Eastern Suffolk BOCES School Library System
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday March 12, 2026
SCLS Blue Room or Via Zoom

Present:

Melissa Tunstead
Christine Maniscalco
Jaime Mott
Casey Veit
Meghan Bishop
Robert Hines
Amy Jo Southworth
Bridget Sitler
Carl Vitevitch
Jacqueline Wilson (ZOOM)

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Vitevitch, and we were welcomed by council chairperson Melissa Tunstead. Kerri Ann Soto, from Suffolk Cooperative Library System, joined us for the meeting and explained what she does in terms of Government and Community Relations.

Carl recapped what School Library Systems includes and what we do as well as our history. Carl described our region and who we represent.

Voting Items:

Minutes from the December 12th meeting were approved via email.

Discussion Items:

- Liaison Meeting Evaluations: Highlights and complaints from our December meeting.
    - We discussed the mixed reviews of the first presenter, some people found her to be very offensive.
- Carl explained that he will bring back ELL presenters to meet PD requirements.
- We talked about future liaison meeting or library leadership academy ideas for next year. This year is pretty much already full booked.

Budget Status

- Melissa reviewed the Library Automation Co-Ser 508 and Library Services/Media Co-Ser 516.
- Carl clarified some of the numbers and stated everyone is keeping the VRC but a lot of districts dropped supplementals.
- Carl explained that "Turn-it-In" raised their prices 4% this year and 2% for additional years.
- We went over State Aid (F Codes)
- Carl stated we had about $40,000 roll over, and we spent last year's roll over in March.
    - We bought more Rosen E-books

- We discussed the 2026-2027 budget, and NYLA is asking for more state aid per student for libraries.

Legislative Update:

- Advocacy Day was February 3, 2026
- Kerri Ann talked about attending and explained the NY state budget and what is being asked. She said she is optimistic that we will see an increase but maybe not what we are asking for.
- New budget line for Office of Cultural Education
- Assembly proposed $109.3 million and the Senate proposed $114.67 million.
- NOVELny
    - Senate asked for $3.1 million instead of $3 million.

Plan of Service 2026-2031

- Carl explained in detail.
- We are the only place in all of NY state to house all three library systems (public, academic, and school) in one building.
- Moving forward with the new Plan of Service, Carl reviewed with everyone what was done in the past and is just waiting to find out about the new software to submit it to since we are no longer using Baker and Taylor.

Other

- We went over future meeting date and time.
- We talked about makerspace availability, and things we can check out to borrow.
    - VR Headset.
        - Meghan mentioned that Peconic Teacher Center also has VR headsets if any PTC districts need them and the SLS ones are already in use.
    - Cubelets
    - Gadgets
    - Dinosaur Bones
- We went over the America 250 in NY information available on the LibGuides.

Melissa motioned to end the meeting.