

**WESTCHESTER LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
**Trustee Meeting**  
**March 26, 2019 – Approved April 30, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of the Westchester Library System was called to order by Sean Ryan, President, at 6:10 p.m. at WLS Headquarters. The quorum requirement was met with the following people in attendance:

Board Members present: Cathy Draper, Karen Kelley, Jonathan Marshall, Julie Mills-Worthey, Susan Morduch, Francis Okelo, Joseph Puglia, Sean Ryan, Edris Scherer, Bernie Seiler, Karen Zevin

Board Members absent: Dave Donelson, Maureen LeBlanc

Also present from WLS were: Terry Kirchner, Patricia Brigham, Francine Feuerman, Rob Caluori, Elena Falcone, Elise Burke

Guest: Karen LaRocca-Fels, Director, Ossining Public Library

Mr. Ryan invited Ms. LaRocca-Fels, who had previously requested if she could speak to the WLS Board regarding Ossining Public Library's experience during the recent virus attack on the WLS network. She also spoke on behalf of John Sexton, Director of the Greenburgh Public Library, who could not attend this evening's meeting but had similar experiences. For approximately three weeks, all of the public computers (PCs) at the library could not operate due to the fact that they are all WLS PCs, and the library could barely service their patrons. The PCs not on Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) were also down, although they were not necessarily affected by the virus. The communication between WLS IT and the Ossining staff did not always provide the information the library needed to share with their staff, trustees or patrons. It took four weeks to bring the situation to a total resolution. The Ossining Board is now considering other options for redundancy in order to prevent something like this from happening again.

A discussion followed regarding the nature of the attack, whether law enforcement was involved, IT response times and staffing adjustments made to address the issue, communication and public relations strategies implemented and the lessons learned from the event. Dr. Kirchner and Mr. Caluori will develop a public statement regarding the event and its resolution and will prepare a budget and plan of action for how to guard against future issues and provide clearer communication and back-up support to the member libraries.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of January 29, 2019, were approved as submitted on a motion by Ms. Scherer and seconded by Ms. Zevin. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

The financial report through February 2019 was presented by Ms. Scherer and was accepted on a motion by Ms. Scherer and seconded by Ms. Draper. The check register was distributed.

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**Audit Committee:** The Audit Committee is expected to meet some time around April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Nominating Committee:** Dr. Morduch, Chair, noted that Denise Matthews-Serra is willing to serve as the replacement for the vacancy of District XI (White Plains) due to the resignation of Hope Furth. The appointment of Ms. Matthews-Serra was approved on a motion by Dr. Morduch and seconded by Ms. Draper. The motion passed unanimously. Since Ms. Matthews-Serra was not present, her oath will be administered at next month's meeting.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Dr. Kirchner noted that the migration of the Integrated Library System (ILS) from SirsiDynix to Evergreen took a lot of work by the WLS IT staff and the member library staff; and it has been a great success. Although a number of issues still need to be resolved, the number of outstanding issues have diminished; and Evergreen has already shown promise as a public service tool with greater control.

A meeting of the Westchester County Complete Count Committee is scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>. As a member of this Committee, Dr. Kirchner is expecting to gain a better understanding of what the County is planning and how the library community can work with them to accomplish their goals.

Dr. Kirchner was also asked to serve on a panel with the Westchester County Association (WCA) regarding service in the new digital age, with the role of the library being a digital access anchor for technology and information.

At the March Public Libraries Directors Association (PLDA) Meeting, Dr. Kirchner spoke about the San Francisco Public Library eliminating the use of overdue fines. Recent reports have found that fines do not ensure the return of materials and actually discriminate against groups struggling with poverty, homelessness, re-entry into society—thereby becoming antithetical to what a library is trying to accomplish. Dr. Kirchner will be participating in an Access to Justice Initiative later in April to gain a sense of awareness of civic legislative issues. Dr. Kirchner distributed a summary of the March PLDA Meeting from Andrew Farber, who was unable to attend the meeting.

## PRESENTATION

Elena Falcone, Director of Public Innovation and Engagement (PIE), who is responsible for outreach programs spoke about one of the Department's recent programs—Community Conversations. This program was designed to create robust discussion utilizing the unique and powerful role of libraries to provide a neutral space and to act as a catalyst in bringing community agencies and other interested parties together around specific topics. In 2017 the topic was Criminal Justice featuring Brent Glass, Director Emeritus of the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian Institution, as moderator and Dana White, the Ossining Village Historian. The sessions were held at the following libraries: Ossining Public Library, New Rochelle Public Library, Yonkers Public Library-Riverfront, Yonkers Public Library-Grinton I. Will Branch, John C. Hart Memorial Library, and Mount Kisco Public Library. A number of organizations were involved: Westchester County Department of Corrections, Westchester County Probation, Department of Social Services, Family Services of Westchester, etc. These conversations provided an opportunity for exchange of ideas and better

understanding of what needs are being met and what still is needed, which also resulted in the selection of the next topic.

Community mental health issues emerged as a topic of interest, and the next Community Conversation program focused on Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs)—significant childhood traumas that can result in actual changes in brain development that may affect a child’s learning ability, social skills and can result in long-term health problems. Resilience is the ability to adjust when bad things happen, and research has proven that resilience helps reduce the effects of ACEs. A portion of the film entitled, *Resilience: The Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope*, was shown to create awareness of the resilience skills needed to feel safe and connected. To date 88 screenings at libraries and other community sites have taken place. The reaction was very positive and has led to the creation of the Westchester Resilience Coalition to help build awareness of ACEs as a public health concern. PIE staff will work with the member libraries to explore how they can best incorporate Resilience exercises into their programming.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Brigham reminded all that the *Celebrating Westchester Libraries’ Breakfast* is Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. A good response has been received, and an announcement will be made that WLS was 1 of 24 recipients to share in a national XPRIZE Communities Competition award of \$500,000.

A grant from the Herman Goldman Foundation was received to support WLS's 2020 Census Complete Count Initiative. In addition a portion of TD Bank's sponsorship is directed towards this Initiative's promotion. A number of gifts were received in memory of former WLS Trustee Sue Neale, who passed away in February.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having completed its agenda, the Board adjourned its meeting at 8:40 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Scherer and seconded by Ms. Zevin that passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bernie Seiler  
Secretary