

## **Director's Report**

### **November 2021**

#### **Meetings and Visits**

I continue to participate in the weekly system directors meetings hosted by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) staff.

The coordinators and I continue to meet weekly as a group. The focus has been reviewing the employee handbook, ARPA and the new building.

I attended the annual WLA conference in Green Bay. I attended programs on barriers to hiring, on-boarding new employees, preparing when employees leave or retire and a wonderful program on reading programs for children focusing on the intrinsic value of reading versus the extrinsic value (free giveaways).

I attended the Portage County Public Library board meeting on December 1.

Vicki Teal Lovely and I met with staff from the Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library on December 3.

The administrative staff met with our new auditor team from Baker Tilly.

I concluded all the evaluations for the management team.

#### **Foundation (SCLSF)**

The Foundation will have its annual meeting on January 27, 2022. The Johnson Creek Public Library has joined the Foundation.

#### **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grants**

The Library Services Team at DPI awarded SCLS \$155,104 in the category of Hybrid Library Service Model. The grant will be used to purchase external storage lockers in 5 counties. Library customers will be able to pick up their reserved materials 24/7 with touchless contact, similar to lockers at the Home Depot store. Madison Public Library was awarded \$67,000 for their *Amplifying Community Voices* grant under the Library Space and Safety Improvement category.

#### **Building Needs Assessment Work Group (BNAW)**

Several staff members attended the City of Madison Finance Committee meeting to answer possible questions about our purchase of the land for the new building. They had no questions and approved sending it to their city attorney to draw up. On December 7, the City of Madison Common Council met and approved the purchase.

#### **Public Library System Redesign (PLSR)**

DPI is continuing its work on researching the systems' state aid funding formula. Dr. Ken Kriz has met with the SOMBAW groups (system finance managers and peers of Kerrie Goeden) for input and will meet with the system directors on December 14.

#### **Personnel**

The Wyocena Public Library has hired a new director, Linda Mertz. She has a MLS and is the school media specialist for the Rio Community School District.

The SCLS Employee Handbook has been edited to incorporate the newly approved policies, gender neutral terminology, updated hours, days of operation (eliminated Saturday for Delivery), and the staff principles to match the new strategic plan and organization chart. The board will vote on its approval at their December meeting.

**Good News**

Received  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our system aid for 2022.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Martha Van Pelt*

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