PLD Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2013

Present: Officers and 200+ PLD Members

Submitted by Secretary Laura Randolph (who wrote hand-written notes furiously at the meeting and hopes that you’ll forgive her for names and details left out. Please send corrections to lrandolph@rochester.lib.mn.us.)

• Officer Intros
• Update on the Past Year (Delane James)
  o Finding out what it meant to be Chair was a trial and error this past year
  o We’ve set up monthly PLD officer meetings to work on internal structure
  o Delane attended MLA’s Strategic Planning Summit and MLA is devoted to supporting their leaders
  o We’re working towards making more How-To manuals for leadership positions in MLA
  o We would like to have a PLD Day
    ▪ Show of hands majority vote went to having a PLD right before MLA conference as opposed to having it earlier in the year.
  o We hope to create a wiki for more communication
  o Please “Like” our Facebook Page and let us know what you would like to see there
    ▪ We will probably be using the survey that was taken in 2012 to start posting items that you deemed relevant
• Elections are coming up. Please send nominations to Delane James at delane@selco.info.
• Jennifer Nelson, Interim Director and State Librarian at the MN Department of Education, speaker
  o Jennifer talked about efforts to increase communication among public libraries
    ▪ You can email her for information at Jennifer.r.nelson@state.mn.us
    ▪ State Library has a strong base of support in the Dept. of Education. It doesn’t cover elders, but most other groups align with the Dept. of Education
    ▪ The State Library is putting together a listserv for those interested in learning more about what the State Library’s doing
      • There doesn’t seem to be a lot of communication going on at the state level
      • The question was asked, “Could we have a forum for communicating more amongst ourselves and to the public
        o Let people know that public libraries aren’t dying out
The statistic was given that 26 million people per year attend public libraries.

The State Librarian said that there was not a lot of staffing for this at this time.

Stated that there would be some follow-up regarding the Public Library National Survey.

There is a web presence on the Dept. of Education website.

Check there for summaries and abstracts of LSTA projects in 2011 and 2012.

They are working a lot with the Department of Commerce to spread the word about services available.

- Dept. of Commerce is involved in a lot including insurance, but not MNSure (which is Dept. of Health)
- They're willing to tailor to what you need at your library

Some of the Library's focus is on the Affordable Care Act and MNSure.

They are trying to get brochures from the Dept. of Commerce out to public libraries and discuss the multiple partnerships that can happen through the organization.

Don't forget about LSTA grants.

- Open to all sizes and types of libraries
- Find out more information here: [http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/StuSuc/Lib/StateLibServ/LSTA/](http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/StuSuc/Lib/StateLibServ/LSTA/)
- Deadline for applications is fast approaching
- Most grants top out at $5000
- There's a review panel that ranks the applications, then they look at the scores to decide

The State Librarian is also stepping back to look at the statuary (?) and hoping to work more with library partners.

They worked on a project called the North Star Digital Literacy Standards ([http://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/index.php](http://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/index.php)) that has now been adopted by adult education agencies and was created by libraries.

There's an 8am meeting Friday to discuss needs and what's important to libraries. All are welcome to come.

What do you perceive the role of the State Library being?

Please contact Jennifer to let her know what more the State Library can do for you!

**Sharing Session**

- Pat Conley from Washington County
  - Shared about the new service from 3M called the Cloud Library
  - Washington, Dakota, Ramsey and Anoka Counties have contracted with 3M for eBooks
  - Because it is so costly to do eBooks, they approached 3M to do a reciprocal process
  - The 4 counties will all have access to each others’ collections, unless that item is checked out. Patrons can’t place a hold on another county’s materials.
  - The question was asked about having a state eBook service, kind of like ELM, only for eBooks
MELSA
- In 2014 MELSA will be bringing in a professor from St. Thomas as a professional development event.
- Friday 8am session invitation regarding services for older adults as a national initiative to do this 2-day event on creative aging work plans.

Rochester Public Library
- Many staff stood up to discuss all the different things going on at their library:
  - They installed a Smart Plat Spot from the MN Children’s Museum.
  - They now have an Art Room in the Children’s Area.
  - Recent minor building remodels happened to create some meeting room-sized rooms which are now a Wellness Corner and Maker Space:
    - The Wellness Corner was a large project to increase wellness and health in SE MN in partnership with (currently) 8 different organizations that will come in and do health screenings and referrals to various services. Susan Hansen, who received the “Above and Beyond Reward” spearheaded this project.
    - The Maker Space is still in its infancy, but the first project proposal has been accepted. It involves making paper out of the text blocks of discarded books, making that paper into books, then patrons can write their histories in these books, which will be added to the library’s collection. This project proposal was based on a similar project done on the east coast (http://rvanews.com/entertainment/peoples-library-project/102620).
  - The library applied for a grant to have a muralist paint the Bookmobile garage. It’s beautiful and pictures are posted on the library’s Facebook Page.

Dakota County
- They are doing a one year pilot for Training and Digital Services. They will be defining what they will be working on for online training through Lynda.com.

Bonnie Krueger from Owatonna Public Library spoke
- They got a new Smart Play Spot from the MN Children’s Museum; it’s a very interactive hands-on environment for kids:
  - Some discussion evolved from this comment about how to get a Play Spot and etc.
  - Contact the MN Children’s Museum for more info; they have a grant process where you are responsible for some of the cost (matching dollars?).
- They got a grant and created some new reading areas, meeting rooms, and re-wiring for all their computers and laptops. Now they have sound and video for programs.
Stephanie Hall talked about small libraries
- Don’t be discouraged about all the project sharing going on.
- There are a lot of libraries out there that only have one librarian or just a few staffing the whole library. That individual does amazing things for their library.
- Do these projects on a smaller scale.
- Jennifer Nelson interjected that you should apply for the LSTA grant and you can ask for dollars that you need for your projects. Small projects are just as welcome as large.
- Stephanie said that she’s always ready to plot with you on those projects and if you need more support, PLD is the place to get it.

Ali Turner shared about getting Smart Play Spots in Hennepin County Libraries
- She said getting the Play Spots was good, but the training is very beneficial for you also. Staff have been inspired to make early literacy spaces. They talk about how play is learning and the practices around that philosophy.

Wilmar Public Library
- Someone shared that Wilmar Public Library has a Play Spot that’s a fishing boat and kids are drawn to it like a magnet.
- Someone mentioned that it might be interesting to have a list of all the libraries that have Play Spots for a reference.

Jackie Blagsvedt from State Library Services shared that Austin received an LSTA grant last year to do a Play Space. And someone mentioned that St. Cloud Public Library has one also.
- Someone (I’m sorry! I have no idea who shared this!) said that they were changing their Summer Reading Program this year and that they were going to use the iReads program instead of the program offered by the state. They mentioned that iReads is in the exhibits if you want to find out more information.

Barbara Mallas from the St. Paul Public Library
- Shared that they put on a program through the McKnight Foundation
- They included these programs:
  - Random Acts of Culture
  - 2Dance & Flamenco Guitarist came in to do a program

Delane James shared from the Buckham Memorial Library (Faribault)
- They decided that the arrangement of their collections was not working well. The youth collection was in the middle of the adult collection and people were not happy with the combination.
- They also had $0 to make changes.
• They created a new children and youth space
• SELCO set up Pharos for them to be organized on the computers by age
• They created a silent reading room (with much care taken to how it would be used by the public). Must be 21 or older, need your library card or ID.
• They put in a security camera system.
• It took 2.5 months to do everything and was very confusing while the changes happened, because change was a constant.
• Now everyone loves it!
• They organized a ribbon-cutting ceremony with treats! Ask Delane about the “special guest” at the event that she found out about after the fact.