



MINNESOTA LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

Minnesota Library Association
Board Meeting Minutes
December 2018
Electronic Vote

This was an electronic vote to approve and submit a letter to the Walz-Flanagan team to encourage them to include library funding in their proposed budget.

The letter is included on pg. 3-4.

Motion:

Legislative Chair-Elect Ann Hokanson has moved that the board approve and then submit the letter (Ann has made this motion as the Legislative Chair is currently unavailable).

Responses to Motion:

Ryan McCormick
Second the motion.

Philip Dudas
Aye

Jill Smith
Aye

Kirsten Clark
Aye

Jim Weygand
Aye

Amy Boese
Aye

Tasha Nins
Aye

Sara Ring

Aye

Sarah Hawkins

Aye

Jonathan Carlson

Aye

“As we’re all voting on this, could we also add the MLA Board as a signatory and not just the president? Not sure if this would make any difference.”

Kirsten Clark

“The MLA president represents the association in correspondence such as this, just as the others on the letter represent their associations. The voting is to ensure that the message is supported by the board and we approve the president signing on the organization's behalf, not just the board.”

Ryan McCormick

“The motion carries. Thanks all!”

Motion that MLA approves and submits the letter was approved.

1.04.2019

Governor Tim Walz

Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

cc: Mary Cathryn Ricker

Library patrons, staff, administrators, educators and supporters across the state share your vision for a One Minnesota for public and school library service. When we hear One Minnesota we think about re-investing in our eroding border-to-border library services. Libraries are a core service in our communities and schools, and their efficient, networked operation depends in part on state funding.

Minnesota has a strong system of interconnected regional library systems that equalize service between the smallest rural school and public libraries and the greatest metropolitan ones, providing economies of scale, streamlined operations, and reduced operating costs. Our state's library system structure ensures that a student in Wells, Minnesota has the same professional support and access to quality information as a student in Maple Grove or New Ulm. But funding to support these efforts through the Department of Education has remained flat since the 2007 legislative session, while costs, of course, have continued to rise.

On behalf of the Minnesota Library Association and the Information Technology Educators of Minnesota, we strongly urge you to direct your Commissioner of Education, Mary Cathryn Ricker, to work with library representatives to include increased funding for public and school library services in your education funding package.

For public library services, we need the state to increase funding to the regional public library systems, coupled with a change in how these funds are distributed in order to achieve more budgetary stability for systems as they plan and develop basic library services. If no action is taken, public libraries in Minnesota's most rural areas of the state are at serious risk for closure or reduced hours.

As Minnesota's school districts have grappled with rapid change and tight budgets, school libraries and their staff have been under increased pressure to meet students' needs. School libraries need additional funds appropriated through the state's multitype library systems so educators and school library staff have the information resources and professional support they need to prepare K-12 students for education and career success.

As you know, education is a lifelong endeavor. Libraries are a key asset in serving every Minnesotan from birth and throughout life. Families and caregivers rely on the public library to give our youngest citizens a healthy start on literacy. Public and school libraries partner to provide PreK-12 students and their teachers not only the high-quality content they deserve but also the expert instruction and support they need. School and public libraries stand ready to continue helping students attain better educational outcomes and to help Minnesotans be lifelong learners and well-prepared citizens.

Of course, our public libraries serve our adult citizens, too. They serve as the only available gateway to many government services for citizens who either don't have Internet at home or work, or don't have the technology skills to use computers. Today's libraries are community centers, classrooms, places for quiet reflection, government service centers, and arts and cultural institutions. They create the place and opportunity for all our residents to become part of the community, to be Minnesotan.

School and public libraries are critical educational and social infrastructure. A One Minnesota relies on informed, educated, and socially-connected residents and students. Please ensure these vital institutions get the necessary funding so they can meet their responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Minnesota Library Association (MLA) President

Kirsten Clark, University of Minnesota Libraries

Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota (ITEM), President

Tammi Wilkins, Duluth Public Schools

Multicounty Multitype Libraries, Chair

Mary Jordan, Central Minnesota Libraries Exchange

Council of Regional Public Library System Administrators (CRPSLA), Chair

Carla Lydon, East Central Regional Library