



## **NJLA Executive Board Meeting Approved Meeting Minutes**

February 28, 2023, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**In attendance:** Jessica Trujillo, Carina Gonzalez, Adriana Mamay, Lynnette Fucci, Selwa Shamy, Kate Jagers, Heather Dalal, John Wallace, Danielle Cesena, Laverne Mann, Allan M. Kleiman, Joy Robinson, Judith Pissano, Allen McGinley

**Guests:** Alicia Gough, Ralph Bingham, Joyce Valenza, Darby Malvey, Jen Nelson, Vicki Wright, Karen Cerra, Eileen M. Palmer, Co-Interim Director, Cindy Czesak, Co-Interim Director

1. Call to Order – Jessica Trujillo, President - Meeting was called to order at 10:35am.
2. Adoption of Agenda – Jessica Trujillo, President - The Meeting Agenda was adopted.
3. Welcome & Introductions

Individuals introduced themselves, role in NJLA, place of employment, and position.

4. [Adoption of Meeting Minutes](#) - approved
5. Financial Reports – Allan Kleiman, Treasurer

Allan has reviewed the documents from Abby and encourages the Executive Board to review the fiscal docs ending in Jan 2023. All is in order. Conference related expenses and revenues are coming soon. Dag Bulman investment conversation is coming later in the agenda.

There was a question about the Access Navigator line. The 250K Grant from the State Library has ended. However the Digital Equity Task Force received a 25K bridge grant from Comcast. Three of the original sites are continuing with one employee working. Gabi is continuing part time and a member of the Digital Equity Task Force for the continuity. Rayeal Sample is the new employee. Comcast is working with NJLA for a

larger grant. That is why we kept the budget line named Access Navigators. This will be explained to the new Executive Director.

## 6. Reports

### a. Jessica Trujillo, President NJLA

Jessica is still in talks about EveryLibrary with NJASL. The NJLA Lawyer is looking over the MOU and there will be more next month.

Jessica will attend the next NJALA meeting in March to learn about possible partnerships and a possible new Section for Circulation. Jessica is also working on Conference Committee items and really appreciates the committee's work and openness to new ideas.

### b. Cindy Czesak & Eileen Palmer, Co-Interim Executive Directors

Eileen Palmer has filed comments on the [Statement on Taxes from Cannabis Sales](#) and the timeline missed Selwa's comments. Comments were reviewed by the chairs of the Public Policy Committee. Members can make a statement to the committee to discuss the distribution of the tax revenues. Shout out to Eleni Glykis at Red Bank who testified on behalf of the libraries.

Eileen took her comments and broadened them for a statewide perspective. Great work, NJLA!

Cindy Czesak is working primarily on the conference and had to beg to get an invoice for the hotel. Will see a 15K bill soon. The new EIM membership brings in a lot new members, including security guards. NJALA would like our support and is interested in negotiating with us.

### c. [Laverne Mann, ALA Councilor](#)

Laverne attended LibLearnX, noting it was the first in-person Mid Winter in two years and that ALA is still trying to figure out what Mid Winter will be - still jewel of the youth awards. Laverne spent 15 hours in council meetings over three days. There were 4 sessions of bylaw revisions - amendments with amendments. At next conference, rescind the ALA Constitution and enact

the ByLaws. ALA will be a more forward-looking organization. Other items to note: The other state chapters are struggling, (i.e. Florida, Missouri, Texas). ALA also redid the Core Competencies of Librarianship. ALA made a resolution of human rights and freedom of expression in Iran. Annual Conference registration is one.

7. Old Business

- a. NJASL/EveryLibrary Partnership - Postponed to March 2023 meeting
- b. Nonprofit Board Member Essentials - Executive Board Feedback

Last month, Jessica recommended training from

<https://www.nonprofitready.org/free-nonprofit-board-member-training>. Lynnette and Jessica thought it was useful and recommended it to others. This would really help the next EB cohort to feel better prepared and feel energized because they better know what to do.

8. New Business - none

9. Committees & Sections

- a. Investment Committee Recommendations for Dag Bulman Bequest

The Investment Committee met with rep from Raymond James and discussed possible options including keeping cash for Long term investments for the next couple of years - advocacy, projects for sections and committees. \$22,500.00 for Fidelity investment. 52K in a 3 yr. Guaranteed annuity. Allan moved to accept the recommendation from the Investment Committee. Heather seconded. 13 ayes; no abstentions nor nays. Motion passed

- b. [Conference Committee Recommended Policies - Refund and Covid](#)

13 ayes; no abstentions nor nays. Motion passed

- c. [Member Services Committee](#)

Will see some changes in membership, since members are moving from one category to another (EIM). Student membership numbers are dropping. Trying to get the individual people

engaged in NJLA. Discussion ensued including considerations of how to reach more library school students as not all attend Rutgers. Suggestion to ask faculty to assist in NJLA outreach. John Wallace discussed the Internship program and scholarship programs.

#### 10. Partner Organizations Reports

a. [NJSL – Jen Nelson](#)

**Libraries without Borders** - March 7: Sharon Rawlins, leading charge with this film festival. The viewing in April at the State museum auditorium and there's free parking on weekends.

**Hired Social Work consultants** to devise a curriculum for Social Work students and library staff to learn what to expect. Looking for libraries interested in interns for the pilot.

There will be sessions on legal issues for libraries on 3/2 and 4/4.

b. LibraryLinkNJ – Darby Malvey

The Level Up Your Library Grant - improvement grant for any libraries is due 3/31.

The Mentor NJ directory relaunched in January. Thanks to those who resubmitted their profile. The Mentor NJ Mega meetup is March 14th.

There is a Language for Librarians workshop but please note there is a small registration limit from the hosting organization. LibraryLinkNJ has Learning Space, an on-demand training platform, which will be next week. There are asynchronous courses and intentional experiential learning.

c. NJASL – Darby Malvey

The Intellectual Freedom challenges continue abundantly but school boards are usually quiet. Please keep an eye on what's happening in your home school district and be there for the people dealing with challenges. Encourage your colleagues. Get involved. Need a lot of support for this fight.

Legislative updates - NJ Information Literacy Bill getting national attention all over the country. It has been since categorized as a media literacy bill. NJASL is putting out statements. It will be soon discovered who will write the standards and how the public will be able to make comments.

Comments are due today on Chapter 7 of the NJ Administrative Code that ensures equal access to all students. This does not require equal access to educational resources and including that phrase will bolster the idea that the school library is important and will help us with the IF fight.

The Spring Mini Conf on Sat April 1. \$10 - all virtual and the theme is Hope and Healing.

The ISTE Conference is not officially affiliated with NJASL but they are EdTech and their conf is the same weekend of ALA, but they are in Philadelphia and work with future ready librarians.

d. Rutgers University, Joyce Valenza

Joyce Valenza to You (Direct Message) 10:22 AM



Oops. Forgive my last statement. Was thinking of older hires. From Marie: Submitted our ALA biennial report Looking to hire 3 new faculty next year (school librarianship, HCI, Data Science), have dean's approval, waiting for provost/chancellor, but it is expected) Searching for Development officer

School Library Bus Tour coming

soon.

11. Closed Session

Motion to leave closed session: Allan, Seconded by Heather. After Closed session ended, the Executive Board voted on the new Executive Director and the raise for the NJLA Staff, including retroactive raises. 13 ayes; no abstentions nor nays. Both motions passed.

12. Good of the Order

13. Next Meeting - March 21, 2023 10am Zoom.

14. Adjourn at 12:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Dalal