

MINUTES
Northern Lights Library Network
Governing Board Meeting
June 17, 2023
Minnesota State University Moorhead
Comstock Memorial Union Room 203
and Online

Present:

- Kathy Enger, Executive Director, NLLN
- Glenn Heinecke, President, NLLN; NLLN School Library Representative
- Linda Schell, Lake Agassiz Regional Library Representative (LARL)
- George Deiss, Kitchigami Regional Library System Representative (KRLS)
- Sheri Levasseur, Secretary, NLLN; School Library Representative
- Linda Holecek, Lake Agassiz Regional Library Representative (LARL)
- Lina Belar, NLLN Special Library Representative
- Bethany Hait, NLLN Public Library Representative
- Lynn Eaton, Kitchigami Regional Library System Representative (KRLS)
- Laurie Villwock, NLLN Special Library Representative; Media Specialist, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School
- Kevin Baggett, Treasurer, NLLN; Academic Library Representative; Business & Outreach Librarian, Concordia College
- Charlie Lindberg, Northwest Regional Library Representative (NWRL)
- Deb Keena, Office Manager, NLLN
- Aleta Sanford, Minute-taker, NLLN

1. Call to Order.
 - a. 10:04 A.M.
2. Agenda.
 - a. Linda S, Linda H MCU
3. Minutes.
 - a. Sheri, Linda H MCU
4. Financial Reports.
 - a. NLLN is on track for the budget. Currently, we are 5% ahead of last year's spending.
 - b. Operating expenses are extremely low, and now, with the increase in funding, NLLN will be able to devote more money than ever to our programs and to libraries in the region.
5. MDE Grant Request Materials.
 - a. Board members received the grant request at the same time it was sent to MDE.
 - b. NLLN requested over \$335,000.

6. Annual Report. Annual Review.
 - a. The Annual Report has been distributed to all board members. It covers all the programs and activities NLLN has supported and accomplished in the last fiscal year.
 - b. In a private session during the meeting, the board reviewed Kathy's performance over the last year. Separate notes regarding the discussion will be retained by the President and Secretary.
7. Budget.
 - a. Kathy analyzed the last six years of pay adjustments and cost of living adjustments (COLA) and averaged both to determine the requested pay adjustment for the coming fiscal year: 5% increases for Deb and Kathy.
 - i. It is important for NLLN to keep the director's salary competitive so the budget is not deeply affected whenever the position has to be posted next.
 - b. Motion to approve Annual Review and Budget
 - i. Charlie, Lynn MCU
8. Old Business.
 - a. Legislative Update.
 - i. The multitype systems are receiving a \$700,000 increase in funding. As the largest system, NLLN will receive an increase that puts total annual funding at \$335,821.56, up from approximately \$218,000 for the last 15 years.
 - ii. Additionally, the legislature allotted \$1 million for media centers and media specialists, increased legacy funding to \$2.75 million per year, increased the Basic Education Allowance by \$4 million, and \$23 million per year for school libraries and will endeavor to define "school library" and "school library media center."
 - iii. Thank you to the Minnesota Legislature for this increase in funding. Board members and librarians in the region, please reach out to your legislators to thank them, as well.
 - b. Books!
 - i. NLLN's mission statement in one word would be: Books!
 - ii. Older generations are donating their collections, to the delight of NLLN librarians and media specialists. NLLN has a part in finding new homes for donated books.
 - c. CMLE Update.
 - i. The CMLE multitype system has an interim director while their search continues for a full-time director.
 - d. "Better Together" workshop.

- i. The workshop was held June 13th and was a success. Librarians and media specialists in the region and throughout the state had time to talk to each other and learn from the presenters.
 - ii. In an effort to provide information and guidance regarding the new English Language Arts Academic Standards that are soon to be implemented, NLLN had two presentations on this topic. In one, Dr. Johnson presented on Native American Literature. In another, a representative from MDE discussed the new standards. NLLN will continue to provide information regarding how to implement these standards and literature that fulfills the requirements.
 - 1. Please note that some Native American literature included on any lists NLLN distributes, both at its workshops and as we progress toward the implementation of these new standards, may contain works with content that may be challenged by groups fighting to remove certain content from school library collections.
 - e. Dr. Denise Lajimodiere Presentation.
 - i. Dr. Lajimodiere, ND Poet Laureate, presented on her work on May 5, 2023, via Zoom. She discussed her book about Native American boarding schools in the U.S., *Stringing Rosaries*, and read her children's book about jingle dancing, *Josie Dances*.
 - ii. NLLN is a great supporter of Native American populations in our region. For example, NLLN helped with a project on the White Earth reservation that also created Little Free Libraries. Now the Little Free Library Association uses White Earth as their example for how Little Free Libraries could be beneficial to Native American populations around the country. Among the images used is a picture of two children holding copies of *Josie Dances*.
 - f. Allyssa Holland's Presentation.
 - i. Allyssa is a recent graduate from MSUM and now former student of Kathy's. On May 31st, Allyssa presented her Master's thesis, which looked at the impact of daily reading journals on 7th grader's motivation to read.
9. New Business.
- a. Budget Increase.
 - i. See discussion above.
 - b. Communities Collaborative Brain Conference.
 - i. The conference will be held in-person next year. NLLN has requested that Dr. Johnson (who presented at the most recent "Better Together" workshop) present at the conference.

- c. Poets! Voices! A Minnesota Pilot Plan, The Wadena County Historical Society, and the Historic Wesley Hospital Building.
 - i. Lina Belar thanks NLLN and Kathy for supporting the request for a grant from Sourcewell. Unfortunately, they were not selected for the grant, but Lina and the Wadena County Historical Society remain committed to making the Historic Wesley Hospital Building a center for arts and an archive for poetry published by Minnesota small presses.
- d. Reach Every Librarian.
 - i. NLLN opens all events to librarians across the state, and other multitypes provide the same opportunity to NLLN librarians and media specialists.
 - ii. Sheri is now part of a committee helping to define what a media specialist does and what a school media center is. She is also now the northwest region's representative for ITEM.
 - 1. The committee will be rolling out a short questionnaire to all media specialists and school library staff at the beginning of October. There will be a small test-run of the survey in July.
 - 2. While not necessarily connected to the new funding going to media centers, the State may leverage the information the committee collects.
 - 3. Sheri will also bring the regions concerns about potential funding misappropriation to the committee and work to find an effective mechanism to ensure the funding supports school libraries and media centers as intended.
- e. Jill Kandel Presentation.
 - i. Jill Kandel is a local author who will be doing a presentation on her work in September.
 - ii. Jill's presentation promises to be a great opportunity for learning and discussion. If anyone has ideas for enriching presentations, please let Kathy know.
- f. NLLN Chair, Glenn Heinecke library assistance at NLLN libraries.
 - i. Glenn has been helping libraries in the region over the last several years. Currently he is working with Ada-Borup West on various projects and topics such as Destiny, how to rearrange furniture, and more!

10. Adjourn.

- a. 11:25 A.M.
- b. Linda S, Linda H MCU