

**VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES
BOARD OF LIBRARIES
MINUTES OF MEETING**

**October 21, 2008
10:30 A.M.**

Goddard College, Elliott Pratt Center
Plainfield, VT

Present: David Brown, Chair; John Rosenthal; Linda Williamson; Susan R. Bruce
Martha Reid, State Librarian

Also present: Clara Bruns (Librarian, Goddard College); John Payne (Librarian, St. Michael's College & Vermont Library Association representative); Deborah Matheson, Recorder

Introductions

David Brown introduced Martha Reid, who began work as the new State Librarian on August 4, succeeding Sybil McShane who retired in July.

Clara Bruns, Director of the Goddard College Library, welcomed the Board to the library. She explained that in 2002 Goddard College closed its traditional campus; students now spend only 10 days per semester on campus. The Library and Information Technology Departments have combined into one unit. Books are loaned for the entire semester and are mailed to the students. Goddard Library utilizes the Department of Libraries' Interlibrary Loan system; they borrow more books than they loan. Clara talked about changes she would like to see at the DOL: an online statewide union catalog and statewide courier delivery service.

John Payne, Director of the Saint Michael's College Library, is president of VCAL, Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries, comprised of Vermont college and university librarians. VCAL is interested in working toward a statewide online union catalogue and statewide courier service.

Secretary's Report

Minutes from the June 17, 2008 meeting were read and approved, with the following addition suggested by David Brown: "The Board adjourned to Sarducci's Restaurant where Susan Bruce presented a gift of thanks from the Board to State Librarian Sybil McShane who will retire in July."

Geographic Naming

The State Librarian's office received a citizen's request for the naming of a body of water in Highgate Center. Martha Reid reported that the Highgate Center Select Board has asked to have their residents discuss this naming at the 2009 town meeting. Action on this naming petition will be postponed until the Board of Libraries meeting in April.

The USGS office in Berlin advised the State Librarian that they have a large backlog of Vermont naming requests. Martha Reid will be in contact with USGS officials in Vermont and Washington DC about any requests on file that need to be addressed by the Board of Libraries.

Meeting Schedule for 2009

The Board agreed to change from a bi-monthly to a quarterly meeting schedule in 2009. The next meeting will be January 13, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Midstate Regional Library. The snow date is January 14th. An orientation of new board members could take place at this meeting.

Election of Officers

Linda Williamson's term on the Board of Libraries will expire on June 30, 2009. She has asked to be re-appointed to the Board. The Board voted unanimously to reappoint David Brown as Chair and Linda Williamson as Vice-Chair.

State Librarian's Report

Martha Reid thanked the Board for their part in interviewing and hiring her as the new State Librarian. She explained her two main goals: (1) to begin work toward a statewide online catalog, and (2) to increase visibility of the Department of Libraries – and of the services provided by Vermont libraries to all state citizens. She reported she has been meeting department heads in other state agencies and has attended meetings in the Agency of Administration concerning a reorganization of personnel and business functions.

She reported on these activities:

- "Connecting to Collections" project with the Vermont Historical Society: surveys have been received from Vermont libraries, museums and town clerks. A full review of survey results is forthcoming;
- She attended: the COSLA (Chief Officers of State Library Agencies) meeting in Jackson, Mississippi in October; Gates Foundation training in Seattle for the Opportunity Online Hardware Grants Program (with Michael Roche) in September; regional meetings of public librarians/trustees in Brattleboro and Shoreham; one day of the New England Library Association in October;
- New KLAS software has been installed at the Special Services Unit (SSU); Vermont citizens now have access to an online catalog of the holdings in the SSU library collection;
- SirsiDynex (software vendor for the DOL catalog and Interlibrary Loan system) no longer supports the software used as an interface to the Interlibrary Loan system. DOL Reference Librarian Gerrie Denison has formed a committee to select a replacement vendor and expects that the new software will be easier to use and will provide enhanced features to Vermont libraries. Her committee includes librarians from school, public and academic libraries; their goal is to contract with a new vendor by the end of this FY.

FY 09 Budget Rescission

The Department of Finance and Management issued a mandatory budget rescission for state government in response to the expected economic shortfall this FY. The Department of Libraries was required to make a 4.8% cut of \$129,000 in the current year's budget. To accommodate this cut, DOL will (1) leave the Assistant State Librarian position vacant until spring, and (2) cut \$55,000 from the Law Library print subscriptions. The reductions must be sustainable and will carry forward to FY10, along with an anticipated additional reduction. These General Fund reductions will affect the "maintenance of effort" (MOE) of funding required for federal LSTA funds. The rescission cuts have been reported to IMLS; they may issue a MOE waiver because the reductions are mandated across state government.

Grant Opportunities

Dr. Burnett Rawson of Essex Junction has agreed to sponsor another round of Winnie Belle Learned Grants, for children's services in public libraries. He has offered up to \$35,000 for these grants. The grant applications will be due December 15, 2008. (2) Vermont is now participating in Round Three of the Bill & Belinda Gates Foundation grants to public Libraries. These Opportunity Online Hardware grants will be awarded to eligible libraries in 2010. This will be the last Gates grant program for technology hardware for libraries and will require matching local funds. DOL will work with NELINET to manage this project in Vermont.

Board Reports

David Brown, will attend the annual Vermont Library Trustee Association meeting on November 8, 2008 at the Rutland Free Library. David suggested that the Board invite the Governor to the April meeting and have him officially induct Martha Reid as State Librarian during National Library Week. He also suggested that the Department of Libraries take the lead in encouraging public libraries to adopt "green" policies and procedures.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Martha Reid, State Librarian
Secretary, Vermont Board of Libraries