

Minutes of the Pioneer Library System
Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, September 8, 2004
Pioneer Library System Offices, Canandaigua, NY 14424

PLS Board President Rita Reissig called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

The following PLS Board members were present: Pat Ayres, Dick Harrison, Mary Jane Healy, Marianne Hunt, Sue Janczak, Sandy Kushner, Sandy McGavern and Rita Reissig. Also present were PLS staff Cindy Gardner, Betsy Morris, Jennifer Morris, Central Library Director Scott Hughes, and PLSDAC liaison Peggy Parker.

PLS Board member Pradeep Jangbari was excused.

There was a brief "housekeeping" discussion on the appropriate door for attendees members to use for Board meetings. Cindy indicated the staff and public doors are locked at 4:30 and that board members should use the northeast door.

Rita asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. Jennifer requested Youth Services be added to the agenda as section 1a under New Business.

MOTION 29: Sue Janczak made a motion to adopt the amended agenda. Mary Jane Healy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Rita asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the June 9, 2004 meeting. There were none.

MOTION 30: Mary Jane Healy made a motion to accept the minutes with Sandy Kushner seconding the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Communications and Reports:

1. Financial Report

Cindy Gardner referred to the 2 part financial report included in July mailing board packet, which included the minutes from the Finance Committee meeting, and noted that the six month financial summary is on target.

MOTION 31: Sue Janczak made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Mary Jane Healy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Directors' Reports

Jennifer mentioned we are all still adjusting to Patricia Stocker's recent retirement. She reported that the invitation for the Annual Dinner, included in the Board Packet, was distributed to the membership today. She also reported that the NYLA Annual Conference is in Rochester this year, October 20-23, urged Board members to attend, and reminded them there is money in the PLS budget to support their attendance. Most of the trustee specific workshops will be held

Saturday, October 23. She also mentioned that Shari Best resigned from the GFL Board and from serving as our NYSALB representative, for which a replacement is needed.

Betsy reported that as a very new Assistant Director she had little to report in that role, but provided an update on the status of the content filtering service. The filter as demonstrated at the June Board meeting did not perform as promised by the vendor, which necessitated an upgrade to all the VPN equipment in the member libraries. This upgraded equipment is provided at the expense of Time Warner, and will improve network stability in addition to meeting our performance specifications for the content filtering service. The installs are complete, and we are in the testing phase of both the new equipment and the filtering service. The current projected implementation date for filtering is October 1, 2004.

Scott distributed the Central Library report and indicated that they have had two very successful summer reading programs that included adult and YA participation in addition to the usual children's audience. He also mentioned that the Ready, Set, Kindergarten program, funded by a grant from Target, was very well received. He reported on the progress of the Long Range Plan, which has included focus group meetings and a community survey. Long range planning issues regarding staff and Board development will be addressed in the fall.

2. PLSDAC Liaison's Report

Peggy Parker, substituting for Laurie Newell, reported that PLSDAC had not met since the June Board meeting. She did have reports from member libraries:

- Macedon current collection size estimated at 14,000, down from 35,000 pre-fire, but 2004 summer circ. was by far the largest they've ever had; they have received another grant from the local Tops (now Martin) Food store, and they have an open house for the Bullis Collection on September 26th.
- Wadsworth Library will hold its first Friends meeting on September 27; they have a new Children's Librarian, Annette Ernste.
- The Gainesville Library is undergoing construction and expansion, and expects to be closed for one month.
- Wyoming County libraries once again had a booth in the Wyoming County Fair, which featured a book sale and reading to children.
- Ontario Public reports Christine Attinasi continues to serve as Interim Director while Laura Viau remains on administrative leave.
- Perry Public Library's Book for the Evening series begins Monday night, September 27, with a review of the Barber Conable biography, given by the author, James Fleming.

Peggy announced that the next meeting of PLSDAC is Friday, September 10, and that PLS listserv issues are on the agenda.

Old Business:

1. New York State Legislative Update

Jennifer announced that the Assembly will be reconvening on September 20, and expects to take action on the Governor's budget vetoes. She referred to a letter from Senator Volker stating that the Senate will address overriding the Governor's vetoes by the end of the year. She reminded the Board of the impact of the 5% cuts on library and system budgets, referring to the handout in the Board packet. She briefly addressed the LSSA Unserved portion of State Aid, indicating most Systems keep that money, often for automation, rather than distribute it to member libraries. The Finance Committee had also discussed retaining that money, directing it to the general fund for OWWL, which clearly serves our unserved populations, perhaps then being able to free up other money to fund a part-time Youth Services position. Once again,

Jennifer urged all to write letters to their legislators. Several Board members suggested using a variety of means of communicating with the legislators: letters, faxes, phone calls, emails, etc.

New Business:

1. Cataloging Fee Update

The Finance Committee had recommended in their June meeting that PLS reinstate a cataloging fee. Jennifer issued a call for member library volunteers to serve on a Cataloging Fee Task Force, which met on August 20 to discuss ways in which libraries can be charged for catalog records. The committee represented all size libraries, and there was unanimous agreement that some sort of fee is appropriate. Jennifer explained to the Board the principal of a First Time Use approach toward charging catalog fees, and the Board engaged in a question and answer period about past practices, the method of requesting, obtaining, and loading bibliographic records into OWWL, average costs, and ways of assessing fees. It was agreed that more specific numbers are needed before recommendations can be proposed for discussion and action. The Task Force recommendation will be referred to PLSDAC for their input.

1a. Youth Services Options

Jennifer again mentioned the prospect for re-allocating State Aid for unserved populations into the General Fund, and then redirecting other money to fund a part-time Youth Services position. This is still under consideration as a way to meet member requests for a youth services consultant. Sandy Kushner expressed her concern about long-term OWWL expenses, suggesting that the better use of retaining the unserved aid may be to help in keeping OWWL affordable for member libraries.

2. Recruiting NEW PLS trustees for 2005

Jennifer announced that Mary Jane Healy's term expires this year, and that a friend has donated \$1000 to Pioneer in her honor. Helen Wright has expressed interest in filling the Wayne County vacancy created by Mary Jane's departure. Pat Ayres is eligible for reappointment for another term as an Ontario County representative, which, it is hoped, she will accept. Jennifer indicated that, in the past, she has often had to recruit trustees, and hopes member library Directors and their Board Members will take a more active role in nominating candidates for the Pioneer Library System Board of Trustees.

Board Development:

1. Wyoming County Situation

A lengthy discussion took place regarding an email sent by Stevens Memorial Director to the PLS-L listserv on August 9, and the ensuing chain of events that led to his dismissal and a letter of concern regarding his email from Senator Volker.

Jennifer first asked if any Trustee's had received phone calls from their member library directors. Marianne Hunt and Mary Jane Healy both indicated they had received several calls, and that the directors who called were very upset about the situation. Some expressed concern that Mark's initial message was taken out of context, and that there had been an over-reaction that resulted in the message being passed to County Supervisors and a State Senator. They

felt a closed circle (the listserv) had been compromised, that freedom of speech rights were infringed upon, and that there is now some fear about the list as a safe environment for communicating with one another. They felt that while SMCL Director may have made a mistake, firing was too great a punishment.

Sandy Kushner stated that what the Attica Board chooses to do is their business. The Board agreed that the Attica Board action was a local issue.

There was much discussion about the loss of trust on the list, the expectation of privacy, the appropriate use of the list, why this message was shared outside the list, whether there should be clear instructions or workshops on listserv etiquette. In addition, Dick Harrison mentioned the public funding issue impact on listserv practices, and Jennifer concurred this may have a role in this incident.

All agreed that are several levels of concern regarding the incident. The responses from the members demonstrated the level of trust and camaraderie shared by the members, and restoring that strong sense of community is important. The Board agreed to let PLSDAC comments drive the Board's response to the situation.

Next Regular Meeting

The next regular meeting is October 13, 2004 at 5:00 pm at the Lakeshore House in Canandaigua.

MOTION 32: Mary Jane Healy moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm with Dick Harrison seconding the motion. It passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Morris
Drafted: September 13, 2004