

Director's Report January 2021

Meetings and Visits

I continue to participate in the weekly system directors meetings hosted by DPI staff.

The coordinators and I continue to meet weekly as a group.

The 3 auditors from Wegner CPAs were in the headquarters building the week of February 8th. We set them up in the 2 large meeting rooms and they wore masks.

I conducted the final 3 cluster training sessions while attending the ILS, Technology and Delivery Committee meetings.

Suma Elwell and I met for her orientation to the system board.

I met with the SCLS Database Team as part of our quarterly check in.

My 3 meetings with state legislators went well. My final meeting was special since I was able to speak to Representative Hong. The other meetings were handled by staffers. All were supportive of the additional system aid proposal.

Marathon County

The Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees (MCPL) met February 15th. They discussed how to deal with the misinformation that the public is receiving regarding the possible move to SCLS i.e. patrons will have to get new library cards, staff will be laid off. They will invite Department of Public Instruction staff to attend their March meeting to receive information about the impact of switching systems upon the Wisconsin Valley Library Service and local libraries. They will delay asking the county for a public hearing until after the March board meeting.

Building Needs Assessment Work Group (BNAW)

The work group has been reviewing possible sites for the new building. It looked at both land and building options. Proximity to the (Metropolitan Unified Fiber Network (MUFN) is important. We are working with a cost estimate of \$50,000 a mile to add fiber; therefore the closer the site is to a MUFN connection the better.

The work group has chosen the former Shopko site on Aberg Avenue as its # 1 choice. It is land only. David Haug, SCLS Real Estate Broker, has written an amendment to his original agreement to allow him to negotiate the Shopko site. The owner of the Shopko site, Mataas Partners, is willing to use David Haug and pay his commission. Kerrie Goeden has been in contact with Devin Flanigan, Keller Inc. Project Manager, on next steps. Kerrie and Devin will be presenting an update to the full board of the project at the February meeting. The update will cover financial options, next steps and information about the Shopko site. Several agenda action items dealing with the building project will be on the February agenda.

Foundation (SCLSF)

The board met and elected new officers in January: President, Theresa Walske; Vice President, Peter Kaland; Secretary, Martha Van Pelt; Treasurer, Mike Furgal.

The board met again in February to discuss fundraising. They identified 3 areas to target in 2021.

1. The Fall Cornerstone will be in person with the event celebrating all library workers in SCLS.
2. Approach funeral homes and financial planners with estate planning brochures from SCLSF.
3. Contact Kwik Trip to provide coupons to librarians for free cup of coffee, soda, etc. in conjunction with September's library card sign up theme. *Show your library card and get a free cup of coffee in September.*

I had a phone call with the Library Director of Cedar Grove Public Library about joining the foundation and sent information about our portfolio to a board member of the Lodi library.

Pandemic

SCLS is working on a post-vaccination plan. We will do a staff survey to receive input on vaccinations and working on site. We are anticipating returning to headquarters in early September. This will give staff time to prepare for personal and professional adjustments.

A new order (#13) by Public Health Madison and Dane County, which lasts four weeks, allows gatherings of up to 50 people inside and 150 people outside if food and drink are not provided. The order still requires masks to be worn and 6 feet of social distancing. We measured the 2 large SCLS meeting rooms and could get 10 people seated if both rooms were used. The SCLS management team reviewed the new order. Our procedures will remain the same due to a lack of meeting room space to maintain social distancing, the need to clean the spaces before and after use and the recommendation not to share common breathing space for more than 15 minutes. The plan to reopen in September assumes all staff and the majority of the general population will be vaccinated.

Personnel

Katie Schofield, Director of the Rocks Springs Public Library, will be leaving at the end of March. The new library is expected to be completed in June 2021.

Good News

Congratulations to Lodi Public Library, Monticello Public Library, Mount Horeb Public Library, and Oregon Public Library for receiving the ALA Libraries Transforming Communities grants. These libraries are among the 200 small and rural libraries across the country to be awarded a \$3,000 grant in support of costs related to their community engagement projects.

Respectfully submitted by,

Martha Van Pelt

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