



## Communications Coordinator

### Meeting Minutes 4/18/2023

**Attendance:** E. Anderson, J. Balk, L. Biniszkievicz, J. Bork, R. Carraba, A. Cohen, H. Damico, L. Dibello Wolski, A. Disalvo, S. Grimm, R. Kozlowski, A. Marciniak, A. Marshall, L. Martini, M. Moelbert, H. Mussachio, B. Pasek, J. Patterson, L. Penn, M. J. Sicurella, D. Sloan, A. Young, H. Ziemer

**Absent:** T. Bulas, L. A. Kostempski, D. Schmidle, C. Stockslader, S. Obrochta, J. Pontrello

**Meeting called to order:** 9:02 AM by E. Anderson

Roll call and introductions.

**Motion:** to approve December minutes. Motion made by L. Penn seconded by H. Damico  
Approved 22 Opposed – 0. Motion Carried.

#### **Open Issues – Announcements**

**Erie 1 Boces** – E. Anderson created a Wakelet and posted the agenda and the minutes on it and shared the link with everyone. It also has an announcements category, as well as old and new business categories that can be added to. Media Literacy in NY: Reports from the Field professional development is on May 17<sup>th</sup> – in person but linked to other school library systems virtually and held at Western New York Library Resources Council. The Link is in the Wakelet. Is there a conversation about AI? Eileen will find out. Next week is NY library week. NYLA put out some resources to promote New York Library week next week there is a link in the Wakelet. Eileen will get more information about the Buffalo Museum of Science Fun Fest. There are 2 school districts currently signed up. Be on the lookout for more information in an email soon. Please fill out the form for Summer School and it will be due back by the end of May.

**Akron CSD** – L Penn. – The next Mom’s for Liberty meeting is May 2<sup>nd</sup> and requires registration.

**Amherst CSD (Buffalo Academy of The Sacred Heart)** – L. Biniszkievicz will be retiring this year.

**Cheektowaga CSD**- A. Cohen will be resigning.

**Kenmore-Tonawanda UFSD** – A. Young will be having a full year long-term sub opening in August for the Elementary school.

**Williamsville CSD** – B. Pasek – They have three librarians retiring this year. There will be two postings, one for Elementary school and one for the Middle school.

**WNYRLC** – H. Ziemer - She announced the winners from Diverse Collections Grant from Buffalo, Gowanda HS, Panama ES, Mt. St. Mary's and Falconer MS. They are looking to do this next year depending on the NYS Budget. The traveling exhibits are still available. There is talk about developing another one next year. They also have many online exhibits that do not have companion traveling exhibits. The High School College Lib Guide does have resources on one of its tabs for book bans and book challenges. The Consider the Source Project that WNYRC has been working on with the NYS achieves has 3 new collections in New York Heritage and classroom lessons are going to be developed for those collections.

Asset Mapping – WNYRLC sent out a survey for Asset Mapping. They are asking for every school that has a school library and school librarian to complete the survey. They are surveying every public school academic special library in the Western New York area. This is part of the preparation for the Investment and Infrastructure Jobs Act - IIA Funding that is going to be coming to NYS. Once they have completed their State digital equity plan. They want to build capacity in the WNY Region to support digital inclusion, which means making broadband and devices more accessible and affordable and digital skills training. Also focusing on maker spaces for developing technical skills for educational and career opportunities. The link is also in the Wakelet.

#### **Old Business/Open Items:**

Resources to Fight Against Local Book Bans - B. Pasek – She was working on a document to help people be more active about contacting their school boards in relation to book bans. There are groups that are very active in trying to get books banned from their libraries. School boards hear a lot from the angry people, but they do not hear from the people who love their library. They need to encourage people to express their opinions to their school boards. She put together a document that has links to sample letters to school boards about supporting intellectual freedom and has information about the number of book bans going on in this country. For Erie County Public schools, if someone would like to expand that list, she would be happy to speak with them. She said to share this with your union, other librarians and teachers and tell folks they need to communicate and be against those people who are against us. The link is in the Wakelet for the survey along with the flyer that B. Pasek provided.

Five Year Plan – Eileen would like to gather input from everyone about what it is used for and what they want it to be used for. They did go through it at their meetings for input with Alicia.

**Public Library** – There is a list of membership discounts you can get just with your library card. There is also an Educators card benefit from the public library that you can get for 6 weeks instead of normal time with a limit of 100 books. You are personally responsible for any lost books, and it is good for a year.

**Suny Buffalo** – M.J. Sicurella – Will look into seeing if a Computer Science certification program could be offered at the Graduate level.

**Summer School Form** - Please fill out the form for Summer School and it will be due back by the end of May.

**West Seneca** – R.Carraba – For this year the MS & HS summer school is being held in one building. The librarian position was eliminated. She is looking into it and will let us know. It would be great to have a Google drive or some sort of shared drive for new and shared information.

**New Business:**

**Audiobook SYNC** – This is just for HS. SYNC Audiobook does free audio books for ages 13 and up from April 27 – August 2. Students can download them to Sora to get free audiobook access. Sora is the app to access your Overdrive material. If they have a district account, they have access to the audiobook. H. Damico asked if Ed Law 2 D compliant? Eileen will investigate this and let everyone know.

**Usage Statistics** – How many people keep stats on their database usage? Some districts keep an annual report and submit that information to their administrators at the end of the year. They would like the Tech department to compile that information and then have a discussion with the librarians. They would like them all to use Google single sign on. Novel databases are free for an additional year through June 30, 2024. The Erie 1 SLS Online Resources Access Database link is in the Wakelet.

**For the Good of the Order & Adjournment:**

Motion to Adjourn – Approved by B. Pasek seconded by L.Penn.

NEXT MEETING is May 18, 2023

Meeting adjourned 1:27 PM