

System Services Advisory Committee

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 | 10:00 – 11:30am | Online

Committee Members Attending:

Columbia County

Matthew Pavloff (Kinderhook) ('27)
 Thea Schoep (Claverack) ('25)

Dutchess County

Carol Fortier (Beekman) ('25)
 Mary De Bellis (LaGrange) ('27)

Greene County

Catherine Benson (Coxsackie) ('27)
 Christopher Leary ('25)

Putnam County

Michele Capozzella (Mahopac) ('27)
 Johanna Reinhardt (Cold Spring) ('25)

Ulster County

Julie Dempsey (Highland) ('27)
 Margie Menard (Kingston) ('25)

MHLS Staff

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich
 Laurie Shedrick

1. **Minutes from the January 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved.**

It was noted that since the last meeting Thea and Catherine traded dates for serving as the SSAC liaison to the MHLS Board Meetings.

2. All member libraries have signed the Memo of Understanding. A fully executed copy will be sent back to each member library. Rebekkah Smith Aldrich shared appreciation for the committees help in getting the MOU out to the counties, approved and signed.

3. Path to Membership Joint Committee (C. Fortier/M. Pavloff/T. Schoep): **A motion to send the Path to Membership proposal to the DA for approval was made by Catherine Benson, Second by Mary De Bellis. Unanimous approval.**

4. State Budget Report (R. Aldrich):

Final budget included a \$4 million increase to library operating aid line in the state budget. This increase is the first time the Governor, Senate and Assembly all agreed more was necessary. However, appreciated, it's still behind what is needed for operations and not in compliance with Education Law.

Construction aid is approximately 30% more than last year.

\$500,000 – Dolly Parton Imagination Library – a matching grant program up to \$50,000/library- which underwrites books being mailed to families with children under the age of 5. **The committee came to consensus that MHLS is not the appropriate agency to organize a grant application for this new program or spearhead member participation in the Dolly Parton Imagination library.**

\$3,000,000 for NOVEL NY for another year. The State Library has formed an advisory committee to shape the NOVELNY collection moving forward.

5. 2025 Assessment: After a lengthy discussion between library directors and MHLS staff, **Christopher Leary made a motion, seconded by Carol Fortier to recommend a 20% increase from member libraries to MHLS for the annual assessments. It passed unanimously.**

Each member of the SSAC has agreed to take the responsibility of sharing the motion and to explain the justification behind the recommendation and additionally explain the impact on member libraries and the system with their county peers.

6. MHLS

- a. III Contract Negotiations (Laurie Shedrick):

There will be no increase for the first year, and a 2% increase per year each year thereafter for a total of 5 years. The new contract includes all content and software we currently have. Cost for annual essentials bundle: \$205,500

Motion by Mary De Bellis and second by Thea Schoep to move forward with support for III, unanimously endorsed.

- b. Delivery Stop Review (Rebekkah Smith Aldrich): Due to our negotiations to extend our current contract with Valley Courier for the next 18 months there will be no adjustment to the current schedule of delivery stops in 2024-2025. That being said, a review of delivery trends indicates that close to a third of member libraries are experiencing decreases in physical delivery to their locations which would normally result in a reduction in the number of stops. MHLS staff will propose a revised delivery schedule as part of the RFP process to ensure we are not overpaying for delivery which will likely result in a reduction in the number of delivery stops with the start of a new contract.

- c. The Town of Union Vale (Rebekkah Smith Aldrich): We have had no communication from the town supervisor since March 12. We have had no communication from the library board in 2024. One of their trustees came to the last MHLS Board meeting but declined to make a comment during the meeting. We understand from their web site that a new director has been hired. Currently physical services are listed on their web site as available "by appointment" with the exception of open hours from 12-3pm on Saturdays.

- d. Road Trip Exploratory Committee: This committee has not met yet but will soon.

7. Zoom Poll: This worked well for a vote with no contentions. It lets you know the number of people who voted for yes, no, abstain. It does not tell you who voted which way, so we may still need to do a call to tally.

8. Adjournment at 11:35 am.

Next SSAC meeting: October 2024