



Library Development & Legislation (LD&L) Committee

Friday, March 23, 2018

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

WLA Office

4610 South Biltmore Lane, Suite 100, Madison, WI

MINUTES

Members and guests present: Connie Meyer, Sherry Machones, Kris Adams Wendt, Amy Birtell, Heather Johnson, Kathy Klager, Pete Loeffel, Larry Oathout, Jim Ramsey, Vicki Teal Lovely, Scott Vrieze, Steve Conway (DeWitt Ross & Stevens), Kurt Kiefer of the WI Department of Public Instruction's Division for Libraries and Technology (DPI/DLT), John DeBacher (DPI/DLT), Martha Berninger (DPI/DLT), Jane Roisum representing WLA Special Interest Group Community for Open Wisconsin (SIG COW), Bob Butterfield (SIG COW).

Remote participation via GoToMeeting: Kathy Pletcher, Nick Dimassis, Anita Weier, John Thompson of the Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) Steering Committee.

Members absent: Mark Arend, Bruce Gay, Steve Ohs and Plumer Lovelace (WLA Executive Director)

Co-chair Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Introductions were made, with Amy Birtell and Vicki Teal Lovely welcomed as new members.

Changes and additions to the agenda. Agenda order was adjusted by consensus to move Open Educational Resources (OER) presentation item 11 to follow approval of the minutes.

Approval of minutes from the January 26, 2018 meeting. Minutes of the January 26, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously on a **motion from Klager seconded by Vrieze.**

OER (Open Educational Resources) – presented by Jane Roisum & Bob Butterfield with the WLA Special Interest Group (SIG) Community for Open Wisconsin (COW). Roisum and Butterfield acquainted LD&L members with the mission of the new WLA Special Interest Group Community for Open Wisconsin, formed to foster awareness of and advocacy for free access to open educational resources. COW has researched legislative initiatives in other states regarding this issue and recognizes that unintended consequences can result without stakeholder participation in the careful crafting of legislation. COW is holding its first meeting next week and has reached out to colleagues in Minnesota. They were thanked for putting the issue on LD&L's radar and recognizing that prospective legislation in WLA's name needs to be coordinated through LD&L to advantage existing relationships and strategies.

Legislative Update. Conway reported that Assembly Bill ([AB](#))572/Senate Bill (SB)491, the **Public Library Data and Technology Training Bill**, was signed into law by Governor Scott Walker as [2017 Wisconsin Act 142](#) on March 14 at the Florence County Library. The efforts of Florence Co. Library Director Steph Weber and Nicolet Federated Library System Director Tracy Vreeke in coordinating library representation at the signing event on short notice were much appreciated.

Conway gave an update on [AB857/SB713](#) which sought to make changes to the duties and authority of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands and use of the Common School Fund. WLA was one of 19 organizations to register against the bill, affirming its long-held support for “*appropriate use of the Common School Fund for strong school library programs under the guidance of certified school library media professionals*” per its current Legislative Policy Statement. The bill neither advanced out of committee on the Senate side (following a contentious January 31 public hearing observed by Conway) nor received a committee hearing on the Assembly side before the session adjourned. It is a dead issue at this time. Conway and Michael Blumenfeld (government relations advisor for the Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association) had a collegial and productive conversation regarding WLA concerns arising from the January 31 hearing. Some legislators reacted negatively to particularly vehement public school librarian hearing testimony and office visit messaging mistakenly attributed to WLA coordination. Conway and Blumenfeld agreed that going forward it’s important to convey a clear separation between the two organizations in legislative matters so that WLA is not assumed to speak or negotiate for WEMTA’s agenda and vice versa. WLA and WEMTA will each focus on their own legislative priorities, messaging, and relationship building strategies going forward. WEMTA and WLA will, however, continue to collaborate in other ways reflecting their shared values.

Weier asked for clarification of WLA’s position on the April 3 statewide referendum to determine whether Wisconsin should amend its Constitution to eliminate the Office of the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer would be replaced by the Lt. Governor on the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) if the referendum passes. Pletcher explained that, while recognizing the existing BCPL configuration has faithfully managed the Common School Fund since statehood, WLA’s Legislative Policy Statement (see above) has not been extended to assert, as a certainty, that negative consequences to school library support will result from this highly politicized constitutional change first proposed in 2013. As mentioned in the most recent WLA Legislative Newsletter, WEMTA is taking point on this issue and has posted information about the referendum question on its legislative blogspot. Consensus around the table did not support recommending a change to WLA’s position on the referendum.

Cross County Payments Working Group. Klager reported that she and Meyer presented the PowerPoint about county library funding on March 22 at a meeting in Stevens Point with what will soon be renamed as the Wisconsin Counties Association Personnel, Finance and County Organization Committee. It was well received. WCA committee members also took an interest in recent WLA legislative and budget successes and continuing state aid to the public library systems serving all Wisconsin counties. The Cross County Payments Working Group will consider renaming itself to reflect a wider emphasis on building relationships with a broader array of organizations representing various levels of local government funding bodies.

Planning for the campaign season – Libraries: A Civic Space for Civil ~~Debate~~ Discourse. Dimassis led discussion of how WLA might take promotion of libraries as neutral space for legislative listening sessions, constituent meetings and “civil discourse” to the next level. Creating a customizable poster template on the theme of “civic space” for public libraries to display and providing DLT guidance on model policies were suggested. Dimassis will work with Loeffel and DeBacher to bring more information back to the May LD&L meeting.

2019-2020 State Budget Biennium – Funding goals and service themes. Conway reviewed the history of the 13% index requirement for public library system aids. Now that it has been eliminated, asking for a realistic amount is possible. The most recent \$1.5M increase was the first since 10% of system funding

was lost between 2011 and 2012. Conway asserted that WLA's brand was strong and legislators responded well to the messaging for the 2017-19 request. He asked what the 2019-2021 funding goal should be for systems to function effectively? Kiefer will supply a list of all other DLT budget items besides system aid. He would like to add supporting PLSR ideas to the conversation. Since the PLSR report will not be submitted to Superintendent Evers until the late August - September timeframe, several committee members wondered whether the DPI budget time table would accommodate funding for PLSR implementation. Discussion ensued. It was decided that an initial meeting between the DPI/DLT and LD&L budget teams should take place before the May 18 LD&L meeting. The DLT budget request usually goes before the DPI cabinet in June; DPI submits its request to the Department of Administration (DOA) in mid-September. Meyer will survey system directors to update potential projects related to workforce development, technology and lifelong learning. There is a need to solicit concrete examples of how the \$1.5M has enhanced programs in those areas and take stock of current success stories.

Information Technology Education – Next steps. The legislature's Joint Finance Committee approved \$875,000 in both 2017-18 and 2018-19 "for a contract with a single provider of information technology education for public school pupils in grades 6-12, technical college students, *and library patrons.*" The program is required to operate in 225 sites, *including 16 public libraries*, with funding awarded as a competitive grant following an RFP process. Kiefer reported that the initiative went out to bid at DPI and Microsoft was chosen as vendor, with an anticipated instruction package similar to Microsoft Imagine Academy. Point people at DPI for the library piece have not been assigned yet. More details will be forthcoming. Vicki Teal Lovely, Heather Johnson and Nick Dimassis volunteered to work on this project.

Library Legislative Day follow-up – Evaluations and Libraries Transform posters. Dimassis anticipated the Library Legislative Day evaluation survey would be sent to participants today. Conway complimented all who worked to make the day a success despite the unusual weather, stating once again that librarian visits are highly welcomed by legislators. Special recognition given to legislative staff members was noticed and appreciated. The Concourse has been booked for February 12, 2019. All available posters have been distributed, with the project put on hold until after mid-term elections.

Federal Legislative Advocate report. Machones reported on plans for **National Library Legislative Day** in Washington, D.C. (May 7-8) which she will attend with Kiefer, Lovely, SRLAAW representative Ohs, WEMTA delegates and others yet to be named. DLT will provide a leave behind info piece. Congress passed a **FY2018 omnibus bill** that included significant federal funding increases for critical Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding allocated as Grants to States, as well as the smaller Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program which primarily supports childhood literacy and book distribution activities. (Word was received that the President signed the FY 2018 budget as Machones was giving her report.) ALA advocacy efforts are underway for the FY 2019 budget. Other issues on the watch list are reauthorization of IMLS, broadband access, net neutrality and the Marrakesh (international copyright) Treaty.

DPI/DLT update. Kiefer responded to LD&L requests for updates in three areas. (1) There is LD&L interest in how **library workforce development services** are being coordinated as one of the three areas identified for concentration of the extra \$1.5M in public library system aids. The DPI/DWD Inter-Agency Work Group has met a couple of times. A Laura Bush Grant has been discussed, but there are no plans at present to organize a group Gale Courses purchase; systems need to collaborate on their own. Kiefer indicated there is no need for LD&L representation on the work group. WLA has designated Winding

Rivers Library System Director Kristen Anderson as its representative. (2) There is LD&L interest in how funds newly available to libraries from WISEdata, WISEdash and the TEACH programs through the **Public Library Data and Technology Training Bill** will translate into additional programs, services or grant opportunities. TEACH is administered through DOA. More information and guidelines about library participation, as well as an opportunity for library input will be forthcoming. (3) Kiefer was asked for an update on how uncertainty over FY18 and FY19 appropriations has impacted DLT's allocation of **Wisconsin's share of LSTA grants to states** in support of DLT staff positions and ongoing projects such as PLSR. Will there be Wisconsin LSTA budgets and other materials from LSTA Advisory Committee meetings posted on line? Kiefer promised to share a link to that information. LD&L has directed and encouraged WLA member advocacy among Wisconsin's congressional delegation to support federal library funding. It was noted that elimination of competitive grant categories for systems and local libraries, as well as system technology block grants impairs using local project examples for advocacy messaging to Wisconsin members of Congress.

PLSR update. Thompson reported the PLSR Chapter 43 workgroup will become a Steering Committee subcommittee to provide additional research, review, assess and advise on potential changes to statute language per final phase Steering recommendations. PLSR communication will continue to flow to LD&L, and LD&L members are invited to submit feedback to the workgroup models in April. Thompson stated Superintendent Evers would expect LD&L to weigh in once any statute changes were identified but implementation will rest with DPI. Some LD&L members are part of new groups created to assist with the final phase – Machones is a Core Recommendation Collaborator and Dimassis, Gay and Oathout are Model Development Summit Participants.

Announcements and other business. None.

2018 meetings: May 18, July 27, September 28, November 30

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM on a **motion from Machones seconded by Birtell.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Adams Wendt, Recorder