

EASTERN SUFFOLK BOCES  
SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES  
Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 8:30 – 9:30 A.M.  
SCLS Blue Room and Remote via Zoom

In Attendance

Luisa Reichardt  
Jacqueline Wilson  
Meghan Bishop  
Krystle Barnett  
Melissa Tunstead  
Carl Vitevitch  
Amy Jo Southworth  
Alexandria Hiam

Casey Veit (Zoom)  
Katie McIntyre (Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m. by Alexandria Hiam, Council Chairperson, who welcomed the group.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Council Meetings for 2023-2024 were announced. All meetings 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. in the SCLS Blue Room or Remote via Zoom.

- Thursday, March 7, 2024
- Friday, May 17, 2024

Liaison Meetings for 2023-2024 announced. All meetings 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the SCLS Auditorium.

- Thursday, March 7, 2024
- Friday, May 17, 2024

Mr. Vitevitch indicated that the March meeting would be “edcamp-like” and that the May gathering would be an author or illustrator.

The Virtual Reference Collection is subscribed to by 46 districts + 3 non-publics and 3 Western Suffolk. The Bridges Academy was added in October 2023. Participation fees and cost per student for the 2024-2025 school year will be reported at the March meeting.

Library Automation comprises 45 districts - 29 Follett, 14 OPALS and 2 non-publics.

The SLS Annual Report was approved by Council in October. The state requested a few clarifications, which were provided by SLS. The final document was approved by the New York State Library on November 13, 2023.

## VOTING ITEMS

The minutes for the October 17, 2023 Council meeting were approved prior to this meeting via email.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### State Aid

#### Operating (960) *salaries and benefits*

- Beginning Balance: \$207,766.00
- Current Balance: \$28,450.28
- Expended on Salaries, Benefits and Indirect Costs based on State Guidelines

#### Supplemental (968)

- Beginning Balance: \$59,732.00
- Current Balance: \$23,076.73
- Expended on Salaries and Benefits

#### Categorical (920) – Automation

- Beginning Balance: \$20,777.00
- Current Balance: \$8,818.13

#### CoSer 508 (Automation/OverDrive SORA)

- Beginning Balance: \$541,806.00
- Current Balance: \$160,538.21

#### CoSer 516 (VRC)

- Beginning Balance: \$2,622,330.00
- Current Balance: \$126,883.17

#### Rollover Funds (three combined Budget Codes from previous year balances)

- Beginning Balance: \$19,979.00
- Current Balance: \$0.00
- Purchased TechRow VR Headset kits – current year.

Mr. Vitevitch added that 4 kits of five units each were purchased. Each kit circulates for 2-3 weeks and can be picked up and dropped off at SLS. Liz Trapasso, LMS, will go out to assist with first loans. She is also available for assistance via streaming. Additional information related to the headsets is available on the SLS LibGuide.

Mr. Vitevitch mentioned some of the other gadgets SLS has for loan, such as dinosaur bones, Cublets, Merge Cubes, and Breakout EDU. He also reminded the group that school libraries and bring in authors through the Arts-in-Education program.

Mr. Vitevitch conveyed that Council ideas to consider for future Liaison Meetings or Library Leadership Academies are most welcome.

## OTHER

It was commented that the *SLS Sentinel* (on LibGuides) is great.

Evaluation data for the Long Island School Library Systems Fall Institute “SPARK Connections” was provided. Several members of Council complemented the program. Meeting handouts are available online.

### Highlights from the Survey

- “Motivational, remembering why we do our job and the impact we have. Morale booster”
- “Wonderful speaker! I really enjoyed this keynote speaker. He had us laughing and crying. So powerful”
- “I don't think I learned anything new. It was just nice to hear that someone recognized and valued the work that we do as School Librarians.”
- “It was all great, I love having different session to attend.”
- “Rooms were overcrowded and extremely warm. A better variety of foods for those with allergies would have been perfect. Thanks for a great day of library-focused resources and for sharing with long-lost friends/colleagues.”
- “Breakout sessions were great. I know keynote speakers are typical at conference events, but I'd love to see money go more towards trainers in the hands on sessions.”
- “Thanks for your hard work. Maybe more interactive sessions/ networking? Meeting other people mix up?”
- “There was overcrowding in some rooms again so I wasn't able to go to my first choice. Maybe have participants choose and sign up for the spots. This might also spark people to register early.”
- “This conference felt very worthwhile, and it would be great to see future conferences like this one. Thank you!”

Location and Attendance (via MLP)

#	Year	Location	Cost	Eastern
				51
1 <sup>st</sup> “Building Relationships”	2014	Farmingdale PL	Free	43
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2015	UPSKY, Hauppauge	\$100	33
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2016	UPSKY, Hauppauge	\$100	72 (24)
4 <sup>th</sup> “Extending Your Reach!”	2017*	Farmingdale PL	Free	38 (14)
5 <sup>th</sup>	2018	Radisson, Hauppauge	\$100	58 (19)
6 <sup>th</sup>	2019	Radisson, Hauppauge	\$100	62 (18)
7 <sup>th</sup>	2020	Virtual due to COVID	Free	29 (16)
8 <sup>th</sup>	2021	Virtual due to COVID	Free	64 (21)
9 <sup>th</sup>	2022	Radisson, Hauppauge	\$100	45 (14)
10 <sup>th</sup>	2023	Hyatt Regency, Hauppauge	\$100	71 (16)

Mr. Vitevitch indicated that SLS is now recording and posting Zoom program sessions. He also remarked that he is working on being able to provide credit hours for programs attended asynchronously.

The NYS Educational Media Technology Association (EMTA) will be hosting a free Media Literacy Virtual Assembly via Zoom for students in March. The organization also offers two annual media literacy project grants to educators.

Funding for NOVELny in the next budget was proposed by the Regents. Mr. Vitevitch is working on obtaining pricing for these resources should they not be funded by NYS.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m.