

**LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on**  
**October 17, 2022**  
**at William Hall Library**  
**Program Room, Lower Level**  
**1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905**

**Members Attending:** Aaron Coutu, Melody Drnach (Chair), Rosita Hopper, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Leslie Page, Robert Sloan

**Members Absent:** Cristina Amedeo, Heidi Blais, John Bucci, Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Louise Herrington, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Marcus Mitchell, Doug Norris, Amanda Richman

**Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):** Karen Andrews, Nicolette Baffoni, Karen Mellor

**Guests:** None

**Materials Distributed:**

- OLIS 2023 Work Plan
- LBRI Proposed Meeting Schedule, 2022-2023

**I. WELCOME**

Ms. Drnach called the meeting to order at 4:27 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** from the June 13, 2022, meeting

**Moved By:** Mr. Coutu

**Seconded By:** Mr. Sloan

The minutes were approved as presented.

**III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Ms. Drnach welcomed members to a new legislative session.

**IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT**

**A. OLIS Updates**

**i. Ongoing: Personnel**

Jason Ackermann, Digital Resources & Applications Coordinator, moved to another state agency on July 1; the vacated position will be filled soon.

David Marrocco began work on July 2, replacing Jeremy Cutler as Support Services Technician II. Mr. Marrocco supports Library Development, including youth services projects, continuing education, and state aid to libraries. He is currently assisting with the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) 'Programs in a Box' project funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The circulating kits contain educational devices such as robots and simple machines, tablets, program supplies, and literacy activities for all age groups; OLIS will replenish kit materials as necessary.

ii. State Budget, Fiscal Year 2023

OLIS is funded at the current service level including anticipated contractual salary increases.

OLIS is seeking additional funds in the revised FY23 budget to fully fund delivery. Because the FY23 budget did not fully fund delivery, federal funds will be needed for the contract balance. If the request is approved, federal funds will be used for discretionary library grants. The status of this request will be known in January when the revised FY23 and FY24 budgets are presented by the Governor.

Increased funding for delivery would bring the number of delivery stops to the pre-pandemic level in the FY23 revised and FY24 budgets. When delivery volume decreased during the pandemic, OLIS negotiated with the vendor to reduce the contracted minimum number of stops.

B. Public Library Annual Survey

The public library annual survey closed on September 15 and OLIS staff is reviewing the submitted data. All public libraries have met maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements for grant-in-aid (GIA) eligibility. While there were no requests for waiver of the MOE requirement, staffing and open hours waiver requests increased. Libraries are facing a multitude of staffing challenges while trying to maintain the open hours requirement and meeting staffing requirements. In FY23, GIA is funded at the full 25% level provided in RI General Law 29-6-2.

C. Statewide Reference Resource Center (SRRC)

The Statewide Reference Resource Center received additional funding from the General Assembly which will enable OLIS to continue providing current resources that were paid with federal stimulus funds in 2021 and 2022. The added funds allow continued subscriptions to [Tutor.com](#), an online tutoring platform, [Udemy](#), an online learning platform, and the Job and Career Accelerator that complements Learning Express Library. OLIS will continue to seek full annual state funding for these resources.

Ms. Mellor expressed her gratitude to the RI Library Association (RILA) for their lobbying efforts on behalf of the SRRC and in securing full GIA state funding.

D. 2022 Summer Reading Program (SRP) (Ms. Baffoni reporting)

This year, OLIS moved from the Collaborative Summer Library Program to the [iREAD Summer Reading Program](#) created and administered by the [Illinois Library Association](#). The 2022 program theme was 'Read Beyond the Beaten Path.' OLIS provided customized iREAD program materials to RI libraries, including promotional posters and bookmarks.

SRP participants included 12,213 children, 2,065 teens and 2,715 adults, all increases from 2021. Virtual programs decreased, resulting in less virtual attendance and more in-person attendance. Virtual attendance participants included 1,338 children, 419 teens, and 52 adults. In-person program participants included 36,028 children, 4,203 teens, and 6,937 adults.

Formulaic summer reading grants totaling \$39,750 were awarded to 43 public libraries. All libraries were eligible to receive \$600 for youth programs, \$300 for library branches and \$300 for adult programs. Four qualified public libraries served as summer meal sites, providing meals with programs.

The 2023 iRead program theme is '[Find Your Voice](#)'. Youth Services Coordinator, Danielle Margarida, and Adult Services Coordinator, Emily Goodman, have begun 2023 SRP preparations.

#### E. OLIS Projects

##### i. OLIS Website

The state is moving its websites to a content management system (CMS). Moving OLIS' dynamic content into the CMS has been challenging as the system initially did not include modules to handle dynamic database queries. Pablo Morales Henry, Program Manager for Network Services, has identified and configured modules to migrate OLIS' current dynamic content features to the new platform. The project began in Spring 2021 and will potentially launch in November of this year. The new website is anticipated to be more navigable and easier to update and maintain.

##### ii. Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)

The DPLA Working Group (OLIS, Brown University Libraries, Providence Public Library) undertook a statewide survey in May 2022 to identify RI digital collections for inclusion in the inaugural collection of the RI DPLA hub. The results are being analyzed to identify collections with RI culture and history, RI-exclusive materials, and unique RI materials beneficial to libraries and researchers nationwide. The RI hub launch is anticipated for June 2023 using digital content that currently meets inclusion requirements; 50,000 digitized items are necessary to launch the hub.

A second phase of the project will assist organizations and libraries with digital preparation or content digitization. Mr. Morales Henry will attend the next LBRI meeting to discuss the project.

##### iii. Disaster Preparedness Planning Tool (D-PLAN RI)

The Northeast Document Conversation Center built the D-Plan RI tool with Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funds over a decade ago; the tool was not being updated and has been decommissioned. Mr. Morales Henry built a temporary system for libraries to input basic disaster plan information in accordance with statutory requirements for public library eligibility for state GIA.

#### F. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grants

The ARPA grant program funded by IMLS ended on September 30. Ms. Baffoni led the grant program that awarded \$2.3M in direct library grants and statewide projects. A sampling of library projects will be showcased at future meetings and a more in-depth ARPA grant report will be presented at the next meeting.

### V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### A. Public Library Minimum Standards

Library service changes during the pandemic will inform the upcoming review and potential revision of the Public Library Minimum Standards. Ms. Drnach has appointed board members to the upcoming review committee which will also include non-board members representative of public libraries.

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Mr. Coutu & Ms. Mellor Reporting)**

### **A. Federal & State Legislative Updates**

Federal and State legislation about libraries may be found on the OLIS legislative [webpage](#).

#### **i. Rhode Island Legislation**

Public library grant-in-aid (GIA) was funded at 25% in FY23 by the General Assembly in accordance with RI General Law [§ 29-6-2](#). Level funding would have resulted in funding at 22.4% of local appropriations and expenditures.

RILA is hosting a pledge drive for RI political candidates in the 2022 election in coordination with the American Library Association (ALA) to confirm library support.

#### **ii. Federal Legislation**

The federal government's continuing budget resolution expires in Dec 2022; the federal 2023 budget ideally will be approved after the mid-term elections. A small increase to Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding is in the Senate version of the budget, including \$20M for library construction lobbied for by ALA. Construction funds would include funding for a survey of library construction needs nationwide.

The IMLS is leading a new commission on the arts and humanities which will include the National Endowment of the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Senator Jack Reed has proposed funding for school libraries for the Right To Read initiative.

## **VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

### **A. Dr. Hopper**

As part of a larger budget review, the Higher Education Library Information Network (HELIN) is reviewing library delivery costs for materials transported between RI and Massachusetts. HELIN members each pay \$3,000 annually which translates to approximately \$24-60 per item delivered to Massachusetts, which supports HELIN member Wheaton College and OLIS delivery to Massachusetts in partnership with the Massachusetts Library System (MLS). Receiving detailed vendor delivery data has proven to be problematic. Ms. Mellor advised that OLIS will work with HELIN, MLS, and the delivery vendor to secure delivery data.

### **B. Mr. Coutu**

Ocean State Libraries (OSL) is moving to an open-source Integrated Library System (ILS), Koha; the migration is scheduled for completion in May 2023. Mr. Coutu reported that the move will result in considerable savings for the consortium.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. OLIS 2023 Work Plan**

Ms. Mellor presented an overview of OLIS' 2023 work plan. The plan is based on OLIS' Five-Year 2023-2027 Strategic Plan approved by the LBRI in June and by the Institute of Museum and Library Services in September. Each plan year, staff develops a work plan to implement the plan's 3 strategic goals, Access, Learning and Engagement. The 2023 budget is \$3.2M, including IMLS and state funds, and funds 13 full-time employees (FTE).

Each goal supports three projects. Access projects are resource sharing, the Talking Books Library (TBL), and digitization, preservation & disaster preparedness. OLIS will complete use analyses of interlibrary loan (ILL) and OCLC First Search to determine a forward path. OLIS spends \$25,000 annually on OCLC and serves as the state clearinghouse for ILL requests for public and school libraries. TBL is working on increasing membership through targeted outreach campaigns. OLIS will continue work on the DPLA launch and D-Plan tool as part of the digitization and preservation project.

Learning projects are continuing education, reading and literacy, and statewide programs including Reading Across RI (RARI) and health and financial literacy. Continuing education workshops, peer-to-peer learning, and learning cohorts will continue to support library staff professional development in the areas of youth services, adult services, and library management. Trustee training and a handbook will also be a primary focus this year.

Engagement projects include equity, diversity and inclusion, community connectors, and local library development. OLIS will continue to support individuals from underrepresented groups to defray costs of earning a library science degree at the University of RI Graduate School of Library & Information Studies.

The work plan is scheduled for a vote at the November meeting.

#### **IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

#### **X. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2022, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., at a venue to be determined. Board members will be notified of any date or venue changes.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved By:** Dr. Hopper

**Seconded By:** Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

**LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on**  
**November 21, 2022**  
**at William Hall Library**  
**Program Room, Lower Level**  
**1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905**

**Members Attending:** Heidi Blais, John Bucci, Aaron Coutu, Melody Drnach (Chair), Kenneth Findlay, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Leslie Page, Robert Sloan

**Members Absent:** Cristina Amedeo, Annette Feldman, Louise Herrington, Rosita Hopper, Marcus Mitchell, Amanda Richman

**Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):** Karen Andrews, Nicolette Baffoni, Karen Mellor, Pablo Morales Henry

**Guests:** None

**Materials Distributed:**

- American Rescue Plan Act ([ARPA](#)) Spending in RI Libraries Report
- Digital Public Library of America ([DPLA](#)) Rhode Island Hub Update

**I. WELCOME**

Ms. Drnach called the meeting to order at 4:22 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** from the October 17, 2022, meeting

**Moved By:** Mr. Bucci

**Seconded By:** Mr. Coutu

The minutes were approved as presented.

**III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Ms. Drnach welcomed members.

**IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT**

A. OLIS Updates

i. Staffing

Chaichin Chen, Resource Sharing Coordinator, is retiring on December 31 after 26 years. The vacated position will be reviewed and redefined as necessary to meet current agency needs. The Digital Resources Coordinator position has been filled and the new staff member will begin January 3.

ii. Palace Project ([eBook Platform](#))

Ocean State Libraries (OSL) launched the [Palace Project](#) eBook platform in September; the project was funded with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds provided by OLIS. The platform can aggregate digital content from multiple vendors, including content purchased by OSL from

OverDrive, and free content available through other sources such as the Gutenberg Project. Additional content for Palace is also available for purchase through the Palace Marketplace, a library driven marketplace founded by the Digital Public Library of America that includes licensing agreements with major publishers. OSL used grant funds to secure content through the marketplace to supplement the existing OverDrive collection. The opening day collection added audiobooks from [Audible](#) and a substantial number of young adult graphic novels, in addition to select Amazon eBooks available through Palace's exclusive partnership with Amazon. OLIS is working with OSL to promote the eBook platform and its app to Rhode Islanders.

iii. [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\) Program](#)

Senator Jack Reed, the RI congressional delegation, and Gina Raimondo, former RI governor and current US Secretary of Commerce, held a press conference today to announce \$5M in federal funding to RI to develop a statewide broadband plan; an additional \$500,000 will be available for digital literacy training. Ms. Mellor attended the press event.

Upon plan submission, RI will secure an additional \$100M in federal funding for broadband deployment. The BEAD program will provide over \$42 billion to states, Washington DC, and US territories with a base grant of \$100M plus additional population-based funding. The program in RI will be coordinated by the RI Commerce Corporation (RICC). Earlier this month, Ms. Baffoni attended training with RICC in conjunction with BEAD and the development of RI's digital equity plan and provided input on potential roles for libraries.

B. American Rescue Plan Act Grants – Program Overview (Ms. Baffoni reporting)

Ms. Baffoni provided an overview of the \$2.23 million ARPA grant awarded to OLIS by the Institute of Museum and Library Services; the funds were separate from OLIS' annual state grant award and used during the federal fiscal year 2022 (ending on Sept. 30). The grant's goals were to support digital inclusion support, rapid emergency library relief, and meeting community needs through library services.

Rhode Island libraries were awarded \$1.25M in subgrants for technology purchases (including self-check machines) and for competitive grants and mini grants to support community needs. Rhode Island's distressed communities were eligible for additional stipends for technology grants and separate subgrants that primarily supported additional technology purchases.

Statewide projects were funded in the amount of \$890,000 and to support AskRI, Summer Learning, Digital Literacy Training, and the Palace Project. Library workforce funding was \$71,500 and included awards for Professional Field Experience and diversity scholarships to support students at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Library and Information Studies.

The final ARPA grant report will include municipal grant distribution and anecdotal grant statistics.

C. [Digital Public Library of America](#) RI Hub (Mr. Morales Henry reporting)

Mr. Morales Henry provided an update on the development of a RI hub for the Digital Public Library of America. In 2018, a RI DPLA committee was formed to begin work on the RI hub. At that time, DPLA staff presented hub requirements to the RI committee, however, work was put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A new committee comprised of staff from OLIS, Brown University, and Providence Public Library convened a statewide meeting on May 4, 2022 and released a statewide survey to digital collection stakeholders on May 9. The survey returned 118 responses and the [survey report](#) was released August 11. Starting in October, committee members began the work of interviewing 30 institutions identified thru the survey to discuss existing digitized collections, and the potential for inclusion in the initial collection of the RI hub.

Ongoing work will include an assessment of available digital records and data harvesting; 50,000 records are required to launch a hub. A meeting will be scheduled with DPLA staff to further explore the application process and requirements for establishing the hub. The group is currently developing the governance structure, committees and working groups for the hub. Future tasks include development of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for contributing institutions and the installation and of a metadata aggregator. The RI Hub target date for launch is June 2023.

## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. [Minimum Standards for RI Public Libraries](#) Review Committee

Ms. Page and Mr. Coutu volunteered for the RI Public Library Minimum Standards review committee; the first meeting is anticipated in December. Members should contact Ms. Mellor to be included on the committee. OLIS will solicit participation from a variety of libraries to ensure all voices are represented. Several libraries submitted waivers for staffing and open hours during the recent annual survey process. The committee will review the standards governing staffing and hours in addition to other standards.

### B. OLIS 2023 Annual Plan Approval

Ms. Mellor presented a work plan for OLIS operations in 2023 at the October meeting and submitted the plan for approval.

Ms. Drnach inquired about plan completion time frames; Ms. Mellor advised that plan activities commence throughout the year starting in October 2022 through September 2023; OLIS will update the plan with targeted completion dates.

#### **Approval of the OLIS 2023 Work Plan**

**Moved By:** Mr. Findlay

**Seconded By:** Mr. Bucci

The report was approved as presented.

## VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Mr. Coutu & Ms. Mellor Reporting)

### A. Federal & State Legislative Updates

Federal and State legislation about libraries may be found on the OLIS legislative [webpage](#).

#### i. Rhode Island Legislation

The public library grant-in-aid (GIA) formula will be reviewed. Funding was recently restored to a full 25% of municipal funding.

#### ii. Federal Legislation



[S. 5064/H.R. 9056](#)

Senator Reed and Representative Raúl Grijalva of Arizona introduced the ‘Right to Read Act’ to address school library resources access disparities and increase federal funding to support US student literacy. The legislation would reauthorize \$500 million for the Comprehensive Literacy State Development grant program and \$100 million for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program.

**VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

A. Ms. Blais

i. RI Library Information Network for Kids ([RILINK](#)) Update

Dorothy Frechette and Sharon Webster retired in June and are serving as RILINK consultants. Karen Shore and Jackie Lamoureux are co-serving as interim Acting Executive Director. RILINK continues to offer professional development for school librarians.

ii. Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and Follett Software Issues

Schools are experiencing missed stops and substantial delays in material delivery from the OLIS’ delivery vendor. As of the 2021-22 school year, [Follett](#) was no longer hosted at the state level but only at the individual district level. ILL requests are decreasing because students can only search holdings within their district and not the entire RILINK schools’ catalog.

Ms. Mellor advised that OLIS will be working with the delivery vendor to mitigate delivery issues and email school librarians requesting that delivery incidents be reported through the LORI delivery [incident form](#).

Ms. Blais reported that schools are experiencing librarian shortages. Ms. Mellor acknowledged that RILINK and school libraries have ongoing issues that will take creative ideas from a variety of library partners to resolve and noted that Senator Reed’s [‘Right To Read Act’](#) may ease some school library issues.

Regarding the Follett school software, Ms. Mellor advised that OLIS has no regulatory authority over school libraries. Ms. Drnach inquired if school libraries are discussed at Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) meetings. Ms. Mellor reported that some state agencies serve libraries and that school libraries face issues and challenges countrywide.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Public Library Grant-in-Aid (GIA)

Held for future discussion.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**X. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2022, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., William Hall Library, at 1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905. Board members will be notified of any date or venue changes.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved By:** Mr. Bucci

**Seconded By:** Mr. Findlay

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

**LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on**  
**January 09, 2023**  
**at William Hall Library**  
**Program Room, Lower Level**  
**1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905**

**Members Attending:** John Bucci, Aaron Coutu, Rosita Hopper, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Leslie Page, Robert Sloan

**Members Absent:** Cristina Amedeo, Heidi Blais, Melody Drnach (Chair), Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Louise Herrington, Marcus Mitchell, Doug Norris, Amanda Richman

**Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):** Karen Andrews, Nicolette Baffoni, Karen Mellor

**Guests:** None

**Materials Distributed:**

- Proposed Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Fiscal Year 2024 Draft

**I. WELCOME**

Dr. Hopper called the meeting to order at 4:19 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** from the November 21, 2022, meeting

**Moved By:** Mr. Bucci

**Seconded By:** Mr. Coutu

The minutes were approved as presented.

**III. REPORT OF THE VICE-CHAIR**

Vice-Chair Dr. Hopper chaired the meeting and welcomed members.

Dr. Hopper reported the RI Library Association (RILA) Intellectual Freedom Committee will schedule a discussion about reproductive health, libraries navigating new information landscapes, and misinformation and disinformation challenges surrounding children and young adult resources.

The 2023 RI Center for the Book (RICB) Reading Across RI (RARI) book choice is *True Biz* by Sara Novic. The book focuses on deaf culture in a deaf high school. Dr. Hopper hopes to lead a book discussion at Johnson and Wales University. The 2023 RARI virtual kick-off is February 1 at 7:00pm at Salve Regina University's Pell Center. Nancy Maguire Heath, Director, Rhode Island School for the Deaf and Amanda Montgomery, Chief Legal Officer with Convo Communications, LLC and Board Chair, Rhode Island School for the Deaf, are this year's honorary chairs. A 'Meet the Author' event is scheduled for April 27.

RARI 2023 book sets may be requested from Mr. Bucci. Ms. Baffoni reported that a virtual 'Educator Night' will be scheduled for educators who want to use the book in classrooms.

## IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT

### A. OLIS Updates

#### i. Staffing

Chelsea Watts, OLIS' new Digital Resource Coordinator began on January 3. Ms. Watts will work on digital initiatives, the OLIS website, and with Mr. Morales-Henry on the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) RI Hub.

Chaichin Chen, Resource Sharing Coordinator, retired on December 31 after 26 years; an OLIS website [announcement](#) cites her numerous OLIS contributions. The vacated position will be posted once evaluated and readjusted to meet current agency needs.

#### ii. Budget

OLIS' annual Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) will increase by \$173,000 for use in state fiscal year 2024; this brings OLIS' award to the \$1M base grant plus an additional amount calculated on population in accordance with legislation sponsored by Senator Jack Reed. OLIS' total award will be \$1.4M. The additional funds will be used for grant programs and/or statewide initiatives.

OLIS is planning a round of discretionary grants in FY23/24 using LSTA funds. Ms. Baffoni described a process to create a bank of easily executed and impactful projects that libraries can consider ("copycat grants" modeled on prior grant awards).

An [ARPA grants funding report](#) has been posted on the OLIS website.

#### iii. Programming

The Continuing Education (CE) spring program calendar has been posted. Additional program topics that may be added to the schedule are library trustee training, leadership training, library policy formation, and intellectual freedom.

### B. Grants: State Aid & Library of RI (LORI)

Public libraries will receive 25% in grant-in-aid (GIA) funding for FY23; additional funding was also provided to the Statewide Reference Resource Center (AskRI) which enables OLIS to continue to provide resources first secured with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. A request to fund grant-in-aid at 25% for FY24 was submitted to the budget office based on FY23 library funding. OLIS is cautiously optimistic that GIA will be funded at 25% for FY24.

### C. Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) RI Hub Update

OLIS will meet with the Digital Public Library of America on January 24 regarding the application process for becoming a state hub; the application to become a hub will be submitted in the spring. The RI-DPLA partners have identified collections for inclusion in the inaugural collection that will fully meet the minimum requirement of 50,000 digital objects.

### D. Library of RI (LORI) Delivery

OLIS noted a substantial drop in school library participation in interlibrary loan (ILL) delivery. As reported by Ms. Blais at the November meeting, libraries are unable to accurately determine materials available in other school libraries using the current Follett school catalog. OLIS is

discussing with the RI Library Information Network for Kids (RILINK) how OLIS may aid RILINK in moving to a more unified and discoverable catalog. RILINK may survey members about their needs and the current catalog.

Mr. Coutu inquired if the RI Department of Education (RIDE) had grant money specific to technology available to assist with a new statewide school library catalog. Dr. Lynch advised that federal and state RIDE funds are reserved for specific purposes and is not aware of technology funds that could be applied to a new statewide school library catalog.

Dr. Hopper read Section B of RI General Law § 29-6-1 referencing state aid to libraries, and noted the policy includes all libraries including academic, public, school and special libraries. Dr. Lynch suggested the LBRI investigate putting together a proposal to RIDE with the support of one or more school districts. Dr. Lynch can help coordinate a meeting with RIDE officials to discuss such a proposal.

## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. [Minimum Standards for RI Public Libraries](#)

The committee to study Minimum Standards for RI Public Libraries has yet to convene. There is no current news to report.

## VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### i. Federal & State Legislative Updates

Federal and State legislation about libraries may be found on the OLIS legislative [webpage](#).

### i. Rhode Island Legislation

No new state library legislation was discussed.

Mr. Coutu reported the RI Library Association (RILA) Legislative Action committee is considering library issues for 2023 promotion. Issues under consideration include 25% GIA funding for public libraries, AskRI service level-funding, eBook cost and availability, and universal digital resources and broadband availability. RILA will support legislation providing liability protection to library staff from legal ramifications surrounding censorship issues.

### ii. Federal Legislation

No new federal library legislation was discussed.

## VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

### A. Mr. Coutu

On January 5, 2023, the RI American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) sent the Warwick Public Library Board of Trustees a [letter](#) referencing the Warwick Public Library Community & Meeting Rooms [policy](#). The letter requested action to remove language the ACLU deemed a violation of the US Constitution's [First Amendment](#), and contrary to the intellectual freedom policies of the American Library Association. (ALA). The letter was sent in response to a complaint initiated by a former City of Warwick councilperson. The policy item in question is the provision that the Board of Trustees has the authority to cancel any meeting at any time for any reason.

The meeting policy statement in question had been under review by Mr. Coutu, Director, Warwick Public Library and the Warwick Public Library Board of Trustees. The requested action will be addressed at the next Warwick Public Library Board of Trustees meeting

Ms. Mellor reported that calls from librarians about meeting room policies have increased following recent programs that have drawn protests in their communities. Cranston Public Library recently updated their meeting room policy to reflect that public meeting materials are not endorsed or sponsored by the library.

Ms. Baffoni reported on an intellectual freedom workshop by an attorney/librarian at a recent conference. OLIS is planning a library workshop series with the same presenter, who provided an excellent overview on the issues and practical recommendations for libraries.

Ms. Baffoni reported that Kate Lenz, Director for the RI Center for the Book, was approached by the ALA about becoming a RI affiliate of the Unite Against BookBans initiative. Ms. Lenz contacted OLIS about this initiative and sharing information with schools and local governments.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Public Library Grant-in-Aid (GIA)**

The board reviewed and discussed the proposed FY24 GIA submitted to the RI Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Ms. Mellor explained FY24 GIA library funding increases and decreases.

Narragansett's Maury Loontjens Memorial Library (NAR) realized a major decrease in municipal funding in FY21 that was restored in FY2022; the municipal funding restoration increased the library's state funding substantially, but the increase has resulted in decreased GIA funding from FY23 for some other public libraries based on the current library funding formula and lower than average or no increases in their municipal funding.

Ms. Mellor proposed an ad hoc committee to study the current public library GIA formula to determine its equitability. RI General Law [§ 29-6-2](#) provides GIA state funding equal to 25% of municipal library funding. A 2008 addition to the law states that an amount less than 25% of local expenditures and appropriations may be funded if the state budget does not allow for full 25% funding.

**Moved By:** Mr. Coutu

**Seconded By:** Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo

Temporary committee formation to study the current public library GIA formula was approved. Ms. Mellor, Ms. Page, Mr. Sloan, and Mr. Coutu will be seated on the committee. Kelly Metzger, OLIS State Data Coordinator, will provide data to the committee. The board will issue a committee charge.

## **IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

## **X. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2023, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., William Hall Library, at 1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905. Board members will be notified of date or venue changes.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved By:** Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo

**Seconded By:** Mr. Bucci

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

**LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on**  
**February 13, 2023**  
**at William Hall Library**  
**Program Room, Lower Level**  
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**Members Attending:** John Bucci, Aaron Coutu, Melody Drnach (Chair), Kenneth Findlay, Leslie Page

**Members Absent:** Heidi Blais, Cristina Amedeo, Annette Feldman, Louise Herrington, Rosita Hopper, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Marcus Mitchell, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Amanda Richman, Robert Sloan

**Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):** Karen Andrews, Nicolette Baffoni, Karen Mellor

**Guests:** None

**Materials Distributed:**

- LBRI Legislative Report February 2023
- State Program Report Year Review 2023-0213
- OLIS Annual Overview 2022

**I. WELCOME**

Ms. Drnach called the meeting to order at 4:22 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** from the January 09, 2023, meeting

The minutes were not approved because the board quorum requirement was not met.

**III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Ms. Drnach welcomed members.

**IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT**

**A. OLIS Updates**

**i. Staffing**

A job posting has been published to fill the position vacant position of Resource Sharing Coordinator.

**ii. Budget**

Governor McKee's proposed FY24 budget contains grant-in-aid (GIA) for public libraries fully funded at 25% of local expenditures. Narragansett's Maury Loontjens Memorial Library will receive an increase of over \$100,000 due to a 50% reduction in municipal funding in FY20; funding was restored to the previous level by a new town council elected in November 2020. Narragansett's substantial increase in municipal funding resulted in other communities with funding increases of less than 5.5% experiencing a decrease in GIA from FY23, when GIA was



funded at 25% by the General Assembly. The governor's [proposed state aid](#) to libraries is posted on the OLIS website.

The Governor's proposed budget also includes a 2% increase for AskRI to cover contractual increases and continue subscriptions to resources acquired in early 2020 including the Job and Career Accelerator and Tutor.com.

OLIS was funded at the current service level, including 13 full-time employees (FTE). The revised FY23 budget for OLIS increased delivery funding by \$57,000 to cover contractual costs.

### iii. Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants

The FY23/24 Library of RI (LORI) grant program will include non-competitive Summer Reading and discretionary LORI grants; discretionary grants will be \$5,000 to \$25,000. OLIS recently awarded FY23 LSTA Grants to States allocation from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) includes an increase of \$170,000, which will be used for discretionary grants.

The RI Department of Administration (DOA) implemented a [grants management system](#) in 2022. State agencies are currently transitioning to the new system through which all federally funded grants will be administered, including documentation and requests for payment. This system will replace the system developed in-house by OLIS during the pandemic. Ms. Baffoni will customize the state grant application for OLIS grants, with the objective of maintaining a streamlined and user-friendly application. OLIS will provide training on the new system to support libraries in their grant applications.

## B. Annual Review of OLIS Activities

Ms. Mellor reviewed the State Program Report submitted in January to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for October 2021 to September 2022, plus the 17-month American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) award. OLIS reported on \$3,464,009 including \$1,233,676 in Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) and \$2,230,333 in ARPA funds; the state funding match was \$1,724,848.

Ms. Baffoni reported that 83 professional development programs were attended by 872 librarians and staff in FY22. In FY21, 127 programs were provided with 1,412 attendees, and in FY20, 4,240 participants attended 141 programs.

LSTA Sub-Grants awarded included 124 ARPA grants totaling \$2,200,519, 43 Library of RI (LORI) Summer Reading grants totaling \$40,491, and \$36,449 in LORI grants. All grant data collection and application activities were managed through an online system.

The FY22 Summer Reading Program (SRP), 'Read Beyond the Beaten Path', saw a return to in-person programming with the result that attendance returned to pre-pandemic levels: 14,278 children and teens participated. In FY21 there were 9,364 participants, 7,529 in FY20, and 14,378 in FY19. OLIS provided the Beanstack Reading Tracker to all participating libraries.

The Talking Books Library (TBL) staff circulated 50,243 items to the blind and print disabled, provided support to 1,300 patrons, and managed 4,813 customer interactions.

The statewide delivery service delivered 1.5 million items to 150 LORI libraries.

## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Minimum Standards for RI Public Libraries

OLIS, with input from the board, is identifying information for review in addition to library waiver requests and reported staffing issues. Kelly Metzger, OLIS Data Coordinator, will serve as a resource to the committee. Committee members will be Ms. Drnach, Ms. Page, Mr. Bucci, and Mr. Coutu; Ms. Mellor will assemble other interested parties to include input from small, medium and large libraries.

### B. Ad Hoc Committee on State Aid to Libraries Funding Formula

The committee will study the state funding formula to assess equity and potential improvements.

## VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Federal & State Legislative Updates

Federal and State legislation about libraries is on the OLIS legislative [webpage](#).

#### i. Rhode Island Legislation (Mr. Coutu)

H5118 would have exempted municipal and school district employees with 10+ years of service from the greater of 50% or \$5,000 of real and tangible personal property taxes; the bill was withdrawn.

S0112 exempts municipal and school district employees with 10+ years of service from the greater of 50% or \$5,000 of real and tangible personal property taxes; referred to committee.

H5148 requires publishers to provide reasonable terms for eBook licenses to libraries and schools when a publisher offers eBooks and audiobooks to the RI public; referred to committee.

H5181 repeals the law allowing employers to pay certain employees under 19 years-of-age who are full time students less than minimum hourly wages and requires employers to pay employees the minimum wage; referred to committee.

H5159 requires installation of designated electric vehicle charge-capable parking spaces by specific entities in existing or new parking lots as of 1/1/2024; referred to committee.

H5266 permits all members of a public body aged 65+ years to participate in public meetings by telephone/electronic communication; scheduled for hearing on 2/7/2023

H5432 requires RI internet service providers to follow net neutrality requirements and provides penalties for state contractors engaging in deceptive trade practices; referred to committee.

#### ii. Federal Legislation (Ms. Mellor)

Ms. Mellor will attend back-to-back events in Washington DC in March, a Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) meeting on March 7, and the American Library Association (ALA) Congressional Fly-In event to advocate for libraries on March 8-9. The preliminary agenda for library advocacy includes increased funding for the Library Services and Technology Act, and \$20M for a nationwide library facilities survey as an initial step for securing federal funding for library construction.

The IMLS is convening a national Information Literacy Taskforce with federal agencies to to advance information literacy and develop resources for communities.

**VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

No board member reports.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**X. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2023, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., William Hall Library, at 1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905. Board members will be notified of date or venue changes.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

**LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on**  
**March 20, 2023**  
**at Cranston Public Library, Computer Lab**  
**1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02920**

**Members Attending:** Heidi Blais, John Bucci, Aaron Coutu, Melody Drnach (Chair), Rosita Hopper, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Leslie Page, Amanda Richman, Robert Sloan

**Members Absent:** Cristina Amedeo, Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Louise Herrington, Marcus Mitchell

**Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):** Karen Andrews, Nicolette Baffoni, Karen Mellor

**Guests:** None

**Materials Distributed:**

- LBRI Legislative Report March 2023
- Library Revenue by Source (sorted by State Aid) 2023-0320
- Municipal Total Operating Revenue-Source Percentage Breakdown 2023-0320
- Total Library Operating Revenue by Source 2023-0320

**I. WELCOME**

Ms. Drnach called the meeting to order at 4:18 pm

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** from the January 09, 2023, meeting

**Moved By:** Mr. Bucci

**Seconded By:** Mr. Coutu

The minutes were approved as presented.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** from the February 13, 2023, meeting

**Moved By:** Mr. Norris

**Seconded By:** Mr. Bucci

The minutes were approved as presented.

**III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Ms. Drnach welcomed members.

**IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT**

A. OLIS Updates

i. Staffing

OLIS completed the interview process for the Library Program Specialist (Resource Sharing Coordinator) position vacated by Chaichin Chen, and a candidate has been identified. The position is anticipated to be filled by May or early June.

ii. State Library Administrative Report

The biennial State Library Administrative Agency (SLAA) Survey was submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in February. The report collects data on OLIS programs and services in FY2022, such as continuing education and statewide databases. The data gathered is useful for state-by-state comparisons among state library administration agencies. OLIS will next complete the SLAA Survey in 2025.

iii. Library Staffing & Salary Report

OLIS has convened an ad hoc working group to explore additional questions on staffing and salaries for the Public Library Annual Survey (PLAS). OLIS already gathers salary information in the PLAS, however, librarians are interested in capturing additional information, such as longevity and education for non-professional positions, to better understand other factors that affect salaries in public libraries.

iv. Summer Reading Program (SRP) Grants

OLIS is soliciting requests for non-competitive Summer Reading Program (SRP) grants. Public libraries may request funds to support summer reading and learning initiatives. Libraries may request \$600 for youth programs, \$300 for branch youth programs, and \$300 for adult programs. Allowable expenditures include supplies, services, and presenters supporting SRP activities. Interested libraries will submit pre-grant request forms to OLIS for review and awarded grants will be administered through the State of RI's new Grants Management System (GMS).

v. Library of RI (LORI) Grants

OLIS will fund up to \$250,000 in competitive LORI grants for projects to be executed by September 30. The grant cycle will be announced this week for proposals ranging between \$5,000 - \$25,000. OLIS will create the grant application in the GMS. Board members interested in reviewing grant applications are requested to contact Ms. Mellor.

OLIS will now use the state's GMS for all grant applications and management of grants supported with Federal funds. The new GMS will allow OLIS staff and invited reviewers to review and score grant applications within the system. All grant documents including payment requests will be managed through the system, though certifying signatures will still be gathered through [DocuSign](#).

vi. Enterprise Technology Strategy & Services (ETSS) Changes

OLIS is part of ETSS in the RI Department of Administration. In a recent re-alignment of agency programs, the digital services team (3 FTE and 2 contractor positions) have been assigned to OLIS and will report to Ms. Mellor. The group's focus is website development

and digital government and will draw on OLIS' information science and management expertise. OLIS staff will continue their projects as usual, though Pablo Morales Henry and the OLIS network services team may assist the ETSS digital services team occasionally. The new positions will not impact OLIS' 13 full-time employee (FTE) status.

#### B. ALA Congressional Fly-In: Federal Funding for Libraries

Ms. Mellor attended back-to-back meetings in Washington DC this month: the Chief Officers of Library State Agencies (COSLA) meeting on March 7 and the American Library Association (ALA) invitation-only Congressional Fly-In on March 8-9. ALA and COSLA partnered on the event, which resulted in a total of 38 states sending representatives.

Congressional members were requested to increase Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) funding from \$311 million to \$332 million, increase the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) from \$30 million to \$50 million, and provide \$20 million for a nationwide library infrastructure survey that will support potential future efforts to secure federal funding for library construction.

#### C. Town Hall with Senator Jack Reed

Senator Reed will host two library meetings in Rhode Island on April 3.

The first meeting, which will be held at Providence Public Library (PPL), will showcase digital literacy programs led by PPL and hosted by libraries statewide; PPL's digital literacy program was supported with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Rhode Island will soon receive an influx of Federal funds for digital inclusion programs, including digital skills training and education through the [Digital Equity Act and the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program](#). To receive funds, each state must submit a broadband and digital equity plan; [RI Commerce](#) is drafting the RI state plan with input from the community.

An open town hall meeting will be held in the afternoon at the West Warwick Public Library where libraries will share success stories from projects funded with American Rescue Plan Act funds and discuss current library challenges. Information about the sessions will be posted on the OLIS website and a reminder email issued to public library directors.

#### D. Talking Books Library (TBL), Duplication on Demand Services

The National Library Service (NLS) currently distributes individual books on digital cartridges and by direct patron download through NLS' Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service. NLS is encouraging its network of regional libraries, such as TBL, to download books on demand for patrons and load multiple books on a single cartridge as opposed to a single book per cartridge. OLIS will implement this new method of book provision incrementally to certain patron groups to enable staff to work with the patrons and assist them in learning how to navigate cartridges with multiple titles. Certain patrons, such as those over 90 years old, will continue to receive cartridges with a single title to minimize confusion. In addition, NLS will soon begin distributing new machines with internet connectivity; currently patrons using NLS machines must download books via a computer and load them onto their machine. NLS is also working with Google and other providers on a voice-activated service for downloading books

on commercial devices. Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo inquired if Victor Readers would be a more efficient device to distribute to patrons. Ms. Mellor noted the Victor Reader is a commercial product; NLS provides its talking book machine to patrons at no cost.

TBL patronage is increasing slowly, following years of decreased participation due to the Covid-19 pandemic. 16 new patrons were added in February and 12 in March to date.

## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. [Minimum Standards for RI Public Libraries](#)

#### i. Waivers: Hours & Staffing

OLIS conducted a review of library waiver requests. The primary concerns OLIS hears about from libraries are open hours, staffing minimum requirements, and professional staffing requirements, though the total number of waivers requested and granted remains low (requests were received from 3 municipalities in FY22).

Libraries receiving state grant-in-aid (GIA) are required to meet the minimum standards for public libraries. Mr. Coutu reported that hiring is sometimes problematic due to municipal processes. Some libraries report staff loss due to pay inequality.

#### B. Ad Hoc Committee on State Aid to Libraries Funding Formula

Ms. Mellor reviewed library operating revenue by municipality broken down by local appropriations, state aid and total revenue, providing a breakdown of per capita revenue for each of the three categories (handouts provided). Local appropriations range from a low of \$5.26 per capita in Central Falls to a high of \$89.55 in Barrington; state aid, which is based on local appropriations and expenditures, ranges from a low of \$1.41 per capita in Central Falls to a high of \$19.78 in Jamestown. New Shoreham has disproportionately high per capita spending due to its low population year-round bolstered by a high summer population, with \$325.80 per capita in local appropriations and \$65.02 per capita in state aid. The statewide per capita average is \$46.25 for local appropriations and \$9.87 in state aid.

The board discussed disparities in statewide municipal library funding as well as disparities in library usage among populations within municipalities. Stephen Spohn, Executive Director, Ocean State Libraries (OSL), and Kelly Metzger, OLIS Data Coordinator, are currently studying patterns-of-library use. Mr. Spohn and Ms. Metzger will be invited to present at a future meeting.

## VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Federal & State Legislative Updates

Federal and State legislation about libraries may be found on the OLIS legislative [webpage](#).

#### i. Rhode Island Legislation

H5380 - Establishes June 19th as a state holiday, to be known as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day".

H6066 - Exempts employees of school, museum, or libraries from criminal prosecution for circulating obscene publications or shows and selling or exhibiting obscene publications to minors. The RI Library Association (RILA) supports this legislation.

H5739 - Requires that both curriculum and teaching practices in Rhode Island schools protect and respect the civil rights of all members of the school community. RILA opposes this bill.

H5756 - Prohibits the distribution, transfer, or possession of any material that depicts a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct and is obscene and lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value. RILA opposes this bill.

S0336 - Makes threats of mass violence and false reports of threats to educational, religious, social institutions or civic or fraternal associations a misdemeanor. Mr. Coutu anticipates this bill will also apply to libraries.

ii. Federal Legislation

Federal legislation was not discussed.

**VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

No board member reports.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**X. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2023, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. at William Hall Library, 1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905. Board members will be notified of date or venue changes.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved By:** Mr. Bucci

**Seconded By:** Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.



**LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND<sup>4</sup>**  
**The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on**  
**April 17, 2023**  
**at William Hall Library**  
**Program Room, Lower Level**  
**1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905**

**Members Attending:** John Bucci, Aaron Coutu, Kenneth Findlay, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Doug Norris, Leslie Page, Amanda Richman

**Members Absent:** Cristina Amedeo, Heidi Blais, Melody Drnach (Chair), Annette Feldman, Louise Herrington, Rosita Hopper, Marcus Mitchell, Robert Sloan

**Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):** Karen Andrews, Karen Mellor, Pablo Morales Henry

**Guests:** None

**Materials Distributed:**

- Legislative Report, April 2023
- Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) Update, April 17, 2023
- Library Budgets Compared to Municipal Budgets Draft, 2022-2023

**I. WELCOME**

Mr. Coutu called the meeting to order at 4:19 pm.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** from the March 30, 2023, meeting

**Moved By:** Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo

**Seconded By:** Ms. Richman

The minutes were approved as presented

**III. REPORT OF THE VICE-CHAIR (Mr. Coutu)**

[Registration](#) is open for the annual RI Library Association ([RILA](#)) Conference at Providence Public Library on May 24-25.

Keynote speakers are Emily Drabinski, Critical Pedagogy Librarian at the Graduate Center of City University of New York who will serve as the 2023-2024 president of the American Library Association (ALA), and Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Director of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom to Read Foundation.

**IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT**

**A. Staffing**

Ms. Baffoni is attending the Maryland Library Futures Conference in Baltimore this week with Ms. Goodman, Adult Services Coordinator, and Ms. Watts, Digital Resources Coordinator.

The Resource Sharing Coordinator position vacated in December by Chaichin Chen is filled. The new staff member starts April 24; an announcement will be posted on the OLIS website.

## **B. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) accepted OLIS' annual State Program Report with requested corrections completed by Ms. Baffoni. IMLS will conduct an onsite review of OLIS in July, which occurs once every five years; Ms. Baffoni will coordinate the visit to include OLIS staff interviews and library visits.

## **C. Grants**

### **i. Summer Reading Program (SRP) Formula Grants**

The SRP grant application period closed March 20; 10 libraries did not apply for funding. Mr. Norris inquired if the grant deadline is flexible for libraries that had initially not applied. Ms. Mellor shared that OLIS had contacted the libraries that had not submitted applications, with the result that 2 libraries did submit applications; if other libraries missed the deadline or had challenges with the new system and are interested in applying, they should contact Ms. Mellor.

Ms. Page and Mr. Coutu advised the new state Grants Management System (GMS) is not especially user-friendly or intuitive, and municipal issues may be a factor for libraries not applying for grants. Ms. Mellor shared that some libraries declined grants because they lack staff to administer a grant or do not need funds. OLIS staff is available to assist libraries with the GMS; Ms. Baffoni can provide a 'to-do' list on request. GMS portal use is now required by the State of Rhode Island for entities applying for federally funded grants administered by the State.

### **ii. Library of RI (LORI) Competitive Grants**

The competitive LORI grant program application period closes on May 1 for projects ranging between \$5,000 - \$25,000. Projects must be completed by September 30. OLIS will award up to \$250,000 in subawards utilizing federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding.

Mr. Norris and Ms. Richman volunteered to review grants. Grant review is not open to members working in applicant libraries or seated on their boards. Contact Ms. Mellor to participate in the grant review process.

## **D. Senator Jack Reed Town Hall Sessions, April 3, 2023**

OLIS hosted Senator Reed and the RI Commerce Corporation (Commerce RI) at a closed session, 'Advancing Digital Equity and Digital Inclusion', in the morning at Providence Public Library (PPL). The session showcased digital literacy programs led by PPL with funding from OLIS through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Commerce RI will manage RI's share of broadband and digital equity funding from the [Digital Equity Act and the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment](#) programs. Representatives from Cranston Public Library, Community

Libraries of Providence, Pawtucket Public Library, and Cross' Mills Public Library also discussed the impact of hosting digital literacy programs conducted by PPL staff.

An open session was held in the afternoon at West Warwick Public Library where libraries presented ARPA-funded projects. West Warwick librarians discussed their partnership with mental health agencies and the Health Equity Zone in a project to address community mental health along with the use of 'Privacy Pods' to provide private meeting spaces. Tien Tran, Exeter Public Library Director, discussed collection and resource development for homeschoolers. Stephanie Mills from Cranston's Park View Middle School discussed a project to replace unreturned books from the pandemic and develop a collection based on input from the school community. Warwick Public Library's Deputy Director, Ellen O'Brien, discussed a mobile outreach project to disadvantaged communities. Ms. Page discussed the 'Charlie Cart' project implemented at Woonsocket Public Library to provide nutritious food instruction and preparation demonstrations to the community, which was similar to an ARPA-funded program at East Providence. The Hope Library discussed business entrepreneurship through partnership with the local Chamber of Commerce.

#### **E. Library Directors Meeting, April 13, 2023**

A representative from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center discussed suicide prevention and providing literature and training resources to libraries. OLIS is working with the RI Department of Health (DOH) to place [Sharps](#) disposal containers in public libraries.

#### **F. Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), Mr. Morales Henry**

Mr. Morales Henry summarized progress to date on the implementation of a Rhode Island DPLA hub and reviewed DPLA requirements. In 2018, Brown University Library initiated the project with a community meeting, and then worked with OLIS and Providence Public Library to convene other meetings, establish workgroups, and conduct a digital collection survey. In 2022, with OLIS leading the partners, a community DPLA meeting and online survey of digital collections were conducted to update the 2018 work. Following the survey, individual digital collections were assessed in meetings with potential contributors.

The team has identified over 50,000 digital records, which is the minimum number of records to establish a hub. OLIS met with DPLA staff about the application submission process and data requirements. Next steps will be to finalize the application, develop and execute Memoranda of Agreement with participating libraries, complete all necessary system tests on the technology stack, and submit the application. The target date for submitting the application is the end of June; RI's anticipated hub launch is December 2023. A future phase of the project will determine and identify funding necessary to assist libraries with the process of digitizing materials.

Ms. Mellor noted OLIS' focus on funding digitization projects, working with library organizations, and reaching out to all RI institutions to ensure project inclusivity.

## **G. Kids' Reading Across RI (KRARI) Kickoff Event**

The Summer Reading Program [kickoff](#) is May 13, 2023, from 2-4 pm at the RI State House. Dan Santat, author of *The Aquanaut*, RI's 'One Book, One State' 2023 selection, is the featured speaker and will be available to sign books during the event. Attendees can participate in activities offered by RI libraries and organizations. Free parking is available in state parking lots on Capitol Hill.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Ad Hoc Committee on State Aid to Libraries Funding Formula: Data Presentation**

Ms. Mellor reviewed a preliminary statewide analysis identifying the percentage of public library funding as part of each municipality's total budget. The analysis excluded school funding, which often makes up more than half of a municipality's budget. In 2020, public library funding ranged from a high of 7% to a low of 0.78% of a municipality's budget; the average was 3%. It was recommended that OLIS explore an equalization factor for funding that will help distressed and economically challenged communities without substantial impact to other communities. The draft analysis will be reviewed and revised to include missing and further exploring the presented data for accuracy and completeness.

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Federal & State Legislative Updates**

Federal and State legislation about libraries may be found on the OLIS legislative [webpage](#).

#### **i. Rhode Island Legislation**

Mr. Coutu reported most library House bills now have Senate companion bills and are referred for further study. Mr. Coutu acknowledged the RI Department of Education (RIDE) for providing testimony on bills referencing eBook pricing. Ms. Mellor noted RILA is tracking legislation; specifically, eBook pricing and library staff protection.

#### **ii. Federal Legislation**

No federal legislation discussed.

## **VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

### **A. Ms. Richman**

Ms. Richman provided an update on the status of RI medical librarianship. Care New England recently closed their library, and Butler & Kent Hospitals eliminated library positions, leaving Ms. Richman as the last medical librarian serving RI. Most RI medical practitioners do not have medical library access. Care New England hospitals are Butler, Kent, and Woman & Infants, with Brown University providing medical library access to affiliated physicians of those hospitals. Lifespan hospitals are Rhode Island, Miriam, Newport, and Bradley.

The RI Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries is seeking advocates. When contacted, the National Library of Medicine advised medical librarian advocacy is not within their scope. Ms. Richman will reach out to the North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries and

Brown University for support. Mr. Coutu requested information for potential RILA advocacy and recommended potential advocate organizations. Ms. Mellor will revisit the issue with Ms. Richman.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**X. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2023, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., William Hall Library, at 1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905. Board members will be notified of date or venue changes.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved By:** Mr. Norris

**Seconded By:** Mr. Findlay

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

**LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND<sup>4</sup>**  
**The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on**  
**May 15, 2023**  
**at William Hall Library**  
**Program Room, Lower Level**  
**1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905**

**Members Attending:** John Bucci, Aaron Coutu, Kenneth Findlay, Doug Norris, Leslie Page, Robert Sloan

**Members Absent:** Cristina Amedeo, Heidi Blais, Melody Drnach (Chair), Annette Feldman, Louise Herrington, Rosita Hopper, Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Marcus Mitchell, Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Amanda Richman

**Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):** Karen Andrews, Nicolette Baffoni, Karen Mellor

**Guests:** None

**Materials Distributed:**

- May 2023 Legislative Report

**I. WELCOME**

Mr. Coutu called the meeting to order at 4:18 pm.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** from the April 17, 2023, meeting

**MOVED:** Mr. Morris

**SECONDED:** Mr. Findlay

The minutes were approved as presented.

**III. REPORT OF THE INTERIM VICE-CHAIR (Mr. Coutu)**

Mr. Coutu welcomed members.

**IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT**

Ms. Mellor thanked Mr. Coutu for chairing the meeting in Ms. Drnach's absence. Dr. Hopper, Vice-Chair, has retired from Johnson & Wales University and the Board.

**A. OLIS Updates**

**i. LBRI Board Appointments**

Board member recommendations were submitted to the Department of Administration; Governor McKee will recommend candidates for appointment, with the advice and consent of the Senate. Ms. Mellor extended gratitude to all members for their service, dedication, and consistent attendance.

ii. Staffing:

Lori DeCesare was hired to fill the vacated Resource Sharing Coordinator position. Ms. DeCesare has a long library service history including positions at Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library in Burrillville, Ocean State Libraries (OSL), and the Community College of RI (CCRI). Ms. DeCesare will supervise resource sharing activities, including coordinating statewide delivery and the Resource Sharing Working Group.

iii. Koha & Aspen Discovery, New Ocean State Libraries Catalog Transition

Mr. Coutu described the new statewide catalog transition. Koha, an open-source integrated library system (ILS), will replace the current catalog, Innovative Interfaces Sierra. Koha is the ILS, with technical support provided by Bywater, and Aspen Discovery integrates resources such as AskRI databases and eBooks (“eZone”) into the catalog, making all resources discoverable through a single portal. The platform is reminiscent of user-friendly platforms such as Amazon or the current catalog’s Encore module so should be utilized easily by patrons and provide a fairly seamless transition for users. The current catalog will be taken offline at day’s end on May 17 and the new one will go live on May 22; patrons with proper ID may still check out materials during the weekend when the catalog is offline. Statewide delivery will be suspended for public libraries May 18-19 to ease the volume of materials that need to be checked in when the new system goes live.

iv. Kids’ Reading Across RI (KRARI)

The Summer Reading Program (SRP) kickoff was May 13, 2023, from 2-4 pm at the RI State House; approximately 125 individuals attended this in-person event for the first time since 2019. Dan Santat, author of *The Aquanaut*, RI’s ‘One Book, One State’ 2023 selection, was the featured speaker. Secretary of State, Gregg M. Amore attended the event, and Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos' Office delivered a citation for Mr. Santat. Public libraries will receive a total of \$40,000 in SRP grants to support reading and learning programs that will start once school recesses for the summer.

v. Broadband Summit

Ms. Mellor will attend the ‘Internet for All: ConnectRI Broadband Summit’ sponsored by CommerceRI at the Community College of RI in Newport on June 1. The summit will focus on how the state will use federal funds to implement high-speed internet service and digital skills training to ensure digital equity.

vi. Institute of Museum and Library Services Information Literacy Convenings

The Institute of Museum and Library Services’ Informational Literacy Taskforce will hold two information literacy convenings to develop a strategy for ensuring people have the necessary digital literacy skills to safely and effectively navigate the internet. The first event is at Providence Public Library June 1-2 and the second takes place June 15-16 in Jersey City, New Jersey. Ms. Mellor will attend the Jersey City event because of the conflict with the June 1 Broadband Summit.

## B. Grants

### i. Library of RI (LORI) Competitive Grants

Ms. Mellor extended her gratitude to Mr. Norris, and staff from Ocean State Libraries, RI Center for the Book, and Brown University for reviewing grant applications. OLIS received 20 grant applications totaling \$325,000; funding up to \$275,000 was available. Awards were made for 15 projects totaling \$260,000; library award notification is in-process. Libraries not receiving grants will be offered a project review to assist them in developing a more robust proposal that might be fundable in a future grant cycle.

The new state Grant Management System (GMS) is working well for payment processing. GMS use is state mandated for all federally funded grant programs.

## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Ad Hoc Committee on State Aid to Libraries Funding Formula

A new committee will be formed this summer to determine if the current grant-in-aid funding formula can be equalized. Ms. Mellor provided statistics for municipal library funding at the last meeting.

## VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Federal & State Legislative Updates

Federal and State legislation about libraries may be found on the OLIS legislative [webpage](#).

#### i. Rhode Island Legislation (Mr. Coutu)

RI legislative bills were reviewed, and a decision made to draft letters of testimony opposing some bills and supporting American Library Association (ALA) values. Mr. Coutu will draft the letters of testimony.

##### a. Intellectual Freedom Challenges: Review of State Legislation (H 6066, H 6324)

House Bill No. [6066](#), An Act Relating To Criminal Offenses - Obscene and Objectionable Publications and Shows, sponsored by Representatives Morales, Sanchez, Potter, Giraldo, and Felix, was held for further study on March 16, 2023.

The bill establishes, as an affirmative defense to the crimes of circulating obscene publications or shows and selling or exhibiting obscene publications to minors, the person's employment status as an employee of a school, museum, or library.

House Bill No. [6324](#), An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Obscene and Objectionable Publications and Shows, sponsored by Representatives Azzinaro, Fellela, Corvese, Serpa, Costantino, P. Morgan, Lima, and Cardillo, was referred to the House Judiciary on April 26, 2023.

The bill adds cartoons, drawings, comic books, prints, depictions or animations to the list of media that would be prohibited from being sold or available to those persons under the age of 18 years.



**MOVED:** Mr. Findlay

**SECONDED:** Ms. Page

Mr. Coutu will draft a LBRI letter of testimony opposing H 6006 and H 6324.

b. eBook Pricing: Review of State Legislation (S 498, H 5148)

Senate Bill No. [498](#), An Act Relating to Commercial Law-General Regulatory Provisions-Electronic Book Licenses to Libraries and Schools, sponsored by Senators Gu, Gallo, Mack, Lawson, Valverde, and Lauria, was referred to the Senate Education Committee on March 7, 2023.

The bill requires publishers to provide electronic book licenses to libraries and schools on reasonable terms, when a publisher offers to license electronic books and digital audiobooks to the public in Rhode Island.

House Bill No. [5148](#), An Act Relating to Commercial Law-General Regulatory Provisions-Electronic Book Licenses to Libraries and Schools, sponsored by Representatives Carson, Cortvriend, Solomon, Caldwell, Speakman, Morales, and Fogarty, was held for further study on March 2, 2023.

The bill requires publishers to provide electronic book licenses to libraries and schools on reasonable terms, when a publisher offers to license electronic books and digital audiobooks to the public in Rhode Island.

**MOVED:** Mr. Findlay

**SECONDED:** Ms. Page

Mr. Coutu will draft a LBRI letter of testimony supporting S 498 and H 5148.

ii. Federal Legislation

Federal library legislation was not discussed.

**VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

No member reports.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**X. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2023, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., William Hall Library, at 1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905. Board members will be notified of date or venue changes.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED:** Mr. Findlay

**SECONDED:** Mr. Bucci

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

**LIBRARY BOARD OF RHODE ISLAND<sup>4</sup>**  
**The regular meeting of the Library Board of Rhode Island was held on**  
**June 12, 2023**  
**at William Hall Library**  
**Program Room, Lower Level**  
**1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905**

**Members Attending:** John Bucci, Aaron Coutu, Melody Drnach (Chair), Phyllis Lynch (ex officio), Monica Nazareth-Dzialo, Leslie Page, Robert Sloan

**Members Absent:** Cristina Amedeo, Heidi Blais, Annette Feldman, Kenneth Findlay, Louise Herrington, Rosita Hopper, Marcus Mitchell, Doug Norris, Amanda Richman

**Present from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS):** Karen Andrews and Karen Mellor

**Guests:** Walter Dzialo

**Materials Distributed:**

- Proposed Meeting Schedule 2023-2024
- LBRI Legislative Report, June 2023
- LBRI Letter of Testimony Draft – H6066
- LBRI Letter of Testimony Draft – H5148/S0498

**I. WELCOME**

Ms. Drnach called the meeting to order at 4:20 pm.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** from the May 15, 2023, meeting

**Moved By:** Mr. Bucci

**Seconded By:** Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo

The minutes were approved with a change to Section VI, Item A.i.b., ‘Mr. Coutu will draft a LBRI letter of testimony *supporting* S0498 and H5148.’

**III. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Ms. Drnach expressed gratitude to past and current members for their board commitment.

**IV. CHIEF OF LIBRARY SERVICES REPORT**

A. OLIS Updates

i. Board Appointments

A Senate Education Committee hearing was held on June 7 and attended by Ms. Mellor and 5 of the 8 appointees named by Governor McKee. Senator Mark McKenney, former LBRI Chair, spoke in support of recommended LBRI appointees. The committee approved all 8 appointees and will send the names to the full RI Senate for confirmation on June 13.

Reappointments and appointments for expiring members will be made during the 2024 legislative session. Ms. Drnach will continue to serve until a new Chair and General Library User is appointed next year. Ms. Mellor extended thanks to Mr. Coutu for serving as Vice-Chair in Ms. Drnach's absence. The new board will be oriented this summer.

1. Public Schools: Michelle Steever, Librarian, Jamestown Schools, replaces Heidi Blais, Librarian, Cranston East High School
2. Academic Institutions: Laura Kohl, Director of Library Services, Bryant University, replaces Rosita Hopper, retired Dean of Libraries, Johnson & Wales University
3. Small Public Libraries: Tien Tran, Director, Exeter Public Library; replaces Annette Feldman, Director, Louttit Library, West Greenwich
4. Large & Medium Public Libraries: Cheryl Space, Director, Community Libraries of Providence; replaces John Bucci, retired, Cranston Public Library
5. Public Library Trustees: Christopher LaRoux, Trustee, East Providence Public Library, replaces Robert Sloan, Jr., former Trustee, East Greenwich Public Library
6. Corporate or Special Libraries: Kate Wodehouse, Director, Providence Atheneum Library, replaces Amanda Richman, Systems Librarian, Lifespan
7. General Library User: Jessica David, Co-Owner/President, Good Worth Working for LLC, replaces Cristina Amedeo, Director, United Way 2-1-1
8. General Library User: Karisa Tashjian, Director of Programs, Digitunity/National Cristina Foundation, replaces Marcus Mitchell

ii. State Budget

In the FY24 budget passed by the House, OLIS is funded at the current service level of 13 full-time employees (FTE) with a small increase for delivery services. State grant-in-aid (GIA) was funded at 25% of municipal and library endowment expenditures. The statewide reference resource center (SRRC) was increased by 2%. GIA for state institution libraries at the Adult Correctional Institution (ACI) and the RI School for the Deaf was increased by 14%. The state budget will be heard by the Senate on Thursday (June 15) and following approval, sent to the governor's desk for signature.

iii. New OLIS Website

OLIS' updated website will launch next week. Mr. Morales Henry leads the OLIS web team and has added new features to the website. The site was redesigned to utilize the state's new content management system and the template for all RI government websites. The new design improves the user experience across all devices and includes a new searchable document center developed by Mr. Morales Henry. Ms. Mellor currently oversees the state's Enterprise Technology Strategy & Services (ETSS) digital services section which developed and supports the new web content management system.

## B. Summer Planning

### i. Continuing Education (CE)

OLIS recently conducted a continuing education (CE) survey to assess professional development needs for the library community. Survey results will inform upcoming CE offerings. OLIS currently partners with Niche Academy to offer asynchronous online training from a variety of sources; OLIS also offers live online and in-person sessions. Needs identified include library management training specific to budgeting and policy development. Sequential multi-part training on a variety of topics, strategic planning, and new content for Niche Academy are planned.

### ii. Field Service Team Library Visits

OLIS staff will make visits to all public libraries this summer as the Field Service Team resumes onsite service. Team members will visit with directors to learn more about the programs, successes, and challenges of public libraries, while highlighting certain OLIS programs such as CE and the Talking Books Library. In addition, team members will highlight the importance of clear policies and procedures to manage any intellectual freedom or other service or program challenges.

### iii. Public Library Annual Survey & Library of RI (LOR) Certification

The Public Library Annual Survey (PLAS) and Library of RI (LORI) resource sharing certification open July 17. The submission deadline for the PLAS is September 15; LORI Certification is due on September 15 for public, academic, and special libraries and September 29 for school libraries. The technology scan portion of the LORI certification survey was removed this year for revisions that will make gathered data more easily searched and disseminated.

### iv. Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS) Five-Year Visit

A representative from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) will visit OLIS on July 18-20 for a standard five-year review of the use of Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds. An IMLS program officer will meet with OLIS staff and tour libraries as part of the visit.

### v. Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)

Rhode Island's Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) hub application submission is scheduled for this summer and the hub launch is anticipated at year-end. OLIS will develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for libraries contributing to the hub. The Brown University Library is hosting the data aggregation tool for the collections being assembled.

## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Letters on Pending Legislation (Mr. Coutu)

Mr. Coutu reviewed LBRI Letters of Testimony drafts for H6066, H6324, H5148, and S0498. The legislative session ends this week, and no further action is expected on these bills.

#### i. Intellectual Freedom Challenges:

House Bill No. [6066](#): An Act Relating To Criminal Offenses - Obscene and Objectionable Publications and Shows, establishes, as an affirmative defense to the crimes of circulating obscene publications or shows and selling or exhibiting obscene publications to minors, the person's employment status as an employee of a school, museum, or library. Held for further study.

House Bill No. [6324](#): An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Obscene and Objectionable Publications and Shows, adds cartoons, drawings, comic books, prints, depictions or animations to the list of media that would be prohibited from being sold or available to those persons under the age of 18 years. Introduced, no action.

ii. eBook Pricing: S [0498](#) and H [5148](#)

House Bill No. [5148](#): An Act Relating to Commercial Law-General Regulatory Provisions-Electronic Book Licenses to Libraries and Schools, requires publishers to provide electronic book licenses to libraries and schools on reasonable terms, when a publisher offers to license electronic books and digital audiobooks to the public in Rhode Island. Held for further study.

Senate Bill No. [0498](#): An Act Relating to Commercial Law-General Regulatory Provisions-Electronic Book Licenses to Libraries and Schools, requires publishers to provide electronic book licenses to libraries and schools on reasonable terms, when a publisher offers to license electronic books and digital audiobooks to the public in Rhode Island. Held for further study.

While no new testimony is being heard on the bills, Mr. Couto will draft letters of testimony for the bills noted above as most will be reintroduced next session. Members should contact Mr. Couto with comments; the letters will be emailed to the board for consideration at the September meeting. The board discussed the recent book challenge outcome at Westerly High School Library.

B. Ad Hoc Committee on State Aid to Libraries Funding Formula

Ms. Mellor extended an invitation to remaining and departing board members to join future LBRI meetings and committees and participate in grant application reviews.

C. [Minimum Standards for RI Public Libraries](#)

No new information to report. Committee actions will resume in the fall.

## VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Federal & State Legislative Updates

Federal and State legislation about libraries may be found on the OLIS legislative [webpage](#).

i. Rhode Island Legislation (Mr. Couto)

Mr. Couto noted that the following bills were scheduled for their final hearings this week and most likely would be passed and signed into law during the 2023 session:

S0444 & H5380 established June 19 (Juneteenth National Freedom Day) as an official state holiday.

S0494 and H5671 repeal the requirement that a physical copy of the local school committee policy manual be maintained in the public library, school library, and administrative buildings, and available on school websites.

ii. Federal Legislation

No federal legislation discussed.

**VII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

No board member reports.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**X. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next LBRI meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2023, from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m., William Hall Library, at 1825 Broad Street, Cranston, RI 02905. Board members will be notified of any date or venue changes.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved By:** Mr. Bucci

**Seconded By:** Ms. Nazareth-Dzialo

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.