

Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association

Executive Meeting

September 16, 2000

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:05 a.m.

Present: Isabelle Butters, President, Southeast, Karen Basky, Treasurer, Palliser, Merrilee Rasmussen, Secretary, Regina, Allard Merasty, Pahksimon Nuyeh, Charlotte Thies, Parkland, Kae Campbell, Wheatland, Mavis Bellisle, Wapiti, Myra Sutter, Chinook.

Absent: Teresa Harley, Saskatoon, Walter Kostyna, Lakeland.

Minutes of May 4 and 6, 2000 Executive Meetings

Motion to approve Minutes as circulated. M/S Merrilee Rasmussen, Mavis Bellisle. Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes

- i) Annual Conference: Good, positive feedback was received re the SLA/SLTA conference in May. Silent auction results of two donated books resulted in revenue of \$60.00.
- ii) Trustee Newsletter: Copies of the September 2000 newsletter were circulated. Isabelle Butters reported that about 1,300 copies were mailed out to trustees who are members of SLTA and to all library branches, at a cost of about \$310. NOTE: ***It is each system's responsibility to forward names of trustees***, and any changes, to Provincial Library, who maintain the list of trustees. The next issue of the newsletter will contain personal summaries of the remaining members of the SLTA Executive and an overview of what's happening in the various systems. ***Contributions for the newsletter should be forwarded to Isabelle Butters by November 15, 2000.***

iii) Brief to the Minister: After a general discussion, it was agreed that the following issues should be highlighted in the SLTA's annual brief to the Minister: increase in funding pool sufficient to offset decreases to some systems that occurred this year, municipal employee pension issue, capital funding and sustainability. Merrilee Rasmussen agreed to prepare a draft brief for circulation to and review by all members of the Executive.

iv) Saskatchewan Library History: Judy Chuey met with the Executive at 1:00 p.m. Judy is a trustee with Saskatoon Public Library and is serving in her fifth year in that capacity. In May, Judy had requested an endorsement of her proposal to co-ordinate the preparation of a province-wide local library history, to be completed in time for the province's centenary in 2005. The SLTA Executive has approved the concept in principle. The working title is ABooks and Dreams@. Judy has requested the assistance of the systems in providing her with contributions to the book, including photographs, where possible. A lengthy and vigorous discussion took place. Library systems will endeavour to co-ordinate contributions from local branches and forward them to Judy. Judy was also encouraged to write to library directors to inform them about the project. The discussion revealed that there were several different perspectives on this project and a lack of clarity about roles, responsibilities and expectations. It was agreed that it was premature to entertain any motion going beyond the approval in principle that was passed at the May meeting. It was also agreed that the Secretary should write a letter to Judy thanking her for her attendance at the meeting and clarifying the present relationship of the SLTA to her project.

Financial Statement/Audit

The Treasurer presented the meeting with financial statements to the end of August 2000 and an audit prepared when the books were turned over to her in July.

Motion to accept financial statement, including budgets and actual expenditures. M/S Myra Sutter, Allard Merasty. Carried.

Motion to approve the Auditor's report dated July 27, 2000. M/S Karen Basky, Kae Campbell. Carried.

Motion to invest \$25,000 in GICs. M/S Karen Basky, Kae Campbell. Carried.

Motion to ratify all expenditures made and cheques written since the last meeting. M/S Allard Merasty, MavisBellisle. Carried.

Communications

i) Sustainability: The President reported on the responses she had received to letters she had written to the prime Minister=s Office, Minister John Manley and to the Office of the President of the Treasury Board.

ii) CRTC 99-16: The President reported on the responses she had received to letters she had written to Secretary of State and Rick Laliberte, MP. In the general discussion, the importance of all systems writing in support was emphasized.

iii) GST on Gates donation: Revenue Canada has refused to exempt the Gates computer donation from GST, although the province has exempted them from the provincial sales tax.

iv) Grace Darling's letter of thanks regarding the conference registration fee was noted with appreciation.

v) SLA/SLTA joint conference: The SLA replied to an inquiry from SLTA concerning the nature of the relationship between the two organizations respecting the issue of conferences profits or losses. It had been suggested that originally there had been an agreement to share profits or losses in relation to relative attendance. The SLA has no record of any such agreement and the individuals comprising the SLA do not recall such an agreement. It was agreed that Isabelle Butters, Karen Basky and Merrilee Rasmussen would constitute a sub-committee to meet with SLA to plan for future conferences. The motion defeated at the SLTA annual meeting that the conference alternate between Regina and Saskatoon and the matter was then referred to the Executive for further consideration. This matter will also be discussed by the sub-committee with SLA representatives.

vi) Website Options Report, dated September 9, 2000: The Executive reviewed a report on possibilities prepared by Melissa Bennet. After some discussion, the following motions were considered:

Motion to authorise the expenditure of up to \$1,000 to set up an SLTA website, to include the constitution and bylaws, trustee manual, trustee

newsletter, brief to the Minister and other related documents and appropriate links. Merrilee Rasmussen will initiate this action. M/S Myra Sutter, Kae Campbell. Carried.

Motion to list all trustees, their phone numbers and email addresses, in the web directory of Saskatchewan Libraries being developed by Provincial Library. M/S Charlotte Thies, Myra Sutter. Carried.

Reports

There were no reports available from the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina or the 2001 Conference Planning Committee.

NOTE: *Nominations for the SLTA honorary life membership are due on December 1, 2000.*

i) CLTA 2000: The President reported on her attendance at the Conference in Edmonton in June. Her written report is attached to these Minutes. She also reported on her meeting with Barbara Cram, the CRTC Regional Commissioner about the CRTC's decision. Ms Cram reassured the President that the decision would not result in the dire consequences that have been feared.

ii) Provincial Librarian's Report: Joylene Campbell presented her report, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes.

iii) Library Systems Reports: The representatives present gave a brief report on the current activities in their systems. Written reports were provided by Wapiti, Southeast, Saskatoon, Wheatland and Palliser, and they are attached to these Minutes. Parkland's library director has moved to P.E.I. and the region is looking for a new director. At the same time, an internal organizational review is underway. PNLs has a new school and library in Pinehouse. Computers have led to increased circulation. Capital funding of \$550,000 has been provided by the province's Centenary Fund for a new system headquarters building. \$150,000 will come from fund raising and Air Ronge will donate the land. Chinook headquarters building has received a general facelift and has opened a joint venture library in the school in Glentworth. Palliser reports all its branches are now automated. Regina is engaged in an in-depth strategic planning effort to plot a vision for the next three to five years.

New Business

i) Municipal Employees' Pension: Legislative changes have resulted in significant fiscal problems for regions who employ some persons at the local branches who work extremely low numbers of hours.

Motion to endorse the concerns of the regions and supporting the \$3,500 per year threshold on wages, so that contributions would only be required on wages over that level, suggested by the Chair of the Municipal Employees Pension Commission. M/S Charlotte Thies, Karen Basky.

ii) Library System Meetings: The following systems will be having fall meetings: Wheatland on October 21, Palliser in November, Southeast on November 4, Chinook and Wapiti on November 18.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SLTA Executive will be on ***Saturday, January 27, 2001*** in Saskatoon. Further details of arrangements will follow.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.