

Minutes of the Allegany County Director's Meeting

Sept. 12, 2023

Whitesville Public Library

In attendance: Roxanne Baker-Fillmore, Melanie Miller-Alfred, Sheila Weaver-Belfast, Tina Dalton-Cuba, Karen Smith-Whitesville.

Call in: Raeanne Smith-Little Genesse & Scio, Nikki Gordon-Wellsville

STLS: Keturah Cappadonia and Brian Hildreth

Meeting was called to order by Melanie at 9:30 a.m.

Motion to accept July minutes?

Old Business: Kate Miller from Wellsville is writing and sending out story time plans to accompany the Dolly Parton Imagination books. Karen has been doing some story times centered on these books.

Tina, Karen, and Keturah attended the Allegany County Senior Picnic on Aug. 8 and saw an estimated 400 people. It was a good outreach opportunity and it is suggested we make this an annual event. We will work on developing a logo for ACLA, and seeking a grant (perhaps through Allegany Area Foundation) to purchase swag to giveaway at next year's picnic.

New Business: Everyone shared that SRP was busy and successful. This was Sheila's first year running SRP and she had 100 kids sign up. Nikki shared they had their best attendance ever, Roxanne and Tina also said they had excellent attendance. Alfred partnered with Montessori school next door which made for busy days. Cuba hosted BOCES classes. Scio ran its first ever SRP and partnered with the school.

Tina shared a suggestion for submitting the DEI micro-grant via ACLA in support of the Cattaraugus-Allegany Liberation Coalition's plan for a pride celebration. After discussion, it was decided that the CALC's plans are too abstract at this point to write a grant around. However, if the pride event does become a reality Brian said STLS will support it without the need for a DEI grant application to be submitted.

Melanie asked about everyone's plan for the Great Give Back, Oct. 16. Alfred is collecting socks for Genesis House; Wellsville is a food drive for the Community Closet; Belfast is doing a costume drive; Cuba is doing a supply drive for Accord's domestic violence program. Brian encourages all libraries to register their participation on the Great Give Back website.

Melanie encourages us to utilize the programming spreadsheet so we can share our entertainers, teachers, artists, etc contact info with each other.

We spent quite a while discussing our concerns about First Amendment Audits. Both Alfred and Cuba have undergone an audit at this point. Brian will send out a link with resources and further info about First Amendment Audits.

Brian: State Aid has arrived and funds will be released to libraries in the next 4 weeks. Funding is at the same level as last year.

PIN to password change has gone into effect.

Through data analysis STLS has learned that less than 1/3 of the population in our service area have library cards. DAC strategic planning is looking at this issue as well.

Email migration-be sure to participate in MS365 training and make certain your staff takes it as well. Be sure to complete the KnowBe4 training, as this is how STLS is determining which email addresses are still active.

The STLS Annual Meeting is on Oct. 6 at the David A. Howe Library in Wellsville.

There is still a vacant STLS Trustee seat for Allegany county, and another seat is about to become open.

Keturah: Oct. 27 is the annual online Gather & Grow Conference.

DEI micro-grants are due at the end of September.

Other: Roxanne asked traveling to meetings while on the clock. Brian informed us that labor law requires payment for travel to meetings, as well as travel and attendance at conference. He will send the specific law information out to us to share with our boards.

Melanie asked about the amount of PTO everyone receives. We had a good discussion about vacation, sick leave, holiday pay, retirement pay, etc. From what everyone shared, it is clear that benefits differ greatly between libraries. Brian stated he may work on a systemwide analysis to provide recommendations to boards. He often gets calls from trustees on this matter, and he always advocates on our behalf.