

\*\*\* DRAFT \*\*\*

MHLS Directors' Association  
Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Attendance

Columbia County

Chatham:  
Claverack: Alderdice  
Germantown:  
Hillsdale: Briggs  
Hudson: Fleming  
Kinderhook: Johnson  
Livingston:  
New Lebanon:  
North Chatham:  
Philmont: Garafalo  
Valatie: Powhida

Dutchess County

Amenia:  
Beacon: Keaton  
Beekman: Rodriguez  
Clinton: Sennett  
Dover Plains:  
East Fishkill: Goverman  
Fishkill: Spann  
Hyde Park: Callahan  
LaGrange: Karim  
Millbrook: Rogers  
Millerton: Leo  
Pawling: Jarzombek  
Pine Plains:  
Pleasant Valley: Pulice  
Poughkeepsie: Lawrence  
Red Hook:  
Rhinebeck: Cook  
Rhinecliff: Meyer  
Staatsburg: Rothman  
Stanford: Christensen  
Tivoli:  
Wappingers: Gonzalez

Greene County

Athens:  
Cairo:  
Catskill:  
Coxsackie: Deubert  
Greenville:  
Haines Falls:  
Hunter:  
Windham:

MHLS Staff

Nyerges  
Advocate  
Shedrick  
Aldrich

Putnam County

Brewster:  
Carmel: Buck  
Cold Spring:  
Garrison:  
Kent: Rees  
Mahopac: Kaufman  
Patterson: Haar  
Putnam Valley: McLaughlin

Ulster County

Esopus: Tomaseski  
Highland: Kelsall-Dempsey  
Hurley: Pause  
Kingston: Menard  
Marlboro: Cosgrove  
Milton: Coccio  
New Paltz: Giralico  
Phoenicia:  
Pine Hill: Certain  
Plattekill:  
Rosendale:  
Saugerties: Goswami  
Stone Ridge:  
Ulster: Johnson  
West Hurley: Lustiber  
Olive-West Shokan:  
Woodstock: Raff

-----  
**Call to Order:** Chair Kelsall called the meeting order at 10:03 a.m.

Action Items

1. **Approval of Minutes – April 5, 2011:** Alderdice moved, Cook seconded and it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented.
2. **Approval of Free Direct Access Plan:** Rodriguez moved, Karim seconded to approve the revised Free Direct Access Plan as presented. After discussion, Fleming moved, Tomaseski seconded and it was **VOTED (40-0-1; Giralico abstaining)** to amend the revised draft as follows:
  - a. to strike *“or from areas that provide inadequate public support”* from page 4, second paragraph, first sentence
  - b. to insert after the first sentence of **Restrictions to Direct Access** (page 4) a new sentence that reads *“Sources of local funds may include public and private dollars specific to a County or taxing district”*

Upon approval of the amendments, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** to approve the revised document.

Reports

1. **MHLS Reports**

- a. **Executive Director:** Nyerges reviewed his printed report distributed prior to the meeting. Other information shared included:
  - i. Mathew Perry of the Philmont Library will be appointed to the MHLS Board of Trustees to replace Steven Benson, who resigned.
- b. **Consultants**
  - i. **Merribeth Advocate:** See report in DA packet. Other information shared included:
    1. Thank you to the Ulster County library directors for providing refreshments for today’s meeting.
    2. The Millbrook Book Festival is scheduled for May 14, with all of the events happening in the Millbrook Free Library.
  - ii. **Rebekkah Smith Aldrich:** See report in DA packet. Other information shared has been sent to the DA list serv and is attached to these minutes.
  - iii. **Laurie Shedrick:** See report in DA packet.

2. **MHLS Board Liaison:** As there has not been an MHLS Board of Trustees meeting since the last DA meeting, there is no report.
3. **Advisory Committees**
  - a. Central Library/Collection Development: Committee Chair Menard reviewed the activity of the Committee. Written minutes will be posted shortly.
  - b. Continuing Education/Professional Development: Meeting scheduled for May 12.
  - c. Marketing: Meeting scheduled for June 7.
  - d. Resource Sharing: Meeting scheduled for May 9.
  - e. System Services Advisory Committee: Meeting scheduled for June 21.
  - f. Free Direct Access Committee: No report.

**Old Business:** None.

**New/Proposed Business & Information**

1. **2012 – 2016 Plan of Service:** Breakout groups reviewed the results of the planning process focus group activity.

**Adjournment:** At 11:59 a.m., Cook moved, Tomaseski seconded, and it was **VOTED** to adjourn the meeting.

The next meeting of the MHLS Directors' Association is scheduled for Thursday, June 2 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Tom Lawrence, Secretary  
Poughkeepsie Public Library District

**Future Meeting Dates**

Friday, July 8  
Monday, August 1 (subject to cancellation)  
Thursday, September 8  
Monday, October 3  
Wednesday, November 9  
Friday, December 2

**Rebekkah Smith Aldrich**  
**Supplemental DA Packet Report: May 3, 2011**

**2011-2012 Budget**

- Final Amount in Budget: \$79 million in Library Aid
  - \$3 million restoration came out of the Senate, Assembly would not negotiate
- Article VII
  - System Supplemental Aid made permanent
  - Education Commissioner granted ability to give maintenance of effort waivers
- School Library Material Aid (\$19 million)
  - Avoided absorption into general school budgets as Governor had proposed
  - Textbook & Software Aid opened up for use in School Libraries
- 2012-2013
  - Governor has already proposed a 10% cut (\$76 million)
  - Unclear if next year we will start at \$76 million or this year's agreed upon \$79 million
  - Goal = full funding = \$102 million

**Legislative Relations**

- Senate:
  - Republican control of the Senate has been good for libraries.
  - Without Senate help there would have been no restoration of the Governor's proposed cut to library aid.
  - Key Senators: **Seward**, Flanagan and Farley
- Assembly:
  - Their lack of support for the restoration of library aid will not be reflected in the PAC Voter Guide since they voted for the overall budget (which included the \$3 million restoration for libraries.)

**Legislative Priorities**

- Updated list attached, new to the list:
  - **NYS Comprehensive Information System** The bill (S.3297 DeFrancisco/A.4997 Russell) would authorize the state library to coordinate the bulk purchase of electronic resources like databases for state agencies, libraries and other governmental entities that would save the state and local government's money.
  - **State Library Hours of Operation** This bill (A.6839 Nolan) would require the state library to be open at least five days a week but give the Board of Regents flexibility on which days to be open.
  - **SUNY/CUNY Procurement Flexibility for Electronic Resources** This bill would expand the flexibility recently provided to SUNY/CUNY to purchase products like books to also include electronic resources like online research databases, which are a growing component of academic library collections.
- **Association Libraries & the NYS Retirement System:** NYLA will be providing a template for local legislation that can be used library-by-library to gain entry for association library employees into the NYS Retirement System. State level legislation isn't moving.
- **MTA Tax Exemption:** NYLA will be proposing legislation that would model the school district exemption from paying the MTA Payroll Tax for libraries. Likely to be introduced next session.

**Tax Cap Update**

- NYLA has met with the author of the current legislation in the Governor's office.
  - They are open to clarifying language that specifies library district caps are separate from the tax collection entity caps (municipality, school district)
  - General feeling is that this legislation, with minor adjustments (see above), will pass by the end of session (June 23/24)
- Mandate Relief: Prediction is that "mandate relief" will not be tied to tax cap legislation this year. Feeling is that the tax cap legislation is being used to drive a mandate relief discussion for next year.
  - Schools and municipalities will be seeking to exempt health insurance, pensions and even salaries from the cap

**Voting Machines**

- NYLA is meeting with the bi-partisan leaders of the State Board of Elections to get clarification for libraries in writing.
- Special District Public Libraries: may conduct their votes as they have in the past
- School District Public Libraries: will follow the school district in providing optical voting machines starting at the end of 2012 if not before