EASTERN SUFFOLK BOCES SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Friday, May 16, 2025
SCLS Blue Room and Remote via Zoom

In attendance:

Robert Hines
Luisa Reichardt
Jackie Wilson
Melissa Tunstead
Christine Maniscalco
Casey Veit
Amy Jo Southworth
Carl Vitevitch
Fabio Montella (remote via Zoom)

Alexandria Hiam, Chairperson, welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Members introduced themselves.

Voting Items

Ms. Hiam walked the group through several votes.

Terms of service expired for several Council members. Mr. Vitevitch thanked all for their service.

First Term expires June 30, 2025 for the following members who have agreed to serve a second term. Approved by Council.

- Casey Veit
- Jacqueline Wilson

Second Term expires June 30, 2025

- Alexandria Hiam
- Luisa Reichardt

Two new members were approved by Council:

- Bridget Sitler, LMS, Brentwood UFSD ~ replacing Alexandria Hiam
- Jaime Mott, LMS, Sag Harbor UFSD ~ replacing Luisa Reichardt

Melissa Tunstead was approved by Council as the new Chairperson, replacing Alexandria Hiam.

The NY State Budget was approved May 8, 2025. NYS Library Aid to increase about 2%. Mr. Vitevitch briefly reviewed the budget process and went over the SLS planned allocation for 2025-2026, which was approved by Council. Final numbers will be provided in October.

The minutes from March 20, 2025 Council Meeting were approved via email prior to the meeting. Copy provided.

Discussion Items

Ms. Hiam reviewed information related to the status of Co-Sers:

Library Automation Co-Ser 508

- 42 districts plus two non-public schools ~ Ross School and St. John the Baptist participate
- Current financial status: Revenue $523,632 (last year $566,192.00)

Library Services/Media Co-Ser 516

- Virtual Reference Collection (VRC) listed on Shared Services Response Pages at $10.96 per student in grades 3 -12. This amount includes a 1.99% increase for 2025.
- 48 districts plus two non-publics, Huntington UFSD, Babylon UFSD, and Smithtown CSD in Western Suffolk participate in Co-Ser 516.
- Current financial status: Revenue $3,012,756 (last year $ 2,785,254.00)

Participation Fees for CoSer 508 for 2025-2026:

1 – 600	$1,216.87
601 – 2000	$2,032.75
2001 – 5000	$2,741.44
5001 – 8000	$3,526.58
8001 – 11000	$4,059.16
11001 – plus	$4,773.68

Cut off for changes is mid-June. Renewals as of July 1.

Other Business

The Liaison/Program Meeting Evaluation from the March 20, 2025 meeting was shared.

Highlights from the Evaluation:

- “Good discussion that pointed out the many similarities with our jobs and how to deal with certain situations- was helpful to hear other districts' protocols.”
- “I REALLY enjoyed this session and think it was invaluable. We should have it at every meeting.”

- “We spoke about a few topics such as genrefication, advocacy, and drawing teens into the library. It was a great talk and very informative!”
- “Fantastic presentation. Both presenters were knowledgeable, friendly and shared valuable information.”
- “Great presentation about tech tips for Canva. I especially appreciated the AI tech tips. Presenters were strong”
- “OUTSTANDING!!!!!! This was the best presentation so far this year!!!! I came away with so many awesome new ideas and helpful tips I can share with my colleagues.”
- “I loved the gadgets to bring in library!! Anything to make it easier and make the kids pay attention or make our life easier!!”
- “It was great to know all of the gadgets BOCES has to offer!”
- “I was already familiar with Google Arts and Culture but the instructor exposed us to many more features that I was not aware of and that I will share with my fellow teachers.”
- “The presenter was very knowledgeable about Google Arts and Culture. She showed us some cool features and had us spend some time gathering resources we might use. I'm hoping to share some of the exhibits from the Museum of Natural History with my students.”
- “Fantastic presentation. A lot of my questions about housing animals in the library were answered. The presenter was charismatic and knowledgeable.”
- “Loved Sandy's presentation on axolotl's in the library, grants, and therapy animals. Will follow-up with my Principal for PS I Love You Day 2026. I had never heard of an axolotl before. I definitely learned something new!”

Mr. Vitevitch shared BEDS population numbers. Eastern Suffolk numbers going down. Discussion of demographic trends followed.

Mr. Vitevitch indicated that the SLS 2024-2025 Year End Evaluation will be going out on the listserv shortly. He shared the survey questions on screen. Several members made suggestions for questions that might be added. Mr. Vitevitch will incorporate these. He also answered questions related to SORA, including the free collections (NY Reads, LI Student Read), and shared participation statistics for workshops, which found on the SLS LibGuide entitled “Meeting Handouts.”

Mr. Vitevitch solicited Council ideas to consider for future Liaison Meetings or Library Leadership Academies. These may be sent to Melanie Keller or submit them via the year end evaluation survey.

Ms. Hiam share the following tentative dates for 2025-2026 SLS Council Meetings, which will be held from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 am in the SCLS Blue Room and remote via Zoom.

- Wednesday, October 22, 2025
- Wednesday, December 17, 2025
- Thursday, March 12, 2026
- Friday, May 15, 2026

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