

# **Metropolitan Library Service Agency Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

Friday, November 1, 2024  
Savage Library  
13090 Alabama Av S, Savage, MN  
10am-12pm

## **Advisory Board Members/Representatives Present:**

Anoka:	Colleen Haubner	Ramsey:	Pang Yang
Carver:	not present	Saint Paul:	Joshua Schaffer
Dakota:	Margaret Stone	Scott:	Jen Schultz
Hennepin:	Scott Duimstra	Washington:	Jacque Kramer

**Staff Present:** Abigail Dillon, Kathleen James, Mona Scott, and Sherry Wichitchu

## **I. Call to order**

Chair Haubner called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

## **II. Introductions and Welcome**

Maggie Snow from Minitex is at the meeting today and will be presenting more information about Minitex offerings and funding.

## **III. Consent Agenda**

- a) Approval of agenda
- b) Approval of meeting minutes (October 11, 2024)

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

All in favor signified by saying aye.

ACL - aye	HCL - aye	SCL – aye
CCL – not present	RCL - aye	WCL – aye
DCL - aye	SPL - aye	

Motion carried/denied.

## **IV. Discussion/Action Items**

- a) Presentation by Maggie Snow, Director of Minitex

Two of Minitex's goals are to expand digital collection and to improve online access to resources. One of their initiatives is the Minnesota E-Health Library, and another one is Consumer Health Information Specialization, a cohort that will be established in early 2025. The MN E-Health Library started in 2015, and the purpose of this database is to provide equitable access and accurate health information to educators, health care workers, and consumers. They have also been working on putting together a cohort of librarians to earn their Consumer Health Information Specialization. Part of their legislative priorities have been to request funding for both initiatives. They are also requesting additional funding for their operations fund.

b) Continuation of collaborative spending discussion

The Advisory Board discussed the potential of using MELSA collaborative funds for the purchase of a discovery layer for all eight systems. The challenges to such a purchase were discussed: several systems are considering ILS changes which may impact their selection of a discovery layer, renewal dates for current discovery layers would need to align (some systems recently signed renewals), if volume purchasing by MELSA would result in the necessary level of discounted pricing, how a regional RFP process might be approached, and if there is sufficient funding for a multi-year purchase. Although a few of the systems may be interested in a regional purchase, many systems voiced concerns about proceeding at this time. Wichitchu suggested the Advisory Board revisit the conversation in six months to see where the member libraries are at with their ILS's and discovery layers.

Another suggestion for collaborative spending is the regional purchase of a streaming service. The Advisory Board will continue to explore other uses for MELSA collaborative funding at future meetings.

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

The discussion from the previous meeting continued, focusing on how libraries are handling Requests for Reconsideration forms, along with policies and procedures informed by county legal interpretations.

## V. Reports

a) Update on MLA legislative discussions, CRPLSA meeting

Legislative priorities were discussed at the CRPLSA meeting, and Sam Walton, the MLA lobbyist, also attended the meeting. They also discussed statewide library standards, and many concerns include staffing and degree requirements. Wichitchu

shared with them her experience with library standards in Wisconsin. A survey will go out to system directors across the state to see if they are in support of standards and what metrics might be included in these standards. Maintenance of Effort (MOE) is a concern for CRPLSA, and it was decided this is a separate legislative priority outside of library standards. They will discuss an RFP for library standards at the next CRPLSA meeting. Wichitchu would like the Advisory Board to have a joint meeting with CRPLSA at some point. CRPLSA will have a meeting in the Twin Cities in April 2025, so this would be a good time. Some discussions took place about shared efficiencies. One of the possibilities was a statewide mail-a-book program.

b) Collection Development Team report

Discussion has taken place about the possible article in the Star Tribune. The team would like the public to know about several topics: prices (library vs. consumer, print vs. digital, rising costs), purchasing issues (titles expire and we have to repurchase, some titles are removed from sale, and some titles are not available through OverDrive), impact on collection (issues keeping up with high demand for popular titles, and as a result, less money for diverse titles), and importance of print (youth circulation, literacy, accessibility, continued demand for print). The team also voted unanimously to renew All Access Comics. The team has been piloting a CPC (cost per circ) program.

c) Proposed 2025 Advisory Board meeting schedule

For the February, May, and November meetings, we will move these to the second Friday of the month.

d) Round table sharing

Anoka: Can now move forward with the Johnsville branch renovation. Also looking at print management issues. (Jen volunteered that they used Metro Sales for print management.)

Hennepin: BiblioApps issues

Saint Paul: Hamline court case denied so SPPL can move ahead with demolition and building plans. Another branch is also scheduled for renovation.

Scott: Prior Lake was the last Extended Access location to go live.

Washington: Mentioned Princh cloud print system. Architect approved for Park Grove remodel, then R.H. Stafford next. Evaluating mailing-books-to-home services. (Scott Co. uses volunteers.)

Haubner adjourned the meeting at 11:55am.