

Lancaster County Public Libraries Task Force (PLTF)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 16, 2009
7:30 AM

Attendance

Task Force Members: Terry Kauffman; Chair; Lester Houck; Jim Martin John McGrann; Bud Rettew, Diane Rice. Absent: Bonita Martin.

Guests: Barbara Basile, Manheim Library; Deb Beisell, Elizabethtown Library; Donna Brice, ELANCO Library; Trish Calvani, York County Library System; John Havrilla, System Board and Lancaster Public; Greta Kernicky, Milanof-Schock Library; Herb Landau, Lancaster Public Library; Glenn Landis, Lititz Library Board; Virginia McGrath, System Board and Ephrata Library; Margie Perella, Pequea Valley Public Library (Intercourse); Kay Rohrer, System Board and Pequea Valley Library; Joyce Sands, Lancaster Public Library; Susan Tennant, Lititz Library; Kathy Thren, Adamstown Library; Joe Zappacosta, Ephrata Public Library. **Library System Staff:** Renee Christiansen; Susan Hauer; Mary Ann Heltshe-Steinhauer; Bill Hudson; Lee Krieger; Ed Miller; Donna Westerhoff.

Call to Order

Chair Terry Kauffman called the meeting to order.

Minutes

Kauffman asked for approval of the minutes of the November 25, 2009, meeting.

APPROVAL: On motion and second, the PLTF approved the minutes of the November 25, 2009, meeting, as distributed.

Report of the Chair

Regional Public Meetings will be held to allow patrons to speak about the value of their library's core services, and to give Task Force members the opportunity to listen to public ideas about current library services.

Meetings are scheduled for Thursday evenings, 7:00 PM, at the following libraries:

- January 28 – Milanof-Schock
- February 4 – Ephrata
- February 11 – Quarryville
- February 18 – Pequea Valley
- February 25 – Lancaster

To publicize meetings, Chair Kauffman will contact Larry Alexander at Lancaster Newspapers, the libraries will advertise, and the Task Force will email invitations.

Visits to other Library Systems The Task Force will visit other Library Systems to compare what they, their members, and their District Centers are doing to provide valuable library services in today's challenging environment.

The visits are for Task Force members and are scheduled for Wednesday mornings, with arrival between 8:30 and 9:00 AM. Task Force members can travel together, leaving the System office at 7:30 AM. Susan will send directions for those wishing to travel separately.

- January 13 – Chester County
- January 27 – Dauphin County
- February 10 – Berks County
- February 24 – York County

Library System Annual Meeting – Chair Terry Kauffman will be the Keynote Speaker, Tuesday, January 19, 7:00 PM, at the Library System office.

Future Task Force Meetings. Wednesdays, 7:30 AM:

- January 20
- February 3
- February 17

2010 County Budget

The System appropriation was reduced by 4%, or \$75,000, the same amount the System had trimmed from their budget by reducing staff, and planned to use for member libraries' collection expenditures.

Conversation with Deputy Secretary Clare Zales

Because she was in a car accident, Clare Zales joined the meeting by conference call, rather than attending in person. Luckily, she was uninjured.

Chair Kauffman asked her for ideas on how to work through the economic times, cuts and funding at local and state levels. Zales gave a brief history of state funding, noting that the original idea in Pennsylvania was for the bulk of the funding to be from the county level. Currently, 60 – 68% of library funding in Pennsylvania comes from local government. She listed the seven levels of State Aid – Incentive, Quality, Excellence, Equal Distribution, County Coordination, System and District. She noted that System aid was intended to support patron services; and District aid was intended to support libraries.

Distribution across the state is determined by the following factors: Population (driven by the "formula"); number of books, open hours. In addition County Coordination Aid is determined by the class of the county; and District Aid is population-based.

Commonwealth Libraries is developing a statewide integrated library system. Libraries could save 50% on ILS licensing fees if they banded together. The Statewide Card is being eliminated.

Zales reported that a new formula is needed, but there must first be enough money to make it politically acceptable. The new formula must produce many “winners,” and few “losers.”

When asked about waivers from the code, Zales reported that the State Librarian has the authority to waive standards. A letter from the Board President concerning collection and hours that do not meet the standards should be sent to her attention.

Zales reported that federal stimulus money is available for infrastructure, job creation and retention. She will research how partnerships (school district or municipal) can be utilized so that libraries can benefit.

Next Meetings:

The next meetings of the Public Libraries Task Force are the Visit to the Chester County Library System on Wednesday, January 13, 2010, and the regular Task Force meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 7:30 AM, at the System Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 AM.

Submitted by
Donna Westerhoff