

EASTERN SUFFOLK BOCES SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 20, 2025, 8:30 am – 9:30 am
SCLS Blue Room or Remote via Zoom

Present

Luisa Reichardt
Melissa Tunstead
Alexandria Hiam
Casey Veit
Christine Maniscalco
Meghan Bishop
Amy Jo Southworth
Carl Vitevitch
Jacqueline Wilson (Zoom)
Fabio Montella (Zoom)

Alexandria Hiam, Council Chairperson, welcomed council members and called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

It was announced that the minutes from the December 11, 2024 Council meeting (provided) were approved via email prior to this meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. The evaluation results for the December 11, 2024 Liaison Meeting Evaluation (provided) were shared.

Highlights from the Evaluation

- “I am excited to try BlueSky and I was able to create an account while I was at the meeting.”
- “Gina (Seymour) provided a very timely and informative presentation on a new social media platform that I knew little about!”
- “Melissa (McParland) might be my favorite presenter ever. Everything she does deeply resonates with me and I deeply appreciate what she shares with us. As soon as I see she's presenting, I immediately want to come. Her school community is lucky to have her!”
- “Really liked this segment! SEL is so important and the library can really serve as a safe space for students.”
- “I enjoyed Amy Jo's (Southworth) presentation and in particular the way she displays/ highlights different titles throughout her library to increase circulation. She's motivated me to really look at Genrefying our collection!”

- “This was great too! I loved seeing a different approach to the library and it's clear her students feel seen, valued, and safe. She's also quite creative in how she curates her space and in all of the active displays.”
 - “Gina (Seymour) offered connections to different organizations that enable Librarians to expand their horizons with students.”
 - “This was super cute and I love that I now know how to create a book tree! The hot cocoa bar was a crowning touch -- well done!”
 - “I loved including a fun activity for librarians to take back to their libraries.”
2. Mr. Vitevitch thanked those who offered assistance with this program, filling in for the scheduled speaker who was unable to attend. He also called for ideas for future liaison meetings or Library Leadership Academies.
3. Ms. Hiam shared/updated the group on the following matters:
- a) Library Automation Co-Ser 508
 - 1. 44 districts plus 2 non-public schools ~ Ross School and St. John the Baptist participate
 - 2. Current Financial Status: Revenue \$1,553,442 (last year \$566,192.00)
 - 3. Renewal of services will be going out in March for review
 - b) Library Services/Media Co-Ser 516
 - 1. Virtual Reference Collection (VRC) listed on Shared Services Response Pages at \$10.96 per student in grades 3-12. 2025-2026 will have a 1.99% increase
 - 2. 47 districts plus 2 non-publics, Huntington UFSD, Babylon UFSD, and Smithtown CSD in Western Suffolk participate
 - 3. Current Financial Status: Revenue \$3,012,756 (last year \$2,785,254.00)
 - 4. Renewal of services will be going out in March for review
 - c) State Aid (F Codes)
 - i. F960 – Operating Aid
 - 1. Starting \$215,915.00; present balance \$9,761.71
 - ii. F968 – Supplemental Aid
 - 1. Starting \$62,071.00; present balance is \$4,668.48
 - iii. F920 – Categorical Aid - Automation
 - 1. Starting \$21,591.00; present balance \$21,591.00

d) 2025-2026 NYS Budget

The New York State budget is awaiting approval with a deadline of April 1, 2025. Mr. Vitevitch indicated that it is unknown if changes at the federal level will affect NYS. However, NOVELny should be available this year. He indicated that SLS will be available to assist in any way it can.

4. The 2023-2024 SLS Annual Report was approved by NYSL Division of Library Development as of February 27, 2025.
5. As of March 18, 2025, the School Library System Union Catalog contained 1,997386 bibliographic records and 2,345148 and item records.
6. Advocacy Day was held on February 5, 2025. Of particular emphasis were efforts to raise library materials aid from \$6.25, where it has been for many years.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

The following upcoming meetings were announced:

- Follett Users' Group Meeting, April 3, 2025 ~ Zoom
- OPALS Users' Group Meeting, April 10, 2025 ~ SCLS Training Room
- Council Meeting, May 16, 2025 ~ 8:30 – 9:30 am ~ SCLS Blue Room or via Zoom
- Liaison Meeting, May 16, 2025 ~ 8:00 am – 3:00 pm ~ SCLS Auditorium
- Library Leadership Academy *Updates can be found here: <https://www.esboces.org/Page/1683>*
 - April 1, 2025 ~ How to Speak with Compelling Confidence (Auditorium)
 - April 30, 2025 ~ Demco Book Repair (Auditorium)
 - April 30, 2025 ~ Turning Pages into Practice (Auditorium)

Mr. Vitevitch shared the SLS LibGuides "Meeting Handouts" page on screen, highlighting some of the items listed there, including information on two asynchronous classes being offered for CTLE credit by SLS until 4/25/25. SLS hopes to add more CTLE class offerings in the future.

Ms. Hiam adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.