

MINUTES
STATE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
October 17, 2024

The State Library Board met October 17, 2024, in the Boardroom of the State Library, 274 East First Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201.

CALL TO ORDER

The business meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Julia Ward, Executive Secretary to the State Librarian's Office, called the roll. State Library Board members present were Ms. Janet Carleton, President; Ms. Theresa Fredericka, Vice-President; Mr. Drew Wichterman; Mr. Jeffrey Winkle; Mr. Eric Taggart; and Ms. Beverly Cain, Secretary.

Visitors present were Rob Davis, Logan-Hocking County District Library; Mary Leffler, Logan-Hocking County District Library; Jay Smith, Ohio Library Council; Don Yarman, Ohio Public Library Information Network; Katy Mathuews, OhioNet; and Danny Nunner, Ohio Attorney General's Office.

State Library staff members present were Julia Ward, Kirstin Krumsee, Marsha McDevitt-Stredney, Andy Ingraham Dwyer, Jamie Pardee, Evan Struble, Erin Kelsey, Elissa Lawrence, Katy Hite, Stephanie Herriott, Phil Willke, and Eric Maynard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Fredericka moved (M-56-24) that the minutes of the July 17-18, 2024, Board Meeting be approved.

Mr. Winkle seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote with Ms. Carleton, Ms. Fredericka, Mr. Wichterman, Mr. Winkle, and Mr. Taggart voting "aye."

Mr. Wichterman moved (M-57-24) that the minutes of the July 29, 2024, Board Meeting be approved.

Mr. Taggart seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote with Ms. Carleton, Ms. Fredericka, Mr. Wichterman, Mr. Winkle, and Mr. Taggart voting "aye."

Mr. Winkle moved (M-58-24) that the minutes of the September 25, 2024, Board Meeting be approved.

Mr. Wichterman seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote with Ms. Carleton, Ms. Fredericka, Mr. Wichterman, Mr. Winkle, and Mr. Taggart voting "aye."

Mr. Taggart moved (M-59-24) that the minutes of the October 2, 2024, Board Meeting be approved.

Ms. Fredericka seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote with Ms. Carleton, Ms. Fredericka, Mr. Wichterman, Mr. Winkle, and Mr. Taggart voting "aye."

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

LSTA REPORT

Guiding Ohio Online Grant Library Update

Evan Struble, Associate State Librarian for Library Development, reminded the Board that the Guiding Ohio Online (GOO) Grant Program allows libraries to contract with a technology trainer in rural areas of the state. He introduced two representatives from the Logan-Hocking County District Library, a recipient of GOO Grants: Mary Leffler, Director, and Rob Davis, Outreach Manager. Ms. Leffler explained that after hiring Mr. Davis as a Technology Trainer, the library was recently able to hire him as an Outreach Manager who is able to get the bookmobile out into the community. Mr. Davis shared that it is a great feeling to see patrons “get it” when learning to use technology. Ms. Fredericka asked Mr. Davis to share his most successful patron. He said that he was able to help a 93-year-old iPhone user as well as several legally blind patrons and it was amazing to watch them use the technology.

Library Leadership Ohio 2024 Report

Mr. Struble gave the Board an intro to the Library Leadership Ohio (LLO) report. LLO is an individual-focused leadership program that is held in the even numbered years. The program was held at Cherry Valley Hotel in July 2024. It was the first in-person meeting of LLO since 2018. Mr. Struble introduced Erin Kelsey, Library Consultant for Library Development, who shared highlights from LLO 2024 with the Board. Ms. Kelsey explained that the planning team took a look at the application for this year and tried to break down barriers to access. The application consisted of three essay questions, and the answers helped to guide the program. She said that there was an online information session for potential applicants. The review process was rigorous with six to seven reviewers for each application. This year’s cohort consisted of mostly public librarians with some academic and a few K-12 and special librarians. The sessions included such topics as addressing burnout, methods of taking care of yourself at work, leading through change, and there was also a field trip to the Newark Earthworks. Ms. Kelsey told the Board that the planning team received positive feedback from participants. The goal for 2026 is to be as accessible as possible and to increase diversity and participation from non-public libraries. Ms. Carleton said the program sounded amazing and asked if they could align it to coincide with the State Library Board Meeting in 2026. She said she is excited for the participants. Mr. Wichterman thanked Ms. Kelsey for all of her work, and said the program seemed to have such a great impact. Ms. Fredericka asked if the new OhioNet Executive Director was in attendance. Ms. Kelsey replied that she was. Ms. Fredericka thanked her for her support.

ILEAD Ohio Grant

Mr. Struble presented the Board with a funding request for the ILEAD Ohio program. ILEAD Ohio is a team-based leadership program that is held in the odd numbered years. ILEAD started in 2013 as a national program headed by Illinois, with four pilot states including Ohio participating. Mr. Struble explained that teams of four to five people from multiple types of libraries participate in the program. Teams tackle an issue in libraries that they wish to address. OhioNet acts as a partner and fiscal agent for the program. Mr. Struble thanked Katy Mathuews, an LLO alumna and Executive Director and CEO of OhioNet, for the partnership. Ms. Fredericka asked if the \$50,000 covers everything and there is no fee for participants. Mr. Struble replied that yes, the program is wholly subsidized. Ms. Carleton commented that it seems like a small amount for everything participants get out of the program. Mr. Struble replied that the State Library works with OhioNet to keep costs down.

Ms. Fredericka moved (M-60-24) that a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant of up to \$50,000 from FFY24 funds be awarded to OhioNet to support the first two sessions of the 2025 ILEAD Ohio program, a Training project, for the period of November 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025.

Mr. Wichterman seconded the motion. The motion was carried by roll call vote with Ms. Carleton, Ms. Fredericka, Mr. Wichterman, Mr. Winkle, and Mr. Taggart voting “aye.”

STATE LIBRARIAN’S REPORT

Presentation of Financial Reports

Jamie Pardee, Chief Fiscal Officer, presented the Board with the State Library’s financial reports as of September 30. She shared that 69% of allocations for the State Library are remaining, and that everything is on target for all funds. Ms. Fredericka asked where the State Library was in regards to hiring to fill the vacant positions. Ms. Pardee responded the State Library is working to fill the positions, that there are no red flags or issues with hiring, and that the funds are available to cover the positions.

President’s Report

Ms. Carleton thanked everyone for their patience as the Board works through the process of hiring a new Executive Director/State Librarian. She explained that two candidates for the position were interviewed the day before, and everything went well. Ms. Carleton thanked State Library staff for attending the presentation portion of the interview and for submitting questions to be asked of the candidates. She explained that the Board hoped to select a new Executive Director/State Librarian in Executive Session that day.

Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) Report

Don Yarman, Executive Director of Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN), presented the Board with a report about the agency. He explained that OPLIN provides public libraries with internet access and facilitates online databases. It is an independent agency within the State Library that is governed by a board of trustees appointed by the State Library Board. OPLIN is funded primarily out of the Public Library Fund. Mr. Yarman shared that some of the services that they provide to public libraries include E-Rate, website kits, State of Ohio Computer Center (SOCC) co-location, ensure equity of access, maintain public connections, facilitate digital info, provide authentication support, and provide managed branch connections. He said that they also offer monitoring and support for internet connections and are responsible for the Ohio Web Library website which houses the Libraries Connect Ohio databases. Mr. Yarman shared that 106 libraries have taken advantage of the website kits since 2009, and OPLIN keeps their websites as secure and accessible as possible.

State Library Updates

Ms. Cain shared that the State Library is in the early stages of identifying a new location. The State Library has looked at one facility so far, the OCLC Smith Building. Ms. Cain explained that the State Library likes the idea of the space, but it will not work for the agency’s needs for several reasons, including low ceilings and non-weight bearing floors. She told the Board that the State Library is working with the Department of Administrative Services to find possible locations. Ryan Burley, Deputy Director of State Library Operations, is leading the search.

Government Documents Tour

Elissa Lawrence, Government Documents Librarian, gave the Board and interested meeting attendees a tour of the State Library’s Government Documents section. Ms. Lawrence highlighted both Federal and State Documents housed in the State Library’s collection.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Kingsville Public Library Boundaries

Kirstin Krumsee, Library Consultant for Public Policy, Data, and Research, presented the Board with a resolution redefining the boundaries of the Kingsville Public Library. She explained that all surrounding libraries received letters regarding the proposed redefinition and there were no requests for a hearing.

Mr. Taggart moved (M-61-24) for adoption of the following resolution:

Resolution 24-4

Redefinition of the Boundaries of the Kingsville Public Library

WHEREAS, the Kingsville Public Library and the Ashtabula County District Library have overlapping district boundaries within Ashtabula County; and

WHEREAS, the State Library Board is charged, under Ohio Revised Code section 3375.01 (H) with defining, amending, and adjusting overlapping library districts to eliminate areas of overlap;

WHEREAS, such action by the State Library Board has been properly filed, and has been reviewed and considered by the State Library Board in accordance with procedures established in Section 3375-4-05 of the State Library Board Administrative Rules;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Library Board, acting under its power in section 3375.01 (G) of the Ohio Revised Code and in accordance with procedures established in its Administrative Rules, redefines the boundaries of the Kingsville Public Library to be composed of the following:

Kingsville Township
(that portion in Buckeye Local School District)
Sheffield Township
(that portion in Buckeye Local School District)
Monroe Township
(that portion in Buckeye Local School District)
Village of North Kingsville

And note that all references to political subdivisions, except where specifically indicated in the foregoing, refer to such subdivisions as constituted on this date; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Librarian is directed to provide a certified copy of this resolution to the Ashtabula County Auditor; Ashtabula County Board of Elections; Andover Public Library; Ashtabula County District Library; Conneaut Public Library; the Ohio Secretary of State; and the Legislative Service Commission.

Mr. Wichterman seconded the motion. The motion was carried by roll call vote with Ms. Carleton, Ms. Fredericka, Mr. Wichterman, Mr. Winkle, and Mr. Taggart voting “aye.”

NEW BUSINESS

State Library Board Nominations

Ms. Ward explained that Ms. Carleton's term on the Board ends December 31, and she is eligible to serve another term. She asked the Board to choose their top two candidates to send to the Director of the Department of Education and Workforce for consideration. The Board unanimously decided to recommend the re-appointment of Ms. Carleton to another five-year term, with their second choice being Garalynn Tomas.

Consumer Advisory Committee Appointments

Ryan Burley, Deputy Director of State Library Operations, presented the Board with a list of appointees to the State Library's Talking Book Advisory Committee. Mr. Burley explained that he and Will Reed, Director of the Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, meet with the Committee two times a year and discuss issues regarding the Talking Book Program. He explained that the names before the Board are all re-appointments.

Ms. Fredericka moved (M-62-24) that the following persons be appointed to the State Library's Talking Book Consumer Advisory Committee for a three-year term, November 1, 2024 – October 31, 2027:

Allison (Sunny) Kallstrom (Re-appointment)
Michael Pitroff (Re-appointment)
Shawn Thiel (Re-appointment)

Mr. Winkle seconded the motion. The motion was carried by roll call vote with Ms. Carleton, Ms. Fredericka, Mr. Wichterman, Mr. Winkle, and Mr. Taggart voting "aye."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Fredericka moved (M-63-24) that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss the selection of the next Executive Director/State Librarian, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 121.22.

Mr. Wichterman seconded the motion. The motion was carried by roll call vote with Ms. Carleton, Ms. Fredericka, Mr. Wichterman, Mr. Winkle, and Mr. Taggart voting "aye." The Board entered into Executive Session at 11:43 a.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 12:36 p.m.

Mr. Wichterman moved (M-64-24) that the Board authorize the State Library to make an offer of the position of Executive Director/State Librarian to a candidate chosen by the Board, contingent upon approval by the Office of the Governor, including background checks and reference checks required of all State of Ohio employees.

Mr. Winkle seconded the motion. The motion was carried by roll call vote with Ms. Carleton, Ms. Fredericka, Mr. Wichterman, Mr. Winkle, and Mr. Taggart voting "aye."

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion, Mr. Winkle moved (M-65-24) that the Board stand adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Ms. Fredericka seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote with Ms. Carleton, Ms. Fredericka, Mr. Wichterman, Mr. Winkle, and Mr. Taggart voting "aye."

President

Secretary

BLC/jmw