

Meeting Notes

Attending: Eric Smith (MCDL/Ludington), Patti Skinner (MCDL/Scottville), Sue Riegler (Alden District), Lauren Moran (Big Rapids Community), Mary Edens (Bellaire, MMLL Board member), Tom Burnosky (Reed City Area District), Sheryl Mase (MMLL director)

1. Lauren/Big Rapids – They have a new board member at Big Rapids who is excited about stork storytime -> 1,000 books before kindergarten. Mecosta county reads is beginning and Lauren will reach out to Morton Twp and Wheatland Twp. to form/join an Early Literacy Cohort and encourage the Great Start representative to go with the Talking is Teaching/Too Small to Fail model. Crossroads Charter school in area wants to share library materials. They will begin a pilot in September using student ID cards to reserve library items to be delivered to the school. Traveling exhibit of an ArtWorks winning piece will be at library this summer.
2. Sue/Alden – They have a Literacy program – books for babies, and now have a budget for new books to give to children under the age of six. Sign up at library, send books via USPS low cost. Antrim and Kalkaska coordinate together – also the read aloud program which donates books to doctor’s offices, waiting rooms, etc. Alden has \$2500 – 3,000 to buy books to give away. They have regular Mahjong, bridge, author visits Sundays at 2. Mancelona kids can get library cards at school and Alden will send materials over. They also have access to OverDrive. Sue is going to ALA in DC on a \$1,600 LM grant.
3. Eric/MCDL – They hired a new Head of Circulation. Previously, their org chart has been fairly flat, and they need a bit more structure while still remaining flexible. Communication has been an issue, so they are working on system-wide changes for efficiency.
4. Patti/Scottville – The Unbound program has been successful and has added another site. They serve Mason County Central school district and the Gateway to Success charter/magnet school. Students use their student ID to look online to MCDL Apollo catalog and request books to be delivered. In two months MCDL has delivered 1800 items. The program started with teachers – teaching them about the library resources. The three-county ESD group discussed how the region could have library service for schools.
5. Tom/Reed City – RCADL is joining the MiSEN (Michigan State Education Network) and will have free high speed fiber optic Internet for the library. They will have a dish at first, then reconnect the fiber that had been cut (their building had been a school admin office). They are writing an LSTA grant for mobile WiFi units to checkout – jetpack Verizon – to serve the 1300 kids in district. The library could manage the loans via the Apollo circulation and have

5-10 units for public library circulation. They have a cannabis education at the library program. Tom mentioned that the state has a cannabis education fund of \$3M statewide. They also work with spectrum hospital for programming – grief support, breastfeeding, etc. The Smithsonian exhibit will come to Reed City February 1, 2020 – called “Crossroads in America” - part of the Museums on Main Street program.

6. There was a brief discussion of having a cooperative-wide mentoring asset that is free on demand ... we need to flesh out this concept. It might be a team willing to go to member libraries to teach particular processes, such as MeLCat processing or reference or budget development or a particular type of programming, etc.
7. OverDrive – Up North Digital began with some libraries from MMLL, some from Northland, but was not a cooperative service. Each library had a separate agreement with OverDrive. There was a master contract with stepped pricing \$2K, 4K, 6K, etc. with platform fee each time. We can spend more on content and less on the platform fee if we still pay OverDrive \$130K as a coordinated group so the platform fee is not \$32,500 but instead only \$8K with the balance going to content. There will still will be a way for local requests to be fed into collection development team. MMLL will have a fund in the proposed FY20 budget for those libraries assessed a higher amount annually for UND, and also for those MMLL members who do not participate but would like to. Overdrive recommends 35-50% of content credits be used for holds management. What about a seven-day loan for bestsellers? Defaults – automatically checkout. Checkout in two days or pass on. Keep individual accounts for stats. Purchase of “Advantage” titles does not lower holds lists for the system, only the local library. Expenditure would be more productive as Advantage Plus or regular consortium material. Eric does a good job explaining that it is an advantage for OverDrive, not necessarily the consortium. The group recommended we have OverDrive information at the annual meeting in September.
8. Jen Strauss #STORYTIMEMATTERS – the group discussed the program coming up May 30th – please encourage anyone doing storytime to sign up!
9. Librarika – check out Sheryl for storytime program(!) – another idea that needs to be fleshed out.
10. Read by grade 3 – there may be some relief via legislation, but kits created by libraries may help parents with the new reading plan. Kids sometime have issues with vision – lazy eye, need for eyeglasses, etc. It may be good to have a pediatric optometrist present to parents of storytime kids? Best programs center around parents reading well and working with kids. Mary Edens talked about Native American parents working with exercise and literacy. Also effective is to put marginal kids in a responsible role of reading to younger kids.
11. 2020 census – slides from state demographer will be shared. Census counts lead to distribution of money for education, block grant funds, representation, and so much more. There are complete count committees already set, and more being formed – ask about

mobile app. Encourage Complete Count Committees with library participation. Census will be online for most who are able to get to an Internet-enabled computer or mobile device. Currently there are lots of jobs and census staff want to hold job fairs at libraries. Call them to arrange at 1-855-JOB-2020.

12. Send your QSAC concerns to Stacy Pasche – she is now on the revision committee. Bellaire went through QSAC bit by bit at each board meeting – it is a good tool to work on with your trustees.
13. Missaukee and Midland may need to join MMLL as affiliate members in order to participate in group discounts such as the RBdigital eMagazines. They would need to have affiliate membership to participate in OverDrive, but there may be an extra fee for that – will go to MMLL Board, since that service is not a group discount, which is offered to affiliate members.
14. Big Rapids library will have rocket ships for the summer reading program theme. They are cardboard models that can be painted and then enjoyed by the kids for play or photos, etc.