

Mid-Michigan Library League
Group 8 & 9 Meeting
Morton Township Library
November 7, 2018



In attendance: Chris Cook (Big Rapids), Lauren Moran (Big Rapids), Holly (Morton Twp), Julianne (Morton Twp), Mary Ann Lenon, Emma Erikson (Seville Twp), Sherma Horrocks (Richfield Twp), Patty Rockafellow (White Pine), Marcia Laughlin (Surrey Twp), Jeanette Fleury (Board rep for Group 9), Sheryl Mase (MMLL director), guest: Fred Sharpsteen (MIOSD)

1. Sheryl introduced Fred Sharpsteen, tech director for Mecosta-Osceola ISD. Fred is on board with us as a library champion who sees the need to add public libraries to the Michigan State Education Network (MiSEN). The Library of Michigan has encouraged libraries to contact their ISD/REMC tech directors to ask to be added to the MiSEN. Sheryl contacted all the tech directors in ISDs/REMCs serving our membership and Fred was the most responsive. In support of K12 education and reading by third grade, Fred feels strongly about getting kids and libraries connected. Internet connectivity is essential to education support. Initially, Merit connected all ISDs with big fiber pipe with ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment) funds designated by the State. The ISDs are currently connecting all the schools, and are open to connecting libraries as well. With the MiSEN, Internet service is only \$.50 per MB (was \$7). There is another broadband initiative called MCAN (Michigan Consortium of Advanced Networks), called by the governor, which has a final report but not action yet. See the report at https://www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/MCAN_final_report_630272_7.pdf
2. We went around the table to discuss each library's connectivity:
 - Barryton – At the main library they will have 100 MB but they have a branch that had only 30 MB via Frontier DSL until Casair came to town because of the Isabella bank. Barryton elementary is connected with CMS wireless.
 - Big Rapids – They are connected via the city and seem to have what they need in terms of speed. They are thinking about wifi hotspot circulation but it can be frustrating for patrons who live in areas with sparse cell service (not enough cellular tower coverage). Ferris State University needs to connect students within 50 miles...
 - Morton Twp – They have 100 up and down via wireless from tower at the elementary school. But, they pay \$294/mo for VOIP and Internet (CMS). Morton Twp is close to school that has 1 GB service that also goes to other buildings via wireless. Need fiber to the schools; can attach library via wireless.
 - Seville Twp – They have Casair currently. The Gratiot tech director is Matt McMahon and Fred can assist to see if they are connecting libraries. Seville has two circulating wifi hotspots (Sprint). The problem is that they can be very spotty depending on where the patrons are attempting to use them.
 - Walton Erickson library is connected via the Morley Stanwood schools which are on the MiSEN.

- Richland Twp - Sherma said they have Casair with Montcalm County group at 100 MB. They have three more years on contract.
 - White Pine (Stanton) – They have Charter at 60 Mb but are close to the ISD and school and could connect via last mile E-rate.
 - Reed City (Tom Burnosky not present) - contacted school and is beginning to collaborate for them to join MiSEN. They may be the first successful project, and we need a victory to get the ball rolling. It is unclear whether or not any public library in the state has yet been added to the network.
3. E-rate may be used for the last mile connections, and hopefully libraries can sign a letter of agency and allow the ISDs/schools to include them in their E-rate applications. Otherwise, libraries will need to engage an E-rate consultant such as Lori Leugers of TeleComp Solutions, Janelle Morgan of Elite Fund, or any others. The E-rate Specialist for the state is Joe Polasek, PolasekJ3@michigan.gov or 517-335-1291.
 4. Fred Sharpsteen (who is in the position that used to be held by Brian Pickett) would recommend that libraries not be charged for connectivity to the MiSEN. He will be a good champion for public libraries in the process of joining the State Education Network (MiSEN).
 5. Fred mentioned that, similar to the TV white space project to license that spectrum for community Internet, there is an educational broadband spectrum that people are lobbying the FCC to allow for educational use, especially due to the homework learning gap experienced when students have no access to the Internet.
 6. Around the table:
 - **Barryton** loves parades and makes posters and press releases using photos of the children using the library and at community events. There was a discussion of the need to get parental release for photos. There was mention that the Greenville Daily News suggests that all photos taken in public places are fair use. Libraries can make the permission part of the library card registration process.
 - **White Pine**, as a district library, has to go out for a millage renewal, and has had a planning meeting. They partner with area libraries to provide local authors, lots of activities, and partner with MI area reading council for adult literacy and tutoring for students. WPDL has had karaoke, one book programs, lots of partnering, book giveaways, and more. They collaborate with the central Montcalm bookmobile service
 - **Richland Twp** held a bazaar in the library with 14 vendors and 8 tables of baked goods for sale by the library. Vendors paid \$10 per table and there were 450 people through the building on election day looking at wood crafts, baby blankets, washcloths, afghans, etc. There was a storytime in process and chili and sloppy joes sold and consumed in the building Overall, they raised \$1,010.
 - **Seville** – Emma is trying to get a decent staff person. They have two good ones but the third might have to go. They are trying to target adults for programming, something different each month such as craft and chat.

- **Morton Twp** has family fun nights at which people can get their photo taken, do crafts, games, scavenger hunts, etc. They had 150 come for Halloween night with a performer (Gordon Ross monster magic). MTPL will institute a giving day for which the Friends of the Library will match 100% up to \$6,000. Their chocolate and champagne fundraiser garnered \$10,000 for the library! They have Friday storytimes, discovery programs after school, got a building healthy communities grant and started a healthy kids club with donated snacks They also have a mountain dulcimer class for kids.
- **Big Rapids** – YA librarian Tirzah Price is going to the high school once a month with pizza trying to get a group started at the library. They show outdoor movies in the summer (Friends paid for licensing) and showed Coco and Black Panther. They are doing a lot of things with the MMLL maker kits.
- **Walton Erickson** (Cory Taylor not present) has selected Atrium Book Systems for their ILS and is in the process of automation.
- **Wheatland** was not represented. No update.