

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY SYSTEM
Trustee Meeting
May 28, 2013 – Approved June 25, 2013

The Regular Meeting of the Westchester Library System was called to order by Naseem Jamali, Vice President, at 6:06 p.m. at WLS Headquarters. The quorum requirement was met with the following people in attendance:

Board Members present: Catherine Draper, Dave Donelson (late), Patricia Fontanella, Amanda Goodman, LaRuth Gray, Chris Hansen, Norman Jacknis, Naseem Jamali, Sue Neale (late), Edris Scherer, John Sorice

Board Members absent: Mary Amato, Deborah Fay, Hope Furth, Barbara Hickernell

Also present from WLS were: Terry Kirchner, Patricia Braja, Francine Feuerman, Rob Caluori

Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) Representative: Ed Falcone, Deputy Director, Yonkers Public Library

COMMITTEE REPORT

Reporting on behalf of Sue Neale, Chair of the Nominating Committee, Ms. Fontanella reported that Edris Scherer has agreed to fill the vacant term as the representative for WLS District IV [Lewisboro, North Salem, Somers] expiring 12/31/2013. The appointment of Ms. Scherer as the WLS District IV Trustee was approved on a motion by Ms. Fontanella and seconded by Mr. Hansen. The motion passed with 9 votes in favor [Ms. Neale and Mr. Donelson not present for vote]. Ms. Scherer was welcomed and administered the Oath of Office.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of April 30, 2013, were approved as submitted on a motion by Dr. Jacknis and seconded by Ms. Draper. The motion passed with 9 votes in favor [Ms. Neale and Mr. Donelson not present for vote].

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The financial reports through April 2013 were presented by Mr. Sorice. Mr. Sorice and Ms. Feuerman are not satisfied with the low interest rates and will report back on some ideas after reviewing the general municipal law and investments allowable. The financial report through April 2013 was accepted as submitted on a motion by Dr. Gray and seconded by Ms. Fontanella. The motion passed with 10 votes in favor [Mr. Donelson not present for vote].

ACTION ITEM

Extension of Current Borrowing Facility: Ms. Feuerman explained that WLS has an existing Line of Credit with TD Bank, which allows WLS to borrow up to \$500,000 unsecured for a period of one year with neither facility fees nor covenants for this loan agreement. This facility expires on June 30, 2013, and extension of the facility for an additional year is recommended, even though no need to borrow is foreseen in the coming year.

The Board approved the extension of the borrowing facility with TD Bank for an additional year on a motion by Ms. Fontanella and seconded by Mr. Hansen. The motion passed with 10 votes in favor [Mr. Donelson not present for vote].

Total Boox: Dr. Kirchner reported that with the approval of the increase in New York State Library Aid (4.9%) for FY2013-14 over the proposed 2013 WLS budget, and the interest expressed by the member libraries, WLS is looking into expanding the range of e-books collections through innovative approaches.

Total Boox offers an alternative to traditional models and was created to give the reader the ability to only pay for what is read. Total Boox has thousands of books available to download and currently partners with such publishers as Elsevier, FW Media, Microsoft Press, among others. Once a book is downloaded, tabs are kept on what is read and only the value of the pages read are deducted from the balance of WLS's account. Information needed for delivering the service is collected, but Total Boox does not share any personal information that links to someone's identity.

Total Boox has proposed a total budget of \$30,000 [an initial \$5,000 refundable deposit plus a budget of \$25,000] to support e-content accessibility during the time frame starting June 1 through December 31, 2013. The proposed contract was vetted by WLS legal counsel, and it does allow for no-penalty release from the contract. This partnership offers a low-risk, high-visibility potential that demonstrates WLS's leadership in exploring new concepts beyond the status quo. Patrons will be notified of this product's availability and integration into the current Sirsi product is being explored.

The Board approved the proposed contract with Total Boox as noted above on a motion by Dr. Jacknis and seconded by Ms. Draper. The motion passed with 10 votes in favor [Mr. Donelson not present for vote].

Internet Content Mediation: Rob Caluori gave a demonstration of OpenDNS, a software that is being explored in order for WLS to be compliant with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Over concern for minors possibly accessing sexually explicit images over the Internet, Congress passed this law which requires, as a condition for receipt of federal funds, that schools and libraries take steps to prevent adults from having access to obscenity and child pornography and prevent minors from having access to those categories of speech but also to material "harmful to minors."

WLS and the member libraries receive approximately \$125,000 through the Federal e-Rate program. Recent interpretations of the e-Rate administrators suggest that WLS's point-to-point telecommunication connections now fall within the CIPA compliance requirements. If requirements are not met, WLS and the member libraries would stand to lose the e-Rate funds for FY2014.

Approved by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Open DNS reviews domains and categorizes them. WLS would seek to block the sites categorized as pornography. When a website under that category is trying to be accessed, the software allows for two options: 1) a screen warning that the website about to be accessed has been flagged and the user must enter a bypass code to continue; or 2) a screen warning that would instruct users to ask the librarian to input the bypass code in order to continue.

One concern was about blocking of legitimate sites and 1st Amendment rights that support free, equal and equitable access of information for all people. Although WLS could override a blocked

site, the software does not allow for a user to challenge or lodge a complaint about a blocked site. Also, there is uncertainty whether option 1 noted above would meet the CIPA compliance guidelines since authorized library staff are not directly mediating the bypass process.

Another concern was how all the member libraries felt with regard to this product and overall issue of mediating content to comply with CIPA. This issue had been discussed at the PLDA Meetings; and WLS Trustees contacted their represented libraries. However, it was the consensus that more feedback was needed to determine the members stance on CIPA compliance and any potential financial impacts that could occur if WLS does not apply for e-Rate for Internet services.

The Board approved to table the vote on whether to implement CIPA-compliant software to the June Board Meeting on a motion by Mr. Jamali and seconded by Ms. Scherer. The vote passed with 6 in favor and 5 opposed [Donelson, Hansen, Draper, Goodman, and Jacknis].

Dr. Kirchner, Mr. Donelson, Mr. Hansen, and Dr. Jacknis agreed to act as a working group to compose a message to the member libraries regarding seeking their input in this matter.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A copy of the Executive Director's Report was mailed in advance of the meeting.

Dr. Kirchner announced that the part-time Youth Service Liaison position has been eliminated. This is due to a shifting of responsibilities and the formation of the new Youth Services Advisory Group. Ms. Halpern helped to structure the WLS wiki, worked on different approaches for the review book process and represented WLS in such initiatives as the Performers Showcase.

The Request for Proposal for the Central Library is being reviewed by the Division of Library Development; but no further response has been received regarding the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Variance process for the Mount Vernon Public Library.

WLS will be holding a Trustee FUNdamentals Forum on Monday, June 10, with Jerry Nichols at the Eastchester Public Library.

PLDA LIAISON'S REPORT

Mr. Falcone reported on the May Meeting. No quorum was present and no new business was conducted. Ms. Sibyl Canaan, Director of The Field Library (Peekskill), announced her retirement. A staged "active shooting" event will be held at the June meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Having completed its agenda, the Board adjourned its meeting at 7:45 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Jacknis and seconded by Ms. Neale. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Hansen" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Hansen, Secretary