

Metropolitan Library Service Agency Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 11, 2024
Virtual Meeting via Teams
10am-12pm

Advisory Board Members/Representatives Present:

Anoka:	Colleen Haubner	Ramsey:	Pang Yang
Carver:	Jodi Edstrom	Saint Paul:	Maureen Hartman
Dakota:	Margaret Stone	Scott:	Jen Schultz
Hennepin:	Scott Duimstra	Washington:	Jacque Kramer

Staff Present: Abigail Dillon, Gina Goettl, Kathleen James, Sally Lederer, Susan Marschalk, Mona Scott, and Sherry Wichitchu

I. Call to order

Chair Haubner called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

II. Introductions and Public Comment

III. Consent agenda

- a) Approval of agenda
- b) Approval of meeting minutes (September 6, 2024)

Motion to approve the agenda and meeting minutes by Stone. Second by Edstrom.

Roll call vote:

ACL - aye	HCL - aye	SCL - aye
CCL - aye	RCL - aye	WCL - aye
DCL - aye	SPL - aye	

Motion carried.

IV. Discussion/Action Items

- a) Reminder of Equity Fund parameters, Equity Fund request and process

The Equity Fund parameters have been approved by the Board of Trustees, so requests for Equity Funds can be submitted. The request letter should be

submitted to Sherry Wichitchu and Mona Scott. Edstrom mentioned that she has a DEI training idea that she will be submitting as a funding request.

b) Continuation of collaborative spending discussion

At the February Advisory Board meeting, directors briefly discussed a proposed assignment of the MELSA fund balance designated for “resources or services that may benefit from the collaborative impact and cost savings of a region-wide purchase.” One example discussed for use of the funding is the shared purchase of a discovery layer/catalog for all eight systems. Since all library systems pay for some type of discovery layer as their public interface, a MELSA shared purchase could reduce local system expenditures and provide all library users equal access to a shared library experience. Initial support was received from the directors to hold the funds for a future discussion to confirm interest and determine feasibility when the new MELSA executive director is in place. There are many considerations for a potential regional purchase of a discovery layer/catalog and a full discussion is planned for the November 1, 2024, Advisory Board meeting. Haubner will meet with Wichitchu before the November Advisory Board meeting to discuss ramifications of a MELSA shared purchase of a discovery layer.

c) Collection Development Task Force update

Kramer, Duimstra, and Schultz met as a task force and decided to hold off until Wichitchu started. They would like to establish a clear purpose for the task force with suggestions from the MELSA director and the Advisory Board. Dillon suggested that the task force and Wichitchu meet with the Collection Development team to get their perspective. Haubner suggested that Wichitchu meet with the Collection Development team and then meet with the task force to decide next steps.

d) Approval of release of fund balance assignment for e-content

In March of this year, the MELSA Board of Trustees approved a fund balance assignment of \$150,000 for additional Overdrive content, pending approval by the MELSA Advisory Board in the fall of 2024. It is our recommendation that the Advisory Board approve the release of the \$150,000 for additional Overdrive content, to be expended by the end of 2024.

Motion to approve the release of the \$150,000 fund balance assignment funds to be used for the purchase of additional e-content in 2024. Motion by Hartman. Second by Duimstra.

Roll call vote:

ACL - aye HCL - aye SCL – aye
CCL - aye RCL - aye WCL – aye
DCL - aye SPL - aye

Motion carried.

- e) Approval to use regional Legacy funds earmarked for Read & Ride Day at MNSF for Youth Services 2025 author-illustrator programming

The MELSA Youth Services Team is seeking MELSA Advisory Board approval to use regional Legacy funds in 2025 to host author David LaRochelle & illustrator Mike Wohnoutka programs highlighting two 2024 releases that are full of fun and games, MR FOX’S GAME OF NO and GO AND GET WITH REX. Wohnoutka and LaRochelle are the author-illustrator duo that launched the statewide program Once Upon a Reader with their books MOO. This request would draw from the Legacy funds formerly reserved for youth and family programming at Read & Ride Day at the Minnesota State Fair.

Programming Outline:

- o 16 programs, 2 in each system

Still in development, but plans will include a read aloud of both books with tons of audience participation. There would be two interactive drawings by Mike, one for each book, and an interactive game of GO AND GET pitting David against one of the audience members. Opportunities for audience members to move and get their wiggles out. The duo are very fun and engaging presenters. 45-minute show length.

- o Timing: Not limited to a season, but happening throughout the year. The Team suggested booking programs from February through December.
- o Storywalks: Each system will receive one storywalk set of each title, except for HCL which will receive two copies of each book as storywalks. These will extend programming outside the library and at sites not hosting live programs.
- o Cost Estimates \$32,000:
 - \$25,600 - 16 programs at \$1600 per program
 - \$6,400 - Storywalks \$6,400
 - Minimal - Language interpreters for DCL (dependent on branch location)
 - Minimal – Marketing

Discussion included seeking out Minnesota children’s authors/illustrators of color for the remaining Read & Ride Day Legacy funds.

Motion to reassign Read & Ride Day Legacy funds to the proposed 2025 children's author/illustrator programming. Motion by Stone. Second by Kramer.

Roll call vote:

ACL - aye HCL - aye SCL – aye
CCL - aye RCL - aye WCL – aye
DCL - aye SPL - aye

Motion carried.

f) Celebrating the 40th anniversary Purple Rain – Prince-themed library card

Duimstra suggested a limited-edition, Prince-themed library card and is willing to lead the discussion. They would have to start the talks with Prince's estate to see what the image rights would cost. Hartman suggested having a target audience in mind, which will help with marketing. The directors in general were supportive of this initiative, keeping in mind that there are logistical challenges. Haubner suggested Duimstra keep in touch with our Communications Team as well.

g) Jurisdictional legislative priorities and policy-related items

Hartman wanted to hear updates from the systems about where their priorities are. ACL is focused on the construction grant. RCL had a question about the law library – for most systems, the law library is part of the library system, and the budget is part of the library system but they have a separate director and board. E-book pricing is an ongoing interest. At the last Trustees meeting, the commissioners were very interested in learning more about legislation related to e-book pricing, and Beth Burns is pursuing the possibility of getting some Minnesota Tribune coverage relating to this issue. The directors would like Lederer to work with Burns on this.

h) Discussion on how libraries are using Naloxone to address substance use and overdosing

Haubner requested more information from systems who have already implemented to use of Naloxone in the library. WCL is a Naloxone access point at one of their locations, and it will soon be rolled out at all locations. DCL is an access point at several of their locations, at the service desk. The Naloxone is available in three formats: test strips, an EPI pen-type version, and nasal spray. At HCL, all security officers are trained in first-aid response and in administering Naloxone. The librarians are given the option to go through training to carry Naloxone if they choose. RCL is not an access point, but they have resources they can call and places they can send people. SPPL will call 911 in emergency

situations, and they have new safety specialists starting soon that will carry Naloxone.

- i) Discussion of collection policy changes resulting from the *Access the Library Materials and Rights Protected* statute

This will be discussed at the November meeting.

- j) Proposed 2025 Advisory Board meeting schedule

Goettl will send an email with this schedule so the directors can respond directly.

V. Reports

Executive Director/Staff Reports

- a) Collection Development Team report

The Collection Development Team report was distributed in the meeting packet. Discussion included weeding expired metered access titles and zombie titles. There is a new Cost Per Circ (CPC) pilot that the team will be starting.

Haubner adjourned the meeting at 12:00pm.