

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES

BOARD OF LIBRARIES

MINUTES

U-32 Library/Media Center
East Montpelier

10:30 A.M.

February 23, 2006

Present: John Rosenthal, Chair
David Brown
Susan Bruce
Nancy Graff
Linda Williamson
Sybil McShane, State Librarian

Dan Greene, Director of the U-32 Library/Media Center and President of the VT Educational Media Association and David Clark, VLA Government Relations Committee member were also present.

- 1. Minutes** – John brought the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. He asked if there were any corrections to the December minutes. None being heard, David moved to approve the minutes as written.
- 2. Library Tour & School Library/Media Center Issues Discussion** - Sybil introduced Dan Greene to the Board. Dan gave the Board a tour of the Library and Media Center. As president of VEMA, Dan had asked his constituents for their most pressing issues/concerns that they would like him to present to the Board. These were: 1) Apply pressure to the Department of Education to reinstate the DOE School Library Consultant position. 2) Increase the offerings on the Vermont OnLine Library System (VOL) to include a couple of encyclopedias. 3) Install spam filters on the Vermont Automated Libraries System (VALS) webmail to reduce the volume of junk mail. Dan said that other issues that school librarians must deal with are insufficient staffing, access to information, adaptive technology needs and professional development. In response to VEMA's three main issues, Sybil advised that she is working with the Department of Education to reinstate the School Library Consultant position. She is considering the possibility of a grant, from IMLS funds, to the DOE to cover one-half of the cost of this

position. The grant would be for two years and the need for and use of the position would be reevaluated at that time. She also advised that the VOL contract is coming up for renewal in November and she will take the request for encyclopedias into consideration. Sybil said that the spam filters have been reinstalled on VALS email and DOL will be monitoring to see if junk mail is reduced.

3. Board Updates – Susan and David have been attending area Legislative Breakfasts.

They both felt that the legislators attended more as a way to meet voters than because of a specific interest in libraries. David accompanied Sybil to the Legislature when she presented DOL's budget to the House Appropriations Committee. David wrote to Lisa Wood, Davies Memorial Librarian in Waterford, congratulating her for meeting standards and she was very appreciative of the letter. David visited the main library in New Orleans, LA. The library had over three feet of water in it and is now dealing with a mold issue. Nancy advised she had been asked by the Kellogg-Hubbard Library to write a letter to the IMLS in support of Senator Leahy's nomination of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library for a National Recognition Award of \$10,000.

4. Board Retreat Discussion – The Summary of the Retreat listed an "ad hoc group meeting" as the next step to be accomplished. Nancy suggested skipping the meeting and discussing the Board's mission statement. Sybil suggested using the Department's mission statement as a starting point. Various changes and omissions of this statement were discussed. Nancy offered to type up a draft mission statement for the next meeting.

5. State Librarian's Report – Sybil advised that due to a family emergency Marianne Kotch was unable to attend the meeting. Sybil handed out the Libraries Meeting Standards FY2006 summary from the December 19, 2005 BOL meeting. Marianne has been learning the rule making process so that DOL can take the '98 Standards through this process. Sybil provided copies of "Survey of Vermont Library Directors" as conducted for the DOL and VLA by Trina Magi, Library Associate Professor, University of Vermont. Trina has had a survey return rate of 70%. Trina will evaluate the

information and prepare a final report for DOL. Sybil has been talking with Senator Jefford's Office regarding additional funding for bookmobiles. Without additional funding she feels the majority of the bookmobiles will not be able to continue to provide service. David asked if the DOL would pay the registration for Board members to attend the VLA annual conference in May. Sybil advised that they should submit the registration forms to the DOL for processing.

6. **Other Business** - David Clark presented the Vermont Library Association Strategic Plan Draft.
7. Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Sybil Brigham McShane, Secretary