

SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK LIBRARY SYSTEM

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SALS Board Meeting ■ **April 20, 2021** at 1 p.m.
held virtually via GoToMeeting

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Southern Adirondack Library System was held Tuesday, April 20, 2021, held virtually via GoToMeeting and brought to order at 1:00 p.m. with President Jordan Hornstein presiding.

Present were: Mmes. Borden, Connell, Kuhr, Lindner, Shapiro, and Taylor, and Messrs. Hornstein, Odess, and Wise. Also present were: Bob Jeffords, SALS Treasurer; Sara Dallas, SALS Director; Jill Ryder, SALS Assistant Director & Collection Management Consultant; Erica Freudenberger, Outreach & Engagement Consultant; Jack Scott, Technology and Youth Services Consultant; Dianne Winter, SALS Finance & Administration Manager; Ike Pulver, Saratoga Springs Public Library Director; Kathy Naftaly, Crandall Public Library Director; Michelle Duell, Mechanicville District Public Library Director; and Courtney Keir, Rockwell Falls Public Library Director.

Absent with prior notice were: Mmes. Cowin, Nemer, and Seifts.

1. **Public Comment:** None.

2. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2021:**

Mr. Hornstein asked if there were any additions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes of the March 16, 2021, Board meeting. Ms. Borden moved, seconded by Ms. Connell, to approve the March 16, 2021 minutes of the SALS Board meeting. Motion carried.

3. **Treasurer's Report and Monthly Budget Reports for March; Warrants 2021-7 through 2021-8 and TA21-5 through TA21-6:**

Mr. Jeffords reviewed the March 2021 Treasurer's and Monthly Budget Reports. Mr. Wise moved, seconded by Mr. Odess, that receipt of the March report be acknowledged and filed for audit. Motion carried. (Copy attached to the Official Minutes.)

4. **Director's Report:**

Mrs. Dallas shared information regarding the NYS 21-22 budget:

- \$94.1 million general library funding – the same amount as the original 2020 SALS Budget
- \$34 million for construction – which roughly means SALS will be able to award almost \$1 million of matching funds for member library projects
- Bullet Aid – shared information with the member libraries about the possibility of bullet aid; SALS requested some aid to help with the cost of delivery

Additional funding updates included SALS receiving the 20% of funding held back from the state FY 20-21 funding. Member libraries will be receiving the 20% of the initial 90% payment of their LLSA funds. SALS has still not received funds from the CARES Act made available through the NYS Library.

SALS continues to work on its plan of service. Erica Freudenberger has been facilitating the process, mirroring what she is doing to help member libraries write their own plans of service. She will be the “guest” speaker at the SALS Annual Meeting and update us on the process and plan.

Part of the plan is to review the 90.3 document. This is Free Direct Access. When libraries choose to join SALS, they make their resources and collections available to everyone in the four counties. This document talks about access and what to do if a library faces hardship from borrowers outside their chartered to serve area. I have shared a rough draft with the member library directors. Most of the revision is updating statistics. Fewer people are unserved by a library, and the local per capita support has increased over the past five years. The highest per capita support is \$286.60 (CVW LLL); the lowest \$4.39 (Brant Lake).

Mrs. Dallas informed the board that quarantining of delivery materials will stop on May 3rd. The latest data shows COVID is airborne.

Congratulations are in order for Erica Freudenberger. She has been elected to the Public Library Association’s Board of Directors. She will be representing rural libraries on a national level. Mrs. Dallas has been re-elected to ALA Council. It is an exciting time to serve on Council as it is looking very closely at its governing structure. Currently, she is serving on a workgroup to develop resolutions to help change the current structure.

Mrs. Dallas voiced her strong support for allowing the Saratoga Springs Public Library to use the SALS side lawn for outdoor programs. This is an agenda item later in the meeting.

SALS will co-host a program on the Dr. Seuss controversy on June 4th from 10-11:30 am. The presenters are Dr. Emily Knox, a national expert on intellectual freedom and social justice, and Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Director of the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom. Deborah is quoted in many of the articles.

Mrs. Dallas has been involved in national advocacy to increase federal aid for libraries. She has urged board members and staff to contact their Congressional representative to ask for their support of the America Builds Libraries Act. If passed, this will bring millions of dollars for needed library construction to our region – and that was the purpose behind her guest essay in the Post Star.

JA contract with III (our Polaris vendor) almost ready for signatures, it has been reviewed by the JA attorney.

Information was shared with State Librarian about SALS and services/programs done throughout the pandemic to support our libraries and people in our communities. She may share it with the Regents during a meeting.

State Education Department wants Central Libraries to be open 55 hours per week by June 1. Mrs. Dallas worked with Kathy Naftaly to share our concerns. There will be a meeting at the end of this week to discuss the timing.

SALS staff will begin discussing having more people report to 22 Whitney as more staff are fully vaccinated.

- A. Joint Automation Report: None.
- B. Other: None.

5. Committee Reports:

A. Audit & Finance (R. Wise, chair):

Mrs. Dallas suggested scheduling a committee meeting to review the 2021 budget in light of the NYS FY21-22 budget.

B. Building (C. Connell, chair):

Ms. Winter reported the new locks will be installed week of May 3rd.

C. Bylaws Committee (R. Wise, chair): None.

D. Central Library Aid and Services (D. Nemer, chair): None.

E. County Aid Coordinators (Seifts, Connell, Odess, Cowin): None.

F. Library Services (C. Kuhr, chair): None.

G. Personnel (L. Borden, chair): None.

H. Trustee Nominating (E. Cowin, chair):

Mrs. Dallas reported Sue Beck is the Warren County nominee. Her name will be put forward at the SALS Annual Meeting. Ms. Winter proposed delaying the discussion of a Board fund for gifts to the next regular meeting.

6. Unfinished Business: None.

7. New Business:

A. Advocacy Day presentation

Mr. Scott and Ms. Freudenberger shared an abridged version of the SALS 2021 Advocacy Day presentation made to our local elected officials in February.

B. SSPL use of SALS lawn for programming

Mr. Pulver reported the Saratoga Springs Public Library is in the process of planning its summer reading programs in a way that is safe for both attendees and staff. Based on the science, it seems best to host programs outside and SSPL does not have adequate green space to do so, and is requesting to make use of the SALS lawn. The library has looked into parks, but believes due to the higher foot traffic, it would be more difficult to maintain social distance there as opposed to the lower-traffic SALS location. Any attendees who require the facilities would be accompanied by a SSPL staff person, and SALS would be listed as an additional insured on the SSPL insurance policy. Several board members asked questions regarding the number and frequency of programs. Mr. Pulver estimated at the SALS location there would be no more than two programs per day, three days a week, Monday through Friday, during July and August 2021. Attendance would be limited to 15 registrants per program, would mean 15-20 people at most. The library may put up an EZ-Up tent in case of rain or sun, but it would only be in use during programs (or for the duration of the day where there is both a morning and afternoon program on the same day). SALS staff would coordinate with SSPL staff to ensure programs do not interfere with lawn care and delivery, or vice versa. Mr. Wise voiced his support for SALS supporting SSPL as a means of outreach. Ms. Borden expressed her concern about attendees using the SALS facilities.

Ms. Kuhr moved, seconded by Ms. Wise, to approve use of SALS lawn for SSPL programming. Motion carried.

C. Officer Nominating Committee: Mr. Hornstein noted he needs three volunteers for the committee. Those interested in the committee or in serving as an officer should reach out to him in advance of the Annual Meeting in May. New officers will need to be elected at the June meeting.

8. Director’s Council Report:

Ms. Duell provided a brief overview of the most recent Council meeting, which included ending materials quarantine, the NYS budget, Mrs. Dallas’s article in the Post-Star, and advocacy efforts.

9. Announcements: None.

Meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m. Moved by Ms. Lindner, seconded by Ms. Connell. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Winter