appointment to chair the committee.

John Dale asked about increased funding for regional library systems. Wagner said that every Library Commission budget request has included an increase in funding for library systems. As in the past, it is great to have individuals who will testify for the regional systems funding. They need to explain how the regional systems are vital in helping with library development activities in the regions and how they support local needs.

Beth Kabes asked if the Library Commission has identified goals they are working toward for the next two years. Wagner said yes, there will be work in the next couple of months identifying priorities for the next two years and developing a options for what may be included in the Commission's budget request. One consideration will be whether we seek to build on the eReads project funding. Some special services providing online training available through libraries is another proposal option. Additional funding for library regional systems is likely to be included. Wagner noted that we have been successful in getting additional funds for online data base subscriptions (NebraskAccess). The funding has been helpful in terms of anticipating vendor annual fee increases.

John Dale asked where the Commission is at within its five-year plan and correlation between the plan and the Appropriations expectation when requesting funds. Wagner said the Commission is half-way through the Five-Year Plan. Five-year plan goals and objectives are addressed in the budget request.

Wagner asked the group what funding would they like to see. He reminded that the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant is ending; it provided funds for scholarships and internships. He mentioned the internships have been very beneficial.

Francine Canfield said senators like concrete, specific things that they can touch such as the eReads program. She said expanding the eReads program so it reaches all of Nebraskans would be very beneficial because not every library can afford that service. She also suggested that presenting internships as on-the-job training could fit into the next governor's plan for economic development. Beth Kabes added that education is career and college readiness, as well as on-the-job training. Beth Falla suggested a need for funds to help teens with financial literacy.

Council Roundtable

Robin Bernstein reported that Bellevue University will be celebrating its 50-year anniversary during 2015-2016. The library has moved to the hosted Easy Proxy System with OCLC to allow for 24-hour access for students. They have also added the cataloging software Enterprise. They have started a new initiative called "Library on the Go" under which they are taking their collections (such as popular titles, series titles, videos, and Kindles) to the buildings on campus, allowing patrons to check them out from their locations.

Janet Stoeger Wilke reported that she received the last of the damaged books back for the freeze-dried book restorer. The freeze drying company saved the worst damaged books for the last three shipments, and many of those books will not return to the shelves at the library. By the end of the summer there should be a count of the loss so some decisions can be made for replacements. There have been some staff changes at the library. A long-term staff member has retired. An Instruction Coordinator/Government Documents Librarian has been hired to also be a liaison with the natural sciences and math departments. They are searching for a three-year Project Archivist and a full time University Archivist Librarian. The library is also seeking another person to help with digitization and the beginnings of an Institutional Repository.

Sherry Houston reported that there are still 70,000 people in Sarpy County who do not live within a local government jurisdiction that provides tax support for public library services. Richard Miller said there is progress on a solution to this issue.

Francine Canfield reported that some staff members have taken career advances, and an Assistant Director position will be available soon due to staff retirement. The library received a \$3,000 GIVE Team Grant from the EBay Foundation (through PayPal) for an afterschool program. A partnership with the Food Bank for the Heartland has been very successful this summer, feeding 40 to 100 students and parents daily. The program started the first week of June and will continue through August 8. This program provides free hot lunches for children (18 years-old and younger) and adults accompanying them.

Merrillene Wood reported that they are excited about having their new Easy Proxy server up and running. The new server has made it easy for students to use all of the databases. A new book drop has been purchased. Allison Reisig, Director of Morrill Public Library, was hired as a

part-time librarian. They have started a new finals week program to provide a quiet atmosphere more conducive to studying. They are also providing activities for new students so they can connect with different areas in the learning resource center. This fall there will be a Murder Mystery Dinner Theater for students.

Robin Clark reported that the Historical Downtown Papillion Merchants Association has been formed in Papillion. For the last three years Sump Memorial Library has sponsored a children's art festival. This year the Historical Downtown Papillion Merchants Association will sponsor an adult art festival and will partner with the library for the children's art festival. An architect is scheduled to walk through the library to assess whether the building can be renovated. A challenge for the library and other libraries in the county is the lack of library services for some Sarpy County residents. There are meetings scheduled to discuss this issue. Robin said it is a slow-moving process, but work is being done on an ongoing basis.

Abigail Yellman reported that the Summer Reading Program has been very successful this year with attendance up from last year. The Lied Scottsbluff Public Library will be hosting Violin Sprouts through Omaha Conservatory of Music starting in mid-August. Their partnership with AIM continues to provide technology classes. She invited everyone to come to Scottsbluff to see author Craig Johnson on Saturday, October 4, 2014. One of the challenges the library has is filling the Children's Assistant Librarian position.

Beth Falla reported that Lied Imperial Public Library had a well-attended humanities program last week with Annie Oakley. The library is dealing with a broken heat pump on its air conditioning unit and a leaky roof. The library has been working with the local museum putting up different displays and reorganizing materials about Imperial's history to make it user friendly.

Cecelia Lawrence reported there was a problem with bed bugs in the library and a leaky roof but both problems have been resolved. They are increasing the digital subscription budget and they have added Freegal Music and Cengage Learning as new library services.

Kara Welch reported Ainsworth Public Library is in phase two of its renovation, which is updating the old part of the library. A café style teen area was just completed. The library is planning an annual "Garden Walk." The Summer Reading Program has been very successful this year.

Sam Shaw reported he is working with Devra Dragos at the Library Commission organizing photographs for Nebraska Memories. Many of the photographs were taken by inmates in the 1940s, '50s, and '60s.

One of Sam's challenges is providing electronic information in the correctional environment. He is working on a system of off-line contacts that can be provided to inmates. He has a working test system which is an off-line version of Wikipedia. They have also been successful in mirroring government websites for the inmates' access. Their goal is to offer content to inmates and develop an information literacy course to partner with community resources.

Pat Leach reported that a success is the community engagement campaign using the tagline “Libraries are more than books.” There has been some interesting conversation about libraries not just being about books. She also said there have been no budget cuts this year, and the only request for additional funds is for additional eBooks. There have been conversations with Lincoln Public Schools considering using new E-Rate funds for increasing capabilities in wireless services at the library. Pat mentioned that Lincoln City Libraries currently has two roof projects underway.

Jean Hellwege started an online book club involving over 60 students and staff members. She has been working with the social studies department in writing a new sixth-grade and seventh-grade curriculum. She is excited about helping write a lesson called “Civic Action Project” for students to “live” their social studies class. Last year Scott Middle School won the AASL Collaborative Library Award for their involvement in that social studies project.

Beth Kabes reported that she is the Co-Chair for BlendEd. She has been researching how other states are blending their classrooms in making learning personalized for students. In Nebraska the concept of BlendEd is using online resources, a combination of face-to-face, video conferencing, as well the possibility of flex or rotation models. This gives students control over the place, path and time of their learning. She will be attending E-Rate Training in Minneapolis, MN this October. ESU #7 is evaluating the purchase of a laser printer. There have been several personnel changes, and the new administrator to replace the retired former administrator.

John Dale reported that Conn Library at Wayne State College is currently involved in renovation work. This will be a three-year project. John recently attended the Nebraska Leadership Institute Reunion. The future of the institute was discussed.

Ceri Daniels reported that her challenge was training someone who isn’t a librarian to take over her position. She is enjoying her retirement.

New Business

Recommendations and Resolutions

No recommendations or resolutions were presented.

Next Meeting: November 21 (Lincoln)

The Advisory Council adjourned at approximately 3:30 P.M.