

State Library of Kansas Board Meeting

Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library
Menninger Room (206)
March 20, 2009
9:30 a.m.

Board members present: Jim Minges, Micaela Ayers, John Flower, Lori Goetsch, Martha House, Nancy Keith, Jackie Lakin (for Alexa Posny), Donna Lauffer, Marion Renner, Gail Stucky, Brad Williams, and Christie Brandau, Board Secretary.

Not present: Marisa Lewis.

Guests: Leslie Bell (Northwest Kansas Library System), Roger Carswell (Southeast Kansas Library System), Emily Sitz (Southwest Kansas Library System), and Harry Willems (Central Kansas Library System).

Staff: Ruth Appelhantz, Roy Bird, Patti Butcher, Marc Galbraith, Cindi Hickey, Bonnie Keim, Shannon Roy, and Janie Rutherford.

1. Jim Minges called the State Library of Kansas Board meeting to order.
2. Jim asked for approval or discussion of the agenda. No changes were made.
3. Introductions were made by everyone in attendance.
4. Opportunity for public comment was given. John Flower thanked everyone for their thoughts, prayers, cards, etc., at the time of his wife's death.
5. Opportunity was given for discussion and/or approval of the November 14, 2008 Minutes.

Motion: Nancy Keith moved and Donna Lauffer seconded approval of the November 14, 2008 Minutes. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

6. There were no Board Reports.
7. Statewide Courier update:

Jim said there are two parallel RFP processes going forward: one for a vendor to provide delivery service and one to manage the delivery service. BCR is working with SLK and the Courier Task Force to develop and evaluate the RFPs. Jim

stated that the goal is to find the best service possible with the lowest cost in order to enable small libraries to participate in the courier service.

8. State Library Reports:

The SLK staff will be providing workshops, exhibiting with a booth and participating in the KLA conference in Wichita. Also, the Western Council of State Librarians is meeting two days before the conference in Wichita. SLK is hosting their meeting and corresponding events with the assistance of SLIM and Dean Alexander.

In the past, the June Board meeting was dominated by the review and discussion of each regional system's plan of service. This year there will be a new process and the Board will instead review and discuss the 2009 *State Library/Regional Library System Shared Goals for Statewide Library Service*. The State Library and the systems will report on the goals and what has been done to reach them. In addition, the shared goals for 2010 will be submitted.

The renovation plans for SLK are still uncertain, and there is no date set yet to move or an announced relocation site. However, the move is still scheduled for October and speculation is that the site will be the 7th floor of Docking Building.

Marc reviewed the 2009 budget reductions. The Governor recommended a 3% reduction for the State Library and the Legislature added another 1.25% across the board for an additional \$70,000. State aid was decreased 8.5%. For 2010, the Governor's recommendation included an 8.5% reduction. The House initially approved the Governor's recommendation, but the Senate recommended further cuts. As it stands now, a motion passed to reconsider the budget at Omnibus. The KLA GAC report, which consisted of statements on the impact state aid cuts would have on libraries over a two-year period, was included with the State Library's report to the legislature. Appreciation was expressed to Roger Carswell and Donna Lauffer on their efforts to encourage libraries to contact legislators.

Christie recounted issues being discussed by Talking Books staff, SLK staff and regional administrators on the future of the service. With funding being threatened and the turnover to digital books, there are a number of changes that should be considered. The State Library will appoint a task force to consider a redesign of Talking Books in Kansas to provide even better service to the customers. In addition to TB and SLK staff, the task force will include consumers of the service.

Shannon Roy reported on the SLK Public Library Accreditation project. Christie appointed a statewide task force earlier this year (list included in printed copy of report) with the charge "to develop a public library accreditation program that

encourages the ongoing development of quality library service by creating the tools for measuring customer-focused library excellence.” The State Library will use the accreditation guidelines to officially recognize Kansas libraries that offer excellent service to their communities. This will not be a revision of the *Public Library Standards*. The task force met for the first time February 18 with the meeting being led by Christie and facilitated by Dr. Robert Grover. Christie challenged the task force members to create measures from the library user’s perspective. It is anticipated that a draft of the program will be ready to present to the State Library of Kansas Board before their September meeting. It is anticipated that the first applications for accreditation will be accepted in the early months of 2010.

Janie distributed a copy of the first Annual Report of the State Library of Kansas. It is an outstanding look at the past year of service and will be available on the SLK website in a few days. Secondly, she reported on the success of Talking Books Week. There were many positive remarks about the promotion and a number of applications for services were completed. Thirdly, Janie reminded everyone of the State Librarian’s Luncheon at the KLA Conference. The theme of the luncheon is “Libraries: the jewel of the community” and features a drawing for donated jewelry. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the Kansas Center for the Book. Christie complimented Janie on all the fine work she has done to promote the State Library’s services in the past year and a half.

Patti referred everyone to information in the Annual Report about the Gates Foundation pilot project to help plan for and sustain Internet access in public libraries. The planned outcome of the project is additional subsidies to libraries for increased bandwidth, services of an E-rate coordinator and a consultant for statewide implementation.

Roy announced that *Wiggle*, written by Doreen Cronin and illustrated by Scott Menchin, is *the Kansas Reads to Preschoolers...About Fitness* book selected to be read November 15-21. A committee to choose the theme and suggest the book helped jumpstart the planning for the 2009 Kansas Reads to Preschoolers week.

Roy also reported on the Letters About Literature project. Letters were received from 95 4th to 12th grade students from schools all over the state. Three winners were selected and their letters were sent on to the national competition.

Christie mentioned two additional items: SLK staff will attend the KASL conference on April 3 in Junction City and she will be featured as the guest luncheon speaker. Also Eric Gustafson from the SLK staff won the KLA award for a new professional. Congratulations to Eric! Gustafson from the SLK staff won the KLA award for a new professional. Congratulations to Eric!

Cindi described the new SLK News blog which will serve as the monthly newsletter and as a place to post general information and announcements and receive feedback. In addition, SLK hosts an online Events Calendar, an account on Flickr, a Facebook page and a Twitter account. The newest posting on the blog is the Library Value Calculator. Cindi distributed a handout with the URL for the calculator and SLK's Social Networking Cheat Sheet.

Jackie Lakin described a new Kansas Department of Education QPA guidance that was recently issued which allows schools to substitute the local public library for the school library. This regulation will limit opportunities for students and overtax the public library. At Jackie's request, Christie recently sent a letter to Dr. Diane DeBacker stating specific differences between school and public libraries and how one cannot be a substitute for the other. As of today's meeting, she has not received a response. Martha said KLA has an excellent position statement regarding the distinction between school and public libraries and has posted it on KANLIB-L. As Chair of this Board, Jim will write to the Department of Education to express the Board's concern about the QPA guidance.

9. Jim asked for discussion of USD 231's Resolution and Petition for Admission to participate in the Northeast Kansas Library System. There was no discussion.

Motion: Marion Renner moved and Donna Lauffer seconded approval of the Petition for Admission to a Regional System of Cooperating Libraries submitted by Gardner Edgerton, USD #231, Johnson County, Kansas. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

10. Brad expressed relief at the recent Senate action providing 100% USF (Universal Service Fund) funding for Kan-ed for the next three years. He applauded librarians for their support and their efforts to get this accomplished. Kan-ed is now going ahead with the Kan-ed 2.0 project which provides a free T-1 Internet connection for every public library. Thirty-six sites are being connected per week to the new network and plans are to have everyone connected by July 30. Brad expressed appreciation for Kan-Ren and the phenomenal job they have done of bringing the technical pieces together and working individually with libraries.

Christie stated that an ongoing discussion in the library community is how to fund the statewide databases. Kan-ed has completed a survey on the databases currently subscribed to in Kansas. Lori said CODDL has been working with the Board of Regents to formalize a model for consortial activity, including database purchases for libraries. Christie stated that funding for the databases in FY10 is still

in limbo as they are awaiting a decision by the RLDC on funding. If RLDC members choose not to help fund the databases, immediate decisions will have to be made on which databases to drop.

Marc initiated discussion on the question, "How can libraries help their communities in these tough times?" The State Library has conducted a survey of Kansas libraries to determine if the recession has led to more usage. The overwhelming response was that usage had significantly increased in the past few months. Several suggestions were made, including:

- The introduction of a new HomeworkKansas component focusing on adult retraining and education. Resume and job application assistance will be available through HomeworkKansas.
- Patti stated that the State Library will soon unveil a wiki called *Thriving in Tough Times* which focuses on available resources for those needing help.

Jim reminded Board members that new officers will be elected at the June meeting. He also asked if the meeting dates could be made more accessible on the State Library's web page.

11. **Motion:** Nancy Keith motioned and John Flower seconded to adjourn at 11:55 a.m. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Appelhanz