



NJLA Executive Board Meeting

May 16, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Zoom

Approved Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Ally Blumenfeld, Brett Bonfield, Danielle Cesena, Heather Dalal, Carina Gonzalez, Lynnette Fucci, Kate Jagers, Allan Kleiman, Laverne Mann, Keisha Miller, Judith Pissano, Joy Robinson, Selwa Shamy, Jessica Trujillo, John Wallace

Guests: Alicia Gough, Darby Malvey, Jen Nelson, Rosy Wagner, Joyce Valenza,

1. Call to Order: Jessica Trujillo, President Called 3:02pm
2. Adoption of Agenda: Jessica Trujillo, President
Agenda adopted
3. Welcome and Introductions
4. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
Minutes were accepted.
5. Financial Reports: Allan Kleiman, Treasurer
 - a. Fiscal Year 2021-22 Audit and 990 (for approval; see Financial Reports folder)
 - b. Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget (for discussion)
 - Money is being spent and received for the conference.
 - Issue with Ally Bank is straightened out and account is closed.
 - There is a healthy balance as we saved money for personnel.
 - Allan will give a state of the finances at the conference.
 - Cindy, Eileen, and Brett went through the process for audit and preparation for the 990, done by Cindy, Eileen, and Brett.
 - NJLA will need to split up bank accounts; The max limit is 250k to be FDIC insured.
 - Membership dues exceeded expectations.

Motion: by Allan: file the 990 as presented in the board packet. Heather seconded. All approved.

Discussion about the Budget: The budget starts with the director and his vision of what he'd

like to present to the board to reach goals and objectives for the year. The Finance committee meets tomorrow and might have suggestions. The budget will be on the June Exec meeting for approval.

Brett discussed the budget with the board and upcoming expenses to support the goals and objectives of the organization, ways to improve the organization, and support the committees and sections. With 2300 members, the director will need more staff support to connect to each committee and section. With more NJLA office support, the volunteer roles should be less daunting and less administrative.

6. Reports

- a. Jessica Trujillo, President
Location for June meeting TDB

- b. [Brett Bonfield](#), Executive Director

Advocacy:

- Still engaged in conversations with NJASL and Library LinkNJ on advocacy efforts. Waiting on a response from EveryLibrary to see if they can meet our needs.
- Meeting with ALA Emerging Leaders. The Emerging Leaders program has participants in teams of 3-5 people take on a project in ALA. The group assigned to chapter relations is looking at how each chapter practices advocacy. They will present their report at the June ALA Conference so Brett hopes he will have something to share at the July meeting
- Worked with Judith Pissano, chair of Intellectual Freedom, on a dispute with a NJ Artist and a NJ Library.

Admin/Financial:

- Worked on audit and financial matters described by Allan.
Explored Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC or ERC), for which NJLA is not a good candidate.
- Outstanding work for Conference preparation. Preregistration is at 709. 640 last year, including on-site.

Outreach

- Presented at Small Libraries Section Unconference on 4/26
- Participated in Burlington County Bar Association's Day on 5/2

c. Laverne Mann, ALA Councilor

- The ALA Conference is at the end of June. Speakers include Idina Menzel and her sister, as well as Amanda Gorman
- Dolly Parton is being honored with an ALA membership for all her work and philanthropy on literacy.
- Joyce, Heather, and eight others got an AASL Research Grant to present their paper.
- Top challenged books for 2022

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10>

- Roxboro High School Librarian is Librarian suing 4 parents for defamation.

7. Old Business - none

8. New Business

a. MOU renewals (for discussion)

i. Talking Book & Braille Center (NJLA Archives, expires in October)
NJLA Archives are hosted at the TBBC with a 5 year MOU. The TBBC indicates if the space is used as an archive and not a warehouse and NJLA remains good stewards of the space, TBBC would entertain the MOU again. Brett would like the board to register any comments.

ii. Sustainable Libraries Initiative (expires in October)

There is no cost to continue this participation, except NJLA staff time. It's been a nice partnership and they are happy to extend it. Jessica states that it would be very beneficial for our community to continue this.

b. Making the NJLA Office a destination

Want an office space that visually represents NJLA

i. [Exhibits Policy](#) (for approval; see [ED report](#) for background)

Brett discussed the Exhibits Policy. Motion to approve Danielle; Seconded Carina. Approved.

ii. The New Jersey Coffee and Tea Library (for discussion; see [ED report](#))

Discussion of creating of a coffee/tea library sourced by donations to promote visiting the NJLA office.

9. Committees and Sections

Lynette shared a CSS update from Heather - Next meeting is May 26th. Tabling at the NJLA Conference. Looking forward to the CSS Core.

10. Partner Organizations Reports

a. NJSL: Jen Nelson - report in packet

b. LibraryLinkNJ: Darby Malvy

- Reminder [June 13th is the virtual membership meeting](#) with keynote : Kyle Lukoff, Lookoff share his perspective as an author whose book was banned.
- NJLA Conference
 - Excited to be conference sponsor.
 - Mentor NJ meetups in person on Friday

- Summer Book Bash coming back! Cool Prizes
- Exciting professional development coming in the fall.

c. NJASL: Darby Malvey

- Wrapping up the year
- Excited to come to NJLA and moderate a panel presentation about the IL learning standards vs curriculum.
- Book challenges - There was a protest the state house about parental rights and bolstering folks with midterm elections. Please pay attention your school board and consider running for the school board.
- Discussion of IL standards

d. Rutgers University

- Excited to sponsor the conference
- Second Darby's recommendation to run for school board.

e. NJLTA: Pat Pavlak - no report.

11. Good of the Order

Brett:

If anyone wants to see his weekly report, please email him. The weekly report he provides to the President, Past President, VP, can be shared more broadly and it provides details of his work at a granular level and links to his calendar.

In the past, the board has sent bullet points, not minutes after the board meeting. He is happy to do that and not make it a responsibility of the secretary.

12. Next Meeting

13. Adjourn

Motion by Danielle, Second John W. Ajrouned at 4:16pm.

Recorded by Heather Dalal.