

**STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
February 19, 2020
Baton Rouge, La
10:00 am**

CALL TO ORDER

The State Library Board of Commissioners meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Dr. Argiro Morgan. Additional members in attendance included Louis Covington, David Johnson, James Lee, and Evelyn Valore. Rebecca Hamilton was present as Executive Secretary.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Morgan called for a motion to approve and adopt the agenda as presented. Motion was offered by Covington and seconded by Johnson, and unanimously carried.

MINUTES

On a motion offered by Morgan and seconded by Lee, the minutes were approved.

QUARTERLY REPORT

Hamilton went over the quarterly report highlighting the efforts of State Library staff in a less than ideal environment. She pointed out the volume of work that her staff is able to accomplish for the State Library and the public libraries. She noted 3 calls from Parish Presidents commending State Library staff for helping their parish library system resolve local issues quickly.

A discussion was held regarding the budget for FY 20-21 and the needs of the public libraries.

OLD BUSINESS

A discussion was held regarding ongoing challenges regarding staffing and support. Hamilton reported that support at the parish level for public libraries and the State Library is very strong. The libraries are an integral part of parish government with parish officials relying upon them for so many things; and newly elected parish and state officials are equally supportive. Morgan pointed out how important it is for parish officials to understand the roles of libraries and if they do they are always supportive.

Lee and Johnson once again commended the State Library staff and said that it was evident that public library service across the state is strong and that this begins at the top with the State Library.

NEW BUSINESS

Hamilton informed the board about the ransomware attack on state systems that impacted the State Library. She explained that part of the reason the State Library was so impacted was because the equipment in place was outdated and needed to be replaced but the State Library has not had the funds to do so.

Hamilton reported on the critical role that public libraries and the State Library are playing regarding the Census and how State Library staff members have been meeting with Louisiana's Census team regarding how to ensure Louisiana has a strong Census response. Lee asked about barriers for the public to be able to take the Census online. Hamilton explained that the primary issue for the Census will be the public libraries having enough computers and/or working computers to handle the influx of patrons coming in. She explained that the Census itself is very brief but there is low broadband adoption in rural areas that will increase the number of people coming to the public libraries to fill it out, while at the same time, due to what appears to be the permanent loss of State Aid as of 2016, the libraries have not been able to update computers or increase the number of computers even as public demand has more than doubled in the last few years.

Morgan who sits on the St. Tammany Parish Library Board asked about the status of the Public Information Director position being filled. She indicated that the staff at her library have pointed out the need for this position to be filled quickly as the public libraries rely on the State Library for leadership regarding these topics.

ADJOURNMENT

Morgan made the motion to adjourn and Valore approved. There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 11:27 am

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Hamilton, Secretary
State Library Board of Commissioners

Georgia Brown, Chair
State Library Board of Commissioners