

November 4, 2014



Present: Jane Blume, Nancy Bunker, Kyle Cox, Trish Henry, Marci Howells, Priscilla Ice, Jeff Martin, Valerie McBeth, Pam Nyberg Kiesner, Carolyn Petersen, Christine Peck, Rand Simmons, Maura Walsh

Not attending: Allyson Carlyle, Patricia Cutright, Jim Loter, Elizabeth Mills, Cynthia Lucas, Valerie Wonder

Guests: Brittane Hendricks

Meeting

Chair Valerie McBeth called the meeting to order and introduced Brittane Hendricks, the Tacoma Public Schools Curriculum and Instruction Co-Director. She welcomed us and explained the importance of libraries in Tacoma public schools. She called them the heart and soul of their 64 schools and learning sites. She cited the importance of the Ready to Read early literacy program, teachers' programs and common core.

The meeting notes from 9/25/14 were approved. The agenda was reviewed and the conflict of interest and grants policy items were tabled.

State Librarian Report

Rand Simmons reviewed the preliminary survey results, expressing his satisfaction at the very high number of surveys completed – more than 2,700. In depth analysis is yet to be completed. He handed out some sample comments from the survey. A very significant number of respondents gave their legislative district which will make analysis more meaningful to pair with our Legislative Fact Sheets.

Cox asked if we would tag and analyze the data. Simmons said he prefers using metadata and Martin added that we now have capability to do more complex analysis.

Ice asked if the survey had only been completed by library employees. Simmons explained that the respondents were free to identify themselves as they wished. At least 700 identified themselves as other than the listed categories.

Next Simmons shared another document that detailed summary results by group, showing the percentage of people in each group that had scored an item as very important. The library patrons at facilities located within a Department of Corrections or state hospital rated our services extremely highly. It is something that is not only important to them, but also allows them a positive activity that has multiple benefits. Libraries can be especially essential to survival and quality of life within a prison.

There is no update on the budget. We are making a concerted effort to make the correct facts available to all decision makers and other interested parties so that they can ably assess our situation. Simmons explained that he has been talking to many people on his own time and trying to contact the most important decision makers. The Secretary of State, Kim Wyman, has made it her mission to support the state library and help everyone make an informed decision. She has made county visits and met with many legislators.

Simmons then shared [Why the Washington State Library Matters](#), which was produced by our communications office. We also have a fact sheet being vetted by the Secretary of State's communications department.

Martin explained that the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) shortfall predicted from 2013 is probably not significant enough to request a waiver from Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). If the Microsoft IT Academy (ITA) is not funded that would mean a much more significant 16% cut.

Jeff MOE – 2013 shortfall – probably not significant to request waiver. If ITA is cut we will lose 16%, which would be significant cuts. When we project the MOE without the \$2.4 deficit backfilled in the new budget, we could be looking at a scenario that could be closing the state library and heritage funds. This would include the central library, library development, resources for state hospital and institutional libraries, as well as \$200,000 from the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library. This would be a 54% shortfall in our MOE. We could request a waiver from IMLS. They would investigate why the legislature didn't fund the library. The consequences get more and more dire. Simmons underlined that the ramifications put local funding in jeopardy in the very near future.

ITA needs to be renewed. The legislature allotted \$1.5 million this year – 1.3 was left after the mandatory governor's cut. Cuts in this funding could affect our ability to give grants for promotion and certification. Groups that use the ITA with their clients include the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Workforce from Employment Security, and Veteran Affairs.: all trainers for employment opportunity. We also anticipate support from the professional library community: public, academic, and special library and other communities and organizations. We have scheduled a meeting on January 8 to rally this support. We have a decision package written and the data is available. We are currently working on a year-end report for the legislature.

ITA currently has ten thousand active users and grows by about a thousand a month. We have begun to pilot certificate testing, which is free for now. Local sites will be able to charge \$50 for their testing vouchers.

Applications

The committee then said they had selected Pam Nyberg Kiesner for Library Council chair and Christine Peck for vice chair. Both accepted and were unanimously approved.

After discussion of the nominating committee's recommendations, it was moved & seconded that the following applicants be accepted as new members of Library Council:

Special

Laura Dushkes
NBBJ
233 Yale Ave N
Seattle WA 98107

ldushkes@nbbj.com

Disadvantaged

Elizabeth Partridge
Longview Public Library
1600 Louisiana St
Longview WA 98632

Elizabeth.partridge@ci.longview.wa.us

4-Year

Lorena O'English
Holland and Terrell Libraries
Washington State University
Pullman, WA 99164-5610

oenglish@wsu.edu

Technology

Susan Whitford
Kitsap Regional Library
1301 Sylvan Way
Bremerton WA 989310

swhitford@krl.org

These new members were unanimously approved.

Speaker

Carolyn Petersen from Washington State Library reported on the Summer Reading Summit, a collaborative effort suggested by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The objective is to keep students engaged and learning throughout the summer months so they do not suffer the learning set-back now common, especially among disadvantaged students.

We organized, funded and actively recruited collaborators for the summit, stakeholders community members from churches, libraries, schools, 4-H, and the United Way. Over 60 attended the summit last October in Yakima.

Matthew Boulay, who started Teach Baltimore, came and framed the problem. Teachers are doing good job, but summer and pre-school programs are a problem – and schools can't solve this problem alone. We're up against always tight funding, a 1940s concept of summer, and a connotation that summer school is punishment and/or remedial work.

We planted the question 'What does a middle class child get that is missing for less advantaged children?' some suggested answers came from

- Holly Paxton explaining how *Lacey loves to read* promoted literacy in community.
- Sally Chilson described the early literacy for collaborative summer reading program Spokane.
- Ken Harvey, Sno Isle media communications, showed that communications has vastly changed. Our methods are not effective. We need to cultivate connections.

An outcome of this summit is the plan for four webinars – scheduled for November, February, May and August – to continue to plan programs, share ideas, and facilitate community involvement. Another immediate outcome was that people met the others from their own communities that are committed to improving these programs. Everyone agreed that a different model is needed. The 20th century model is out-moded. We want libraries at the table for new decision making. Petersen said there's a sea change in libraries that includes a new way of looking

at their public and marketing programs. Martin added that this summit opened the eyes about what goes on in libraries.

Council members had a lively discussion about possible ideas and solutions for expanding networks, recruiting different demographics for summer reading programs, community based approaches, how we can make a concerted effort to fill gaps and make alternate learning experiences available. Petersen advocates a concerted community effort, where the library is one participant, but many others like parks, 4-H or Boys and Girls clubs, and other community groups are involved and where offerings are intentional and include reading as well as sports, math and other STEM activities. It might be possible, with enough planning, to be able to use the school transportation systems for summer programs.

Info sharing

Items for next agenda

- Special orientation for new members – we would like to have introductions from new and present members that includes experiences and interests.
- Policies (tabled today).
- Budget update.
- Members expressed their appreciation for Petersen’s presentation and interest in having other similar reports at future meetings. We will try to explore the possibility of inviting Laura Sherbo (WSL lead for institutional and hospital libraries) or a tour of one of these libraries.

We tentatively decided on the following locations for meeting in 2015:

March Washington State Library
May Vancouver
September Ellensburg (before classes start)
November Puyallup or other Seattle area

We will poll members for the best dates for meetings.

Tour

We adjourned those who were able had a tour of Stadium High School Library. It was a well appointed, spacious library with great open spaces for study and impromptu meetings. The views were amazing.

