

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES

BOARD OF LIBRARIES

MINUTES

Midstate Regional Library, Berlin

10:30 A.M.

February 13, 2007

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

Marianne Kotch, Public Library Support Services Director, and Barbara Doyle-Wilch, VLA representative and Dean of Libraries & Information Services, Middlebury College were also present.

- 1. Minutes** – John called the meeting to order at 10:30. He asked for corrections or omissions to the December minutes. John advised that hearing none the minutes are approved as written.
- 2. Minimum Standards/Statistics Update** – Marianne handed out an updated report on libraries meeting standards. 144 libraries meet standards this year; this is the highest number ever to meet standards. Marianne advised the statistic publication is almost done. She handed out a recap sheet of the statistics.
- 3. State Librarian's Report - Vision Statement** -Sybil asked if "Draft" should be removed from the Vision Statement. Nancy advised that #7 of the December minutes regarding the Vision Statement should read "the first sentence" in place of "the first statement". After discussion it was decided the Vision Statement is complete and "Draft" should be removed. The Board requested the Vision Statement be included in the minutes:

VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES VISION STATEMENT

The Vermont Board of Libraries, operating as an advisor to the state librarian under the authority of 22 VSA §602,

- advocates for all Vermont libraries and library users
- explores means for statewide cooperation and resource sharing among all types of libraries
- and strives to increase public awareness of libraries and their services.

As members of the Vermont Board of Libraries, we offer our experience to librarians, public library board members, and elected officials, and pledge to work on behalf of qualifying libraries to bring them resources, services, and grants that strengthen their ability to deliver quality library service.

We believe every Vermont citizen has the right to read and to have full access to information. We believe that quality libraries are essential community and social institutions.

--Adopted, February 13, 2007

H99 –This bill has been introduced in the House for a Legislative Study of Public Libraries.

Sybil has suggested that the study focus on "How to provide equitable services to all citizens." Perhaps there should be "tiers" of libraries so that not all libraries provide all services. Smaller libraries would have backup libraries to provide services they are not able to provide. During testimony on H.99 in the House Committee on General, Housing & Military Affairs, several Vermont librarians testified about the fiscal challenges facing libraries. Forty-two state library agencies administer some kind of state funding for public libraries; Vermont does not. Sybil provided a chart of State Aid and the Requirements for each of the 50 states. *FY2008 Budget Overview* –At her budget hearing in the House Appropriations Committee, Sybil was asked about state aid for libraries. She advised that libraries receive indirect aid via services provided by the Department of Libraries. The DOL budget request includes less general funds than the FY07 budget. This is due to a decrease in fee for space. The budget does not contain continued funding for the "Newline for the

Blind". This program began in November and the House committee asked for an update on the usage. Nancy suggested a couple of changes to the text of the Overview that the Department provides to the legislative committees. *VOL* – Re-registration for the Vermont online databases is in process. Two new databases have been added which has increased the price. The department will pay an additional \$15,000; academic libraries' cost increased from \$0.55 to \$0.75 per "full-time equivalent" (FTE) and public libraries increased from \$0.04 to \$0.07 per population of library service area. The school library cost formula was redesigned and schools are now paying about \$0.75 per FTE. Heritage Quest is not heavily used at the public libraries. *Motion Picture Licensing* – The Department will continue this license for public libraries. *Bequest* – Dr. Burnett Rawson has set up a \$300,000 fund at the Vermont Community Foundation. Upon his death, the proceeds from this fund will benefit the Vermont Public Library Foundation. In the meantime, he has designated most of the interest from this fund to be used for grants to libraries. These grants will be made in memory of Winnie B Learned, who helped cover the cost of his education. The grants will be for children and teens. Sybil will combine these funds with the interest from the remaining Freeman Foundation funds. **SALSA II Report** – The Board asked Barbara Doyle-Wilch if she would like to provide an update on SALSA. Barbara said that the group was formed two years ago to give academic librarians a chance to get together to share ideas and brainstorm. The subcommittee that Barbara is on is seeking information regarding courier/delivery services and reciprocal borrowing. Barbara said this is the only conference, she is aware of, that is for academic librarians. She has found this to be a great resource for her

4. Board Updates – The Senate Education Committee requested that John and David appear before the Committee regarding reappointment to the Board. Josie reported that the Bennington County legislative breakfast was held at the McCullough Free Library in North Bennington. All of its county legislators attended. However, because the breakfast was held on the second floor, Josie was not able to attend. Susan attended the legislative

breakfast in Franklin County. Nancy asked if the DOL has online courses for librarian certification. Sybil explained there are online courses on Web Junction.

The Board adjourned at noon.

Sybil Brigham McShane, Secretary

Next Meeting, April 16 or 17, location to be determined. [Monday, April 16, 10 am, Brown Public Library, Northfield]