

Saskatchewan Library Trustee Association

Executive Meeting

February 10 and 11, 2006

Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon

Present: Janet Wilkinson (Chinook), Karen Basky (Palliser), Donna Hartley (Southeast), Maureen McGirr (Wapiti), Elaine Kivisto (Regina), Louise Cochran (Lakeland), Kae Campbell (Wheatland), Bev Dubois (Saskatoon), Isabelle Butters (Multitype Library Board Representative), Merrilee Rasmussen (Secretary), Joylene Campbell (Provincial Librarian)

Regrets: Agnes Naytowhow (Henderson) (PNLS)

1. Call to Order

Karen Basky called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. on Friday February 10, 2006

2. Report on Department of Learning Strategic Planning Committee

Allan Johnson, the Public Library representative on the Committee, reported on the Committee's work in relation to public libraries. His goal is to get recognition for what libraries are doing and it can be difficult to get libraries on the agenda as the department's primary focus is on formal education. Key accomplishments include obtaining departmental recognition of the eLibrary promotion in September and October 2005. Last year it was suggested that SLTA should be lobbying within the department's own framework for action. This year, it is suggested that SLTA look at each of the department's objectives and ask what is the interest of public libraries in respect of that objective and then frame lobbying and presentations within that interest.

President Karen Basky extended the SLTA's appreciation to Allan for his work on this committee.

It was moved by Kae Campbell, seconded by Janet Wilkinson, that Allan Johnson remain the public libraries representative on this committee.

2.1 Report on Literacy Commission Public Meetings

The Literacy Commission remains in the Department of Learning after the recent government reorganization. Several people from Saskatchewan attended a recent

literacy conference in Vancouver. Diedre Crichton, from Parkland, is a library representative on the Saskatchewan Literacy Commission. “Every day is literacy day in the library” captures perfectly what libraries are and should be, but there is a sense that literacy initiatives are all happening outside the library. Trustees need to be concerned. The presentation by the Saskatchewan Literacy Commission at the Vancouver conference did not refer to the role of the library in literacy.

3. Action Plan Review

Specific changes to the Action Plan have been inserted into the plan, which is attached to these Minutes. In addition, the following provides an overview of the discussion and the specific motions that were passed arising out of the discussion:

Goal 2: Develop or Expand External Relationships

It was noted that we have not contacted the Chamber of Commerce or the FSIN Vice-Chief. The Aboriginal library services co-ordinator Kathie Tenold has only recently been hired at Provincial Library and she will be helpful in this regard.

It was agreed that a resolution be prepared for the Executive to take to the AGM and then on to CLTA and CLA in relation to infrastructure funding for libraries. It was noted that Regina and Saskatoon members of City Council have raised this issue at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

It was also agreed that information be added to the SLTA brief to the Minister about the issues concerning headquarters buildings in regional libraries and the province’s role in supporting the provincial library network, both physical and virtual. It is also necessary for the province to appreciate how provincial changes affect libraries, for example, the impact of the increase in the minimum wage on library budgets.

It was also agreed that as 2006 is a municipal election year it is also important to make the point that local funding must also increase annually.

Goal 3: Develop SLTA Promotional Plan

It was moved by Janet Wilkinson, seconded by Bev Dubois, that 2000 copies of the SLTA brochure developed by President Karen Basky be printed immediately. Carried.

It was moved by Donna Hartley, seconded by Kae Campbell, that necessary changes be made to the brochure immediately after the May AGM and 3000 copies of the brochure be printed as soon as possible thereafter. Carried.

Donna Hartley informed the meeting that she had sent in a piece about the Book to the SLA's newsletter, *Forum*, which is also available online now.

It was noted that the purpose of PSAs in the context of this goal is to promote the SLTA not library services.

It was suggested that promotion can also occur around specific events, such as the nomination of a library system for the CLTA literacy award, which we should promote in that system as well as across the province.

It was reported that the Library History Book has been used by library systems for door prizes at AGMs, as a 10 and 20 year award to trustees and as Christmas presents to Board members.

All members of the SLTA Executive should let the Secretary know if they would like to have Library History Books at their AGMs.

It was moved by Donna Hartley, seconded by Elaine Kivisto, that the SLTA donate a copy of the Library History Book, *A Book in Every Hand*, to be used as a raffle balloon door prize at the Libraries Conference in May. Carried.

Goal 4: Develop SLTA Organization

It was noted in relation to funding that we have a deficit this year, although \$5000 of that deficit relates to audits for prior years' audit. It was agreed that Treasurer Maureen McGirr would find out what the audit cost will be for 2005 as well as the cost of a "review." This will provide the information necessary for the AGM, so that we can determine whether to have an audit or a review.

Donna Hartley and Maureen McGirr volunteered to look at the implications of next year's census and look at a long term funding plan, including the SLTA membership levy. Library systems now pay \$5 per trustee (every member of the regional board) 1 cent per population of the region. Members of local boards who are not on a regional board are not included in the levy but can purchase, or local boards can purchase on their behalf, individual memberships for \$5 each. It was agreed that Donna and Maureen would bring a preliminary report to the fall meeting of the Executive.

Goal 5: Expand Public Library System Relationships

The relationship with SLA is very positive, as we work together on the conference, make contributions to *Forum*.

It was noted that the SLTA's rep to CLTA is typically the President and that the Executive Handbook should be changed to reflect this point (Tab 3).

Library Directors/Chairs - President has been invited to meetings, which has been very helpful to the development of positive relationships. Each system representative should be meeting with their library director and discussing the issues. Asking for input from Directors for the brief to the Minister is helpful.

The excellent relationship with Provincial Library was noted.

Good relationship with Multitype, as Isabelle Butters attends our meetings.

Allan Johnson learning sector steering committee - will meet at least annually and whenever required or requested.

Meetings with Politicians at all Levels

Meetings with politicians are on-going, particularly with respect to issues of high concern eg., library book rate, digital copyright.

4. Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Maureen McGirr, seconded by Donna Hartley, that the agenda be approved with provision to add items that might arise. Carried.

5. Minutes of October 1, 2005 – Executive Meeting

It was moved by Elaine Kivisto, seconded by Janet Wilkinson, that the minutes as amended be approved. Carried

6. Business Arising:

It was moved by Janet Wilkinson, seconded by Donna Hartley, that Dierdre Crichton, Parkland Library System, be nominated for the CLTA Stan Heath Literacy Award. The nomination should identify that Dierdre has been appointed to the provincial Literacy Commission. Carried.

7. Correspondence:

- 7.1 Gloria Mehlmann - wants to raise the profile of Canadian authors.
- 7.2 Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network Inc. - information circulated for May 9-11, 2006 at Wanuskewin
- 7.3 Saskatchewan Archives Board - History Book materials donated to Archives, contract from Archives received. Can submit info to Archives yearly, and we can move historical files to Archives from time to time.
- 7.4 Invitation from SPL to attend an Aboriginal evening but was unable to attend.
- 7.5 Ernie Aniak letter Chair of Parkland regional library board from Minister Thomson asked for a review of legislation.
- 7.6 Letter from Bonnie Durnford re staffing changes in the Department circulated
- 7.7 Letter from Town of Rouleau re individual no longer a trustee.

It was moved by Sharon Armstrong, seconded by Elaine Kivisto, that the above correspondence be received and filed.

8. Meeting with Minister

Those persons who attended provided a verbal update. It was agreed that we should meet with the new Minister as soon as possible and emphasize the regional library structure and the difficulties that creates for funding regional headquarters and the province's role in funding the province-wide library network. We also need to be able to provide more specific information to the province of our capital funding requests so they are able to understand the magnitude of what we are asking for. Although the fact there is a new Minister responsible for Libraries means that we must do a certain amount of back-tracking in our next presentation, there are now a number of former Library Ministers who are still in the Cabinet and will have a greater depth of understanding of library issues.

9. Reports

- 9.1 *President's Report*

The President reported on her attendance at SUMA and about her work with CLTA.

9.2 *Treasurer's Report*

There were a number of questions about the financial statements prepared by the accountant. The Treasurer will convey these questions to him and find the answers. The question was also raised of whether the accountant would be able to attend the AGM on May 6 to answer any questions from members.

It was agreed that a section be added to the Executive Handbook about claiming expenses.

It was moved by Elaine Kivisto, seconded by Maureen McGirr, that mileage and meals be reimbursed at the same rates as those set by the Saskatchewan government for its employees, and that an honorarium be paid in the amount of \$75 per executive meeting plus \$75 divided equally between pre and post convention executive meetings, (but not for the AGM itself which executive member attend as a trustee not as an executive member). Carried (abstention by Louise Cochran).

It was moved by Janet Wilkinson, seconded by Donna Hartley, that all financial reports be received. Carried.

It was also noted that a report be made to the AGM that the executive has set up a committee to review census numbers and levy amounts etc. and other possible sources of income.

9.3 *System Reports* - written reports were provided by most systems and the following verbal comments were added:

- Palliser reported on how they are promoting the Cochrane database;
- RPL - have an agreement with CUPE on pay equity;
- Wapiti - is in the process unionizing; small surplus being applied to capital;
- Wheatland - virtual library pilot project;
- Southeast is doing this too - provides access for those communities that don't have a library and SE has a van delivery that takes the books out;
- Wapiti - three libraries on reserves will report next time;

- Parkland - starting union negotiations; six or seven locations with Aboriginal story-telling;
- gradual increase in levies every year.

9.4 Provincial Library

The Provincial Librarian provided a written report and reported verbally as follows:

- interviews to be held very soon for public library co-ordinator position;
- Aboriginal library services co-ordinator hired and will review recommendations from Minister's committee;
- importance to libraries of committee looking at collaboration with learning sector partners;
- interlibrary loan software - contingency plan for the 13-year old software;
- new financial reporting manual distributed, educational session being developed but won't be ready for conference;
- multitype database licensing project annual meeting on February 22, 2006; MLB will be receiving evaluation report at their meeting;
- Provincial Library continues to work with the Information and Technology Office on the idea of single integrated library system;

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9.5 Multitype Library Board

Isabelle Butters, the SLTA representative on the Board, provided a written report and urged SLTA to attend the database licensing annual meeting.

It was moved by Elaine Kivisto, seconded by Donna Hartley, that all reports be received and filed. Carried.

9.6 Conference

It was moved by Maureen McGirr, seconded by Kae Campbell, that the SLTA have a display table and display board at the Conference. Carried.

Donna Hartley volunteered to arrange for the table and it was agreed that a schedule be established to have persons at the table throughout the conference.

Sam McCullough has agreed to be the speaker at the trustee conference sessions.

Other conference highlights include:

- Pre-conference workshops - copyright and oral tradition to written text
- Thursday night President's reception - David Suzuki
- 9:00 RPL Libraries worth their weight in chocolate
- Friday Mary Donaldson Lecture Dan Yashinski + entertainment by Skin and Bones
- Saturday Sam McCullough's two sessions
- endnote speaker Perry Bellegarde

Check Saskatchewan Libraries website for more details.

9.7 CLTA

Art Battiste presented a survey/questionnaire for the CLTA, which is aimed at service.

10. SLTA Pre-conference Newsletter

It was agreed that the following items would be prepared for possible inclusion in the next issue of the SLTA Newsletter:

- bylaw changes
- conference registration form
- sessions for trustees
- information re new Minister
- who's a member, what's SLTA, who's eligible
- Resolutions proposed for AGM
- elected system reports
- LG's celebration of the Arts and author's tour
- Multitype report
- Focus on Board members

It was moved by Bev Dubois, seconded by Janet Wilkinson, that the Secretary purchase a database program to assist in keeping track of members for a total cost not to exceed \$250. Carried.

Bev Dubois agreed to prepare a piece for the SLTA Fall Newsletter re Saskatoon's 100th Anniversary.

11. Column in SLA Forum

Donna Hartley submitted a column to the last issue of Forum re the library history book. Topics for submission to a future issue could include: strategic planning process and positive consequences, accomplishments of the SLTA, post-conference report.

12. Website

It was agreed that everyone would look at the website and notify the Secretary of any changes they think should be made.

13. Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws

It was moved by Elaine Kivisto, seconded by Kae Campbell, that the following amendment to the bylaws of the SLTA be presented to the membership at the 2006 AGM:

Existing provision:

1.3 [second paragraph] Nominations for the award will be solicited by the executive by advising Regional, Regina, Saskatoon, and Pahkisimon Nuye-?ah Library System Boards each year and that nominations should be made prior to *December 1st* of each year.

Proposed provision:

advising Regional, Regina, Saskatoon, and Pahkisimon Nuye-?ah Library System Boards each year and that nominations should be made prior to *January 31st* of each year.

Reason for change:

The life membership award is presented at the AGM, which is held in April or May. It is not necessary to receive nominations as early as December 1 and extending the deadline for receipt of nominations will make it easier for them to be received in time.

Carried.

15. Other Business

- 15.1 *Appointment of Nominating Committee* - Sharon Armstrong will chair the committee and report to the AGM. Bev Dubois agreed to let her name stand

for Vice President. Elaine Kivisto agreed to let her name stand for President.

15.2 *Copyright Reform* - Bill C-60 tabled June 2005 in Parliament

15.3 *Municipal Employees' Pension Plan Composition Review* - The plan applies to six of the 10 library systems. One seat on the board is shared by regional colleges and regional libraries on a rotating two-year term basis. Allan Johnson from Southeast Regional Library is currently a member of the Board representing libraries. There have been concerns that the MEP board understand the impact of any proposed changes to the plan on the library systems participating in it. Library directors have said that the composition of the MEP Board has improved since regional libraries have a seat, although ideally they would have their own and not rotate. The Executive agreed with this viewpoint.

15.4 Nominations for CLTA Awards

15.5 *Nominees to Minister for appointment to Multitype Library Board* – It was agreed to submit the names of Isabelle Butters and Karen Basky to the Minister.

15.6 *Summary of Actions taken by SLTA on the Library Book Rate*

- encouraged and co-ordinated contact by Executive members of their local MPs
- post card campaign
- promoted in newsletter
- brought it to the attention of provincial minister
- asked the provincial minister to write the federal minister which he did
- advertised what they did at SLTA conference
- passed resolution at AGM in 2005 and proposing one for 2006

15.7 *Report to June meeting of Council of Ministers of Public Libraries and a national library strategy*

15.8 *Resolutions Committee*

It was agreed that Janet Wilkinson will Chair the Resolutions Committee and present the resolutions to the AGM. Sharon Armstrong will participate as a member of the Resolutions Committee.

It was agreed that the Secretary should develop wording and circulate resolutions relating to the following:

- library book rate - need a long-term solution
- digital divide and connectivity/CommunityNet
- digital copyright - holding names of alleged infringer when library is ISP

15.9 *Retirement of President Karen Basky*

It was noted that Karen Basky will be retiring as President and as a member of the Executive after the AGM. **It was moved** by Sharon Armstrong, seconded by Bev Dubois, that the Executive acknowledge its sincere gratitude for all of Karen's hard work over several years on the Executive. Unanimously carried.

16. Meeting Communiqué

Will be circulated with Minutes.

17. Next Meeting at the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference:

Thursday, May 4 2:00 to 5:00 pm, Saturday, May 6

AGM 1:30 to 2:45 pm and Ex. Meeting after Perry Bellegarde speaks

System reports to be provided by each member of the Executive to the Secretary no later than April 10 for inclusion in AGM booklet. These are reports on the activities in each system since the last AGM in 2005.

Note: The Secretary will not be present at the AGM in 2006. Janet Wilkinson volunteered to keep minutes of the Executive meetings and the AGM.

18. Adjournment

The meeting then adjourned.