

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD, MARCH 15, 2011
6:00 P.M.; ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, HEBBVILLE

*The South Shore Regional Library Board administers South Shore Public Libraries.
South Shore Public Libraries celebrate reading, discovering, learning and sharing.*

Present: Mrs. Wilma Stewart-White, Vice Chair
Dr. David Brattston (via phone)
Councillor Randi Dickie
Mr. Frank Fawson
Councillor Patrick Hirtle
Mrs. Marie Hogan Loker
Dr. Magdalena Nestel
Councillor Cathy Moore
Councillor Robert Myra
Ms. Cathy MacDonald
Mr. Jeff Mercer
Mr. Troy Myers, Secretary/Treasurer
Mrs. Lynn Robart, Recorder

Regrets from: Ms. Cindy Bruhm, , Mr. Mark Taylor, Mr. Tom Sheppard, Councillor John McGee,
Mr. Alan Wilson , Mr. Don Zwicker, and Ms. Shelley Zwicker

Mrs. Sandra Whitman representing the Staff Association.

Troy Myers introduced and welcomed our newest Board Member Dr. Magdalena Nestel. She is working on a fundraising project for the new library in the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Center.

MINUTES

Motion: "THAT the South Shore Regional Library Board accept the minutes of the January 18, 2011."
HIRTLE/Hogan Loker All in favour. Motion carried

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

The February/March 2011 Public Relations Report was circulated with Notice of Meeting.

LBANS REPORT

See attached the LBANS Executive Minutes January 29, 2011 and the meeting report with Hon. Dave Wilson on February 15, 2011.

PROVINCIAL APPOINTEE REPORT

Provincial Appointee report was circulated with Notice of Meeting.

LUNENBURG COUNTY LIFESTYLE CENTER

Troy reported that the detailed plans would soon be released for public viewing. There are still some concerns regarding the rink and depth of the pool. A question regarding the naming rights was also discussed. Dr. Nestel reported that she has met with several people regarding possible donations.

BOOKSALE UPDATE

It was reported that the booksale was a huge success. We took in about \$2,000. Less expenses, the Parkview Rugby Team and SSPL were able to make a profit of \$700 each.

Troy also reported he met with Brian and Sandra Tennyson regarding the SSPL Friends and their future involvement. The Tennyson's had scheduled a prospective meeting of the Friends and their inquiry elicited little response. At this time the Friends group has decided not to pursue a booksale.

VEHICLE REPORT 3RD QUARTER

Third quarter vehicle report was circulated with Notice of Meeting.

CLA HALIFAX, NS MAY 25-26, 2011

Troy reported that the Canadian Library Association's Annual Conference is being held in Halifax this year; a few staff have indicated they would like to attend. The Board Chair and Vice Chair have also expressed interest in attending.

STAFF ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE

Sandra Whitman expressed her pleasure in seeing so many new books coming into the system. She also notices that the call list for Mobile users is getting longer every week.

BRIDGEWATER'S HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Bridgewater's Heritage Advisory Committee is asking the town to ensure the current King Street Library stays as a landmark no matter what the building future holds.

FINANCIAL YEAR END MOTION

Troy indicated that the new facility would need an extra \$150,000 for extra furnishings/equipment beyond what the facility has budgeted. Equipment may include a self checkout and book security system.

Motion: "THAT the South Shore Regional Library Board transfer the accumulative surplus from fiscal year end, 2010-2011, into a short term Reserve designated for new furnishings/equipment for the Library in Lifestyle Center.

HOGAN LOKER/Hirtle All in favour. Motion carried.

OTHER

A request for Board Development Day and Board assessment was requested for next year's fiscal year budget.

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be April 19, 2011, 6:00 p.m. at the Hebbville Office.

ADJOURNMENT

Frank Fawson moved the meeting be adjourned

Wilma Stewart-White, Vice Chair

Troy Myers, Secretary/Treasurer

LIBRARY BOARDS ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA
EXECUTIVE MEETING

January 29th, 2011, 10:00am – 2:00pm

DRAFT Minutes

Present: Mary McLellan (chair), Marie Hogan Loker, John Patterson, Shirley Pineo, Ralph Welton, Gary Archibald, Roswell James, Claire Detheridge, Janet Ness (exec. secr.) Absent: Shirley McNamara

1. Meeting called to order at 10am. On a motion by Claire seconded by Marie the agenda was approved with no additions or deletions. Motion passed
2. Minutes of the November 27, 2010 meeting were approved as circulated. Moved by Claire, seconded by Gary. Motion passed
3. Business arising
 - 3.1. Due to changes in government departments a meeting with Minister More formerly of Department of Education was not requested. Janet reported on conversation with Jennifer Evans regarding the new department, Community, Culture and Heritage (CCH) ministry contacts. Hon. Dave Wilson is the new minister, Laura Lee Langley, deputy minister, David Ross, has responsibility for Provincial Library. The department is still in the building phase so little is currently known about how public libraries will be situated within the department. A meeting will be requested with Minister Wilson as soon as possible.
 - 3.2. The partnership report was sent to Department of Education prior to the change of departments. Gary has presented the report to WCRL board; Marie reported that SSRL has used the report as incentive to build additional partnerships. Shirley suggested the report should go to all boards with requests for board members to take it to municipal councils. Mary recommended board councilors give an oral report for maximum impact. The report will be sent to all board chairs with a request that it be forwarded to municipal councils. The report will be added to Stand Up for Libraries website.
 - 3.3. Despite changes to government structure, caucus meeting are deemed a priority to present the Partnership Report. Caucus meetings will be arranged.
4. Shirley, seconded by Roswell, moved acceptance of the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.
5. Correspondence
 - 5.1. Letter from Minister More acknowledging receipt of the Partnership report was tabled.
 - 5.2. Letter to Minister Wilson congratulating him on new appointment, with information about LBANS and including summary of Partnership Report was read. LBANS requested the full report be forwarded to Minister Wilson with request for meeting.
6. Reports
 - 6.1. CLTA emails were exchanged regarding trustee sessions at the upcoming CLA Conference in Halifax, May 25-28, 2011. The program will be available in early February.
 - 6.2. The Newsletter will be ready by end of February. News items can be sent to Janet.
 - 6.3. Claire reported on the LBANS/NSLA Joint Conference 2011. The theme is Strong Roots, New Growth to reflect libraries traditional history and new innovations. It will be held September 23-25, 2011 at the Delta Sydney where blocks of rooms have already been reserved. Keynote speaker is Bob Morgan an avid library supporter from UCB. The traditional meet & greet will be held Friday night at the Main Library and banquet Saturday

night will be buffet style. LBANS will extend an invitation to Minister Wilson. Twelve concurrent sessions are in the planning stages with a number of sessions aimed at trustees. Any further suggestions for trustee session can be sent to Claire asap.

6.4. Presidents Report. Mary discussed raising the profile of LBANS within the library community, media and public. This is a task that is about the organization as the advocate rather than just the president being the spokesperson. To accomplish this LBANS executive could make themselves available at library events to bring greetings, congratulations, etc. on behalf of LBANS. In addition, Mary reported work she has done on behalf of LBANS. These included a number of press releases, reviewing the funding impacts, preparation of scheduled teleconferences and correspondence with current and former ministers responsible for Public Libraries.

7. New Business

7.1. DOE Teleconference Dec. 15, 2010 was held with chiefs and chairs to request what the cost pressures would be for regional boards with a 0% flat line budget. The Cost Pressure Analysis Report was produced in response.

7.1.a. Cost Pressures Analysis Report was discussed. Gary raised the question of whether a 0% increase is acceptable. Concerns were raised about whether this analysis is a true reflection of the cost pressures given that 7 of 9 boards are losing populations, some boards are facing reduced local funding and salaries are increasing. Other comments pointed out that costs such as power and fuel are outside the control of boards; book and library use is increasing; technology is not replacing the need for maintaining collections; collection budgets are generally below the standard 10% of budget and falling as funding decreases. Others pointed out that libraries continue to provide services such as high-speed internet access in unserved areas and rural areas can represent a major voice on boards. Further questions were raised about the source of the population numbers used for funding and how projected census figures are derived between censuses as this represents a budget decrease to most boards if a per capita funding model is continued.

7.2. Change of minister and departments. Considerable discussion on public libraries profile in the Community, Culture and Heritage Department took place. It was agreed that we seek a meeting with Minister Wilson at the earliest possible time to address many questions that the change has raised. Among those is the status of the Funding Review, the Libraries Act, where we are positioned in the department, what is the criteria and reasoning for the move, what is the department budget. It was further agreed that the complete Partnership Report be forwarded to M. Wilson as proactive example of concrete suggestions of how funding partnerships with libraries can produce governmental budgetary efficiencies.

8. Next meeting to be determined after meeting with M. Wilson.

9. On a motion by Gary and seconded by John, the meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.

Meeting with Honourable Dave Wilson, Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage
February 18th, 2011

Present at the meeting:

Department of CCH: Honourable Dave Wilson, Laura Lee Langley, Deputy Minister, David Ross, Executive Director responsible for Libraries, Jennifer Evans, Provincial Librarian, Nathaniel Smith, Executive Assistant to Minister Wilson.

LBANS: Mary MacLellan, President, Shirley MacNamara, Vice-president, Phillip Moscovich, Chair HPL, Roswell James, Prov. Appointee HPL, Janet Ness, Exec. Sec.

LBANS distributed an information folder to each department member present consisting of The Partnership Report, The Cost Pressure Analysis Report, and brief information overviews for each of the 9 regions.

The meeting opened with introductions and a welcome from Minister Wilson who expressed an appreciation for the role of libraries as a core in communities. He also indicated he wanted the department to serve as a resource for expertise and assistance for libraries to tap into. With these cordial remarks, Minister Wilson turned the meeting to LBANS concerns.

Communities

Mary MacLellan thanked Minister Wilson for his positive remarks and proceeded to ask for clarification on a number of questions related to libraries being moved to the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage. The first related to the definition of Communities and what this concept comprised. Ms. Langley indicated that they are looking at capacity building within communities to build stronger communities. Institutions such as museums, archives and libraries have the capacity to create synergy to add to the value of communities. Also, with the changes that have taken place in the Department of Education the government wanted to ensure that libraries were not dropped. David Ross, added that the educational mandate of libraries will continue and that educational opportunities will remain. Jennifer Evans reiterated that the Department has extended an open hearted welcome to libraries into the Department. Provincial Library is to remain where it currently is while the physical allocation of space for the new departments is determined.

Budget

Minister Wilson said he is committed to ensuring the money for library grants is protected as much as can be at this time and looks to strengthen the allocation in the future. The creation of the new department has not changed the line item for libraries; it has just been moved from Education to CCH. Ms. Langley confirmed that budgets are assigned at the executive level and are not at the discretion of the department and the library allocation will be set at the cabinet level. She also indicated that there will be no structural changes in the division until a future review is undertaken so for libraries it will be business as usual, with no change in the day to day operation of libraries for the immediate future. She anticipates that issues around internet connectivity will remain as they are right now and Ednet fees are still in the budget. She also felt there would be no major cost to the transfer of libraries to CCH.

Minister Wilson followed up by stating he understands of the importance of knowing budgets but that the process is such that he has no answers at present for budget allocation.

Libraries Act

Minister Wilson acknowledged that the Libraries Act, like many other outdated legislations, will need to be updated to reflect the current situation. He assured us that no changes will be made without consultation to all those affected and LBANS would be consulted.

Overall, Minister Wilson indicated that the government is committed to it's key message of finding efficiencies and is looking forward to realizing that with this new department.

Partnerships

Mary then invited other LBANS members to add their comments. Philip Moscovitch stressed the need to know budget allocations as soon as possible as budgets are being set now. Shirley MacNamara spoke to the fact that libraries have been operating on bare bones funding and have already done many of the cuts other organizations are only just starting. The result is that we have already tapped into many partnership opportunities to continue to offer programs and service.

Mary used that segue to talk about partnerships such as the Adopt-a-Library program with the RCMP in PARL and to introduce the Partnership Report. Janet Ness then gave a brief history and overview of the report that highlights areas that libraries are already embracing the concept of efficiencies, cooperation and sharing that the department is striving to achieve and demonstrating that we are well positioned to take a leadership role in this area. The meeting ended on a positive note with both parties welcoming continued dialogue with respect to library issues.