

Minutes of the Pioneer Library System
Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, January 10, 2001
Pioneer Library System Offices, Canandaigua, NY

Sam Shama called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

The following PLS board members were present: Kate Alonzo, Charles Bauder, Mary Jane Healy, Sue Janczak, Carolyn Lyons and Sam Shama. Also present were Cindy Gardner, Jennifer Morris, Lindsay Ruth, Patricia Stocker and Pam Wolfanger. Pat Edwards joined the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Absent: Kathy Pohl. Excused: Helen Wright

Sam welcomed Sue Janczak to the Pioneer Library System board. Sue brings a wealth of experience having served on the Mount Morris Library Board for sixteen years and also on the Livingston County Library System Board. Sue is a high school librarian in the Honeoye Falls – Lima school district. We now have a third of the PLS board who are school librarians; Sue, Kate Alonzo and Carolyn Lyons. A trustee orientation for Sue preceded the regular board meeting. Past PLS President Joan Rodgers, Charles Bauder, Sam Shama, Jennifer Morris, Cindy Gardner and Patricia Stocker provided an overview of the many facets of the trustee position.

Sam asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Jennifer Morris asked that an employee request for an advance in vacation time be discussed under new business.

MOTION 1: Mary Jane Healy moved to accept the amended agenda with Carolyn Lyons seconding the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Sam asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the December 13, 2000 meeting. There were none.

MOTION 2: Kate Alonzo made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 13, 2000 meeting. Mary Jane Healy seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes was approved unanimously.

Communications and reports:

Financial Report:

Business Manager Cindy Gardner noted that PLS is still waiting for \$17,000 in state aid that is tied to the approval of variances for eight member libraries. The variances were sent to DLD on December 15, 2000, but were “lost” in a pile of paperwork there until January 10, 2001. The Revenue Anticipation Note was paid in December repaying \$17,625 in interest. Total interest earned in 2000 was over \$61,000. We have received supplemental LSA aid of \$3,753 for member libraries and Geneva’s supplemental aid totals just under \$6,000.

MOTION 3: Kate Alonzo made the motion to approve the financial report with Charles Bauder seconding the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Directors' Reports:

Jennifer issued two press releases in December, one about New Century Libraries and the other about the automation RFP (Request for Proposal). All of the legislators in PLS's service area have responded to Jennifer about the New Century Libraries. The RFP press release was also sent to all member libraries and board presidents.

A thank you note was received from past President Joan Rodgers and was circulated among members of the board.

Jennifer reported that she and members of the PLS automation staff met with representatives from Gaylord. The company currently has no installed sites in New York State for their Polaris automation system and is courting Pioneer. Betsy Morris and Jennifer are meeting with a number of automation vendors in Washington, D.C. this weekend at ALA Mid-Winter.

Patricia encouraged board members to view the display of completed PR minigrants, including a photo of Wood Library's plush mascot "Woody". All libraries that received a minigrant have completed a final report except Allens Hill Free Library. She also distributed the most recent PLS organizational chart and a "Who Does What" flyer.

Lindsay indicated that December was not a busy month for ILL and that a meeting with member libraries to discuss current ILL procedures was positive. Members of the GFL board met with members of the Geneva School board on January 8, 2001 to discuss a public vote for funding for the library. The school board is requiring the library board to present signed petitions for the vote. There is some question about the number needed with 25 signatures at one end of the spectrum and 10% of the voters in the district who voted in the last gubernatorial election (500+) at the other end. DLD has been asked to provide a definitive answer.

PLSDAC Liaison's Report:

An article in the Democrat and Chronicle about Dansville's Open Forum section on their web site was included in the packet.

Sue Ayres, Director of the Clyde Library reports that she helped a man conduct research on the civil war. He has now published a book and has dedicated it to her.

Walworth is eagerly anticipating a decision about the new PLS automation system. Mary Zingerella, Director, also has a home schooler doing an internship at the library.

Patricia attended the memorial service for former Stevens Memorial Library Director Joyce Perry on January 6, 2001. Over a dozen current and former librarians also attended.

Committee Reports:

There were no reports. The facilities committee will meet at the conclusion of the board meeting.

Other

There were no other reports.

New Business:

2001 PLS Grants Program

There were just a few changes in this year's program: the cost of cataloging has increased slightly, collection development grants have also increased a small amount and a few new titles were added to the Professional Development portion of the program.

Jennifer mentioned that the outcome of the long range planning efforts will help determine future services. The long range planning committee meets on Friday afternoon, February 16, 2001. The professional staff is having a retreat in the meeting room of the Clifton Springs Library on January 26, 2001 to creatively brainstorm system services. The results of this session will also be presented at the February 16th meeting.

MOTION 4: Carolyn Lyons made a motion to accept the 2001 grants program with Pat Edwards seconding the motion. It passed unanimously.

Election of Officers

MOTION 5: Kate Alonzo made a motion to accept the proposed slate of officers; Sam Shama, President, Helen Wright, Vice President, Charles Bauder, Treasurer and Kate Alonzo, Corresponding Secretary. Mary Jane Healy seconded the motion that then passed unanimously.

Board Committee assignments.

PLS Board Committee Assignments for 2001 are as follows:

President Sam Shama serves as ex-officio on all board committees.

Finance:	Charles Bauder Sue Janczak Kathy Pohl	Facilities:	Pat Edwards Carolyn Lyons PLS staff
Personnel:	Kate Alonzo Mary Jane Healy Helen Wright		

4. Advance in vacation time.

PLS staff member Fran Rush will be on disability following back surgery on January 29, 2001 for approximately three to four months. Jennifer recommends advancing five vacation days to her time banks so that her health insurance can be covered during the months of February and March. Fran will pay for her health insurance during April and May.

MOTION 6: Charles Bauder made a motion to advance five vacation days to Fran Rush's time banks with Mary Jane Healy seconding the motion. It passed unanimously.

Old Business

PLS Health Insurance Policy

Jennifer described efforts to deal with the issue of two retirees who receive the Blue Million health care plan. A search of old records and discussion with an attorney has convinced her that we "have no leg to stand on". Jennifer would like the personnel and budget committees to address offering health insurance to future retirees. She is collecting information from other systems with most indicating that it is a benefit that they offer. She will send out a background packet before the next meeting. Patricia mentioned that the Rose Free Library is now offering their director health insurance. This is a major step forward for a small library. Bell Memorial Library is also paying for their director's health insurance.

Board Development

Jennifer and Lindsay led a discussion about Recommendation Number Three of the Regent's recommendations: ***Promote the availability of local public library service to all New Yorkers and improve local support for public libraries through the formation of Public Library Districts.***

Lindsay and the GFL board are currently pursuing this recommendation.

Not every New Yorker lives in a chartered service area. Part one of this recommendation would encourage libraries to re-charter to form Public Library Districts. A variety of models might be used. Among the possibilities are: 1.) school district public library, 2.) association library serving a school district, 3.) special district library with no unserved contiguous areas, 4.) two or more association, special district, or municipal libraries serving an entire school district, and 5.) countywide library district.

Part two would require libraries to go for a public vote on a budget. The Regents concluded that when the public votes, libraries receive more money. Carolyn asked why does a school board care if the library puts up a proposition? It appears that some school boards fear that it will hurt their own votes. Libraries do not and will not have the authority to levy taxes. Taxes must be collected by an organization, such as a school district, that has that authority. Schools do not have a choice about the library vote but can request a properly executed petition based on population ranging from 25 to 10% of those who voted in the last gubernatorial election.

The third part would require that a public vote elect library trustees.

If the New Century Libraries legislation is passed there will be considerable financial incentives for libraries to help bring every library up to a \$20 per capita base. Systems would receive COLAs and also funding to hire staff to help libraries with their public library district efforts.

Lindsay recommends that every library do a presentation to the school board every year. She also suggests that each district superintendent be invited to the library for a tour.

Jennifer will discuss the Regents Recommendations at the System meeting on January 19, 2001. Trustee workshops will also be conducted on April 4th and 5th on the same topic.

Other:

Personnel and Finance committees will meet jointly after the next meeting on February 14, 2001 to begin looking at future health insurance benefits for retirees.

MOTION 7: Mary Jane Healy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m. Pat Edwards seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Stocker
Drafted: January 16, 2001
Approved: February 14, 2001