

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
ALABAMA PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE
MARCH 21, 2024**

The Executive Board of the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) met on March 21, 2024, at the Alabama Public Library Service building in Montgomery, Alabama. A quorum was present and prior notice was given as required by the Alabama Open Meetings Act and Act #2022-421.

Chairman, Ron Snider called the Executive Board Regular Meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., and roll was taken. The Chair welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

The following Board members were present: Ron Snider, Angelia Stokes, Michelle Hughes, John Wahl, Debra Windsor, and Amy Minton. Member absent: Jerria Martin. APLS staff members present: Nancy Pack, Kelyn Ralya, Jessica Everingham, Ryan Godfrey, and Vanessa Carr. Visitors attended were: Tara Hetzel and Viana Hosea, Office of the Attorney General.

Mr. Snider asked if there were additions to the Agenda. Mrs. Stokes made the motion to adopt the Agenda as written. Mr. Wahl seconded the motion. Members voting in favor by saying "aye" are as follows: Ron Snider, Amy Minton, Debra Windsor, John Wahl, and Angelia Stokes. No "nays."

The Minutes of the January 30, 2024 meeting were presented to the Board for approval. Mr. Wahl made the motion to approve the Minutes as written. Mrs. Stokes seconded the motion. Members voting in favor by saying "aye" are as follows: Debra Windsor, Ron Snider, Amy Minton, John Wahl, and Angelia Stokes. No "nays."

Participation

Mr. Snider welcomed all the participants to the meeting. He stated that several persons asked this week about participating to talk about the Prattville situation. He said he advised them that since it was so late and we had a full agenda, that they would be welcome to speak at the next meeting. He added that we have all been reading about what's happening in Prattville. We are always concerned when there is discord in a library; but I believe those are local matters that we have no authority with respect to, and concerns are more properly addressed with local government officials there. It was made clear to us by the Attorney General's Opinion that we can only advise libraries, our only real authority is in respect to state aid, if public libraries are not in compliance with the Administrative Code.

At that time, Mr. Snider asked the Board and participants to introduce themselves and thanked everyone for coming.

- Ron Snider, Chair, First Congressional District
- Angelia Stokes, Second Congressional District
- Amy Minton, Third Congressional District
- Nancy C. Pack, Director of the Alabama Public Library Service
- Tara Hetzel, Attorney General's Office
- Debra Windsor, Fourth Congressional District
- John Wahl, Fifth Congressional District
- Kelyn Ralya, Assistant Director
- Jessica Everingham, Assistant Director
- Ryan Godfrey, Communications Director
- Jacob Holmes, Alabama Political
- Terry Wilson
- Andrew Foster, Former director, Autauga-Prattville Public Library
- Amber Frey
- Jessica Hayes, ALLA
- Lori Herring, Eagle Forum of AL
- Crystal Clelland – Moms for Liberty
- Hannah Rees, Clean-Up Alabama
- Vania Hosea, Attorney General's Office

Chairman's Report**Welcome New Board Members**

Mr. Snider welcomed Amy Minton and Debra Windsor to the APLS Executive Board. Mrs. Windsor will represent the third congressional district of Alabama. Mrs. Minton will represent the fourth congressional district of Alabama. He said he was glad to have them and was looking forward to working with them. He said both are supporters of libraries and those of us on the Board believe the Board does a lot of good for the State. He said he appreciated their willingness to serve.

Orientation Training

Mr. Snider – Amy Minton and Debra Windsor attended orientation training on February 20, 2024 at APLS. I hope the orientation training was helpful and useful.

Letter to Michelle Hughes – Sixth Congressional District

Mr. Snider - Michelle Hughes was appointed to the sixth congressional district of Alabama because of redistricting.

Unfinished Business**Attorney General's Opinion – January 30, 2024**

The Attorney General's Opinion was received at the last meeting on the day of the Meeting, January 30, 2024. There is a representative from the Attorney General's office here today. Do you want to comment on the Opinion?

Tara Hetzel – No thank you.

Mr. Snider – The way I read the Attorney General's Opinion is: this Board can advise local libraries boards, but it does not have the authority to mandate actions of those boards. Our only authority is we can restrict state aid in compliance with the Administrative Code. Which I think is what we thought originally; that we did not have the authority to mandate what individual libraries determined. So, does anyone have any comments about the opinion or questions.

Mr. Wahl – I think it lays out pretty clearly what we were thinking. It's good to have that legal background. At that time, Mrs. Minton gave a document to each board member and asked that it be incorporated into the Administrative Code.

Administrative Code Hearing – April 30, 2024

The Administrative Code Hearing will be held on April 30, 2024, at the Alabama Public Library Service. As of March 20, 2024, 499 written requests have been received. The number of requests stating not to change the code is 399; the number stating change the code is 17. A court reporter on state contract, will attend the hearing.

Mr. Snider – We encourage as many board members as can to attend the hearing at 10:00 a.m. on April 30, 2024.

Dr. Pack - There is a forty-five (45) day waiting day period after the Board makes a decision. During that forty-five (45) day waiting period, any person can challenge the Board's decision. If so, it would go to the Legislative Council. Chapter 22 of the Administrative Code, Section 41-22-23.

Tara Hetzel – The Legislative Council will take notice and listen to both sides of review materials and make a decision on whether they approve it or not. It's a joint committee.

Mr. Snider – Who makes up the legislative council?

Ms. Hetzel – It's a joint committee (not sure of the breakdown of the members appointed)

Mr. Snider – Are they all legislators?

Ms. Hetzel – Yes.

Mr. Snider – Just to be clear, when we have our hearing on April 30, we don't act on that day. Don't we have a subsequent meeting to determine.

Administrative Code Hearing – April 30, 2024 (continued)

Ms. Hetzel – You should take the information you received that particular day into consideration on any changes that need to be done.

Mr. Snider – Then, we would have a subsequent meeting to adopt or propose amendments to it. Now, if we propose amendments, that would have to go for public comments again.

Ms. Hetzel – No.

Mr. Snider – It would not. So, we could make amendments.

Ms. Hetzel – Correct. If you hear something from the public, then you say yes, that's exactly the way we need to change it. You can amend the Rule and that amendment will go to LSA in the publishing process, and the review process, that they have per the statute.

Dr. Pack – Then you can take it to the Lt. Governor.

Ms. Hetzel – Correct. You can go to the Lt. Governor if LSA disapprove, you can appeal.

Mr. Snider – He's the ultimate arbitrator then?

Ms. Hetzel – It can be challenged through the court system.

Dr. Pack – This is a very serious process. I want the Board to know the procedures because we must do it the right way. Mr. Snider – Are there any questions about the procedure we are going to follow?

Mr. Wahl – Who would represent us if it goes to the Supreme Court; who represents those changes. Will that be the Attorney General's Office?

Ms. Hetzel – That would be the Attorney General.

Mrs. Minton – In full transparency, I would like to make a motion that we either vote to include this (a document was given to the Board) to the current APLS code changes on April 30; or that we vote to start a new forty-five (45) days to consider this as separate; or possibly see it as an amendment to add. I need some direction on this.

Dr. Pack – If we did it separate; we would have to file it and roll it out as a new process. This will create confusion as to what we have posted.

Mr. Snider – My view of this is the proposal that's outstanding was adopted by the Board for public comment and for a public hearing. It was language that the Governor's office asked that we propose. I think that we should let the process play out as it's already set in motion; and following that will be a more appropriate time to consider this. I do not think it's appropriate to make any additional proposals to amend what we have out for public comment. I would think your motion would be more proper following the April 30 meeting.

Mr. Wahl – I have a quick question. In the start of a new process can that be done at this meeting or can that be at the next meeting? If you amend the Code and put in a second public comment period.

Ms. Hetzel – At this particular junction, this would be a separate package.

Mr. Snider – I don't think we should.

Mrs. Minton – I would like to make a motion to do that.

Mr. Wahl – What if I made a motion to set up a subcommittee because it's a couple of things in the wording here that I think we may not have the authority, and I don't want to make public comments that we don't have the authority to implement, like the local funding and not limited to in the book section. That may not be the best wording there. What if we set up a

Administrative Code Hearing – April 30, 2024 (continued)

subcommittee to look into this and report back at the next meeting. I don't know if we have any private time on the 30th to make recommendations.

Mr. Snider – I think it might be better at the next Board Meeting considering the April 30 findings.

Mr. Wahl – If at the next Board Meeting, we are considering the April 30 findings, that would be a good time to bring up the recommendation on this.

Mr. Snider – So we basically have two competing motions,?

Mr. Wahl – Would you accept the motion for a subcommittee?

Dr. Pack – Nobody has seconded it.

Ms. Hetzel – Yes. The motion is just out there.

Mr. Snider – I know it's out there, but do we even have a second for the subcommittee. Mrs. Windsor seconded the motion. I guess you want to ask for an amendment to that motion?

Mr. Wahl -That's right – make an amendment to that motion. We want to get it right. I think it's important to all of us at this table to make sure that our children are protected, and that we don't have innocent children accidentally stumbling across sexually explicit materials in libraries.

Mr. Snider – You are making that motion?

Mr. Wahl – Mine would be a friendly motion, and I would ask that these two ladies (Mrs. Windsor and Mrs. Minton) and myself be on the committee to work this out.

Mrs. Minton – Do we do this before the 30th?

Mr. Snider – No. I think we let the 30th play out.

Ms. Hetzel - Basically, we will have what you have already presented be one set of rules and you would have a subcommittee and utilize a second package that would have to go back through a comment period. It can still go, but at a different time.

Mrs. Minton – Can I make a motion to do that?

Ms. Hetzel – That is the motion you made.

Mr. Snider – He has asked that you agree to a motion for an amendment.

Mrs. Minton – Yes.

Mrs. Stokes – I will second that amendment for you Mr. Wahl.

Mr. Snider – Now the motion is that a committee be appointed to consider this language and to report back at the next Board Meeting.

Mr. Wahl – Is it appropriate for me to mention to the Board that I appoint the subcommittee. Would that be in order?

Mr. Snider – The Chair appoints the subcommittee.

Mr. Wahl – Is it in order for me to make that motion.

Ms. Hetzel – Yes.

Administrative Code Hearing – April 30, 2024 (continued)

Mr. Wahl – I would maintain my motion then that I make the nomination that it be three persons on the committee.

Ms. Hetzel – He can make the nomination and Mr. Snider can either accept or reject it.

Mr. Snider – I think Angelia Stokes needs to be on the committee also. We need continuity with respect to it. As Chair, I am always the ex-officio member of any committee.

Mr. Wahl – Let’s do Angelia Stokes, Amy Minton, and John Wahl on the subcommittee.

Mr. Snider – Yes. The Committee will consist of: John Wahl, Angelia Stokes and Amy Minton.

Ms. Hetzel – The first motion has a first and second.

Mr. Snider - I think Mrs. Minton accepted the amendment. What we are voting on includes the amendment. So, we are approving a subcommittee composed of John Wahl, Amy Minton and Angelia Stokes and myself as Ex-officio. All in favor as amended. Members voting in favor by saying “aye” are as follows: John Wahl, Angelia Stokes, Amy Minton, Debra Windsor, and Ron Snider. No “nays.”

Parent’s Inappropriate book List on the APLS Website

Dr. Pack - The grand total of the booklist on the APLS website is: 134 as of March 7, 2024. There have been no additions since that time. Below are the statistics for the book list from December 2023 – March 2024.

December 14, 2023 – January 5, 2024

Total number of requests submitted – 50

- Requests that met the criteria – 7
- Requests that didn’t meet the criteria - 43

January 6, 2024 – February 6, 2024

Total number of requests submitted – 79

- Requests that met the criteria -79
- Requests that didn’t meet the criteria -0

February 7, 2024 – March 7, 2024

Total number of requests submitted –5

- Requests that met the criteria – 5
- Requests that didn’t meet the criteria - 0

Grand total of requests submitted – 134

Requests that met the criteria – 91

Requests that didn’t meet the criteria - 43

Nominating Committee to Recommend Vice-Chair for FY2024

The Nominating Committee was appointed at the January Meeting to recommend a Vice-Chair for FY2024. The Committee consisted of Angelia Stokes and Michelle Hughes. The Committee recommended Jerria Martin as Vice-Chair for FY2024. Ms. Martin accepted the recommendation. Mrs. Stokes made a motion to accept the recommendation. Mrs. Windsor seconded the motion. Members voting in favor by saying “aye” are as follows: Amy Minton, Ron Snider, John Wahl, Debra Windsor, and Angelia Stokes. No “nays.”

Status on Hiring Library Operations Manager

Dr. Pack – Rhonda Napier was moved from Library Development (the consultants’ area) to take over Regional Librarian position in the Blind & Physically Disabled (BPD) Division. The Library Operations Manager position was left vacant in the consultants’ area. It was posted and interviews were conducted. A candidate was offered the position and turned it down. Having no other qualified candidates for the position, it was decided that Jessica Everingham would be over the consultants.

New Business**State Aid Waiver – Linda Duran Public Library – Funding**

Linda Duran Public Library requested a waiver of the state aid rules for FY2024 for funding. I am requesting that the Board approve the waiver. The director was out on medical leave and she hasn't had the opportunity to follow through with some of the rules and regulations.

Mr. Snider - We have a recommendation by Dr. Pack to approve the waiver. Do we have a motion to approve the waiver? Mr. Wahl made the motion. Mrs. Stokes seconded the motion. Members voting in favor by saying "aye" are as follows: Debra Windsor, Amy Minton, Ron Snider, Angelia Stokes, and John Wahl. No "nays."

Request Permission to Start the Hiring Process

Dr. Pack gave the following synopsis on the hiring process:

- Personnel Assistant II/III - Tameka Gilmore has accepted a position with another state agency. Her last day at APLS is March 29, 2024. State Personnel does not have a list for the PA II/III classification. They are in the testing process. It will be a while before we can get a list of candidates to interview. Our back-up for HR is Jennifer Holman and myself.
- Warehouse Worker – This is an essential position for the Blind & Physically Disabled (BPD) Division. That position is unclassified, meaning there is no list through State Personnel.
- Library Technician – State Personnel will need to open up the Library Technician position so the position can be filled in the BPD Division.

She requested permission to hire a warehouse worker and report back at the next meeting. I am not sure when we will see candidates for the Personnel Assistant classification.

Ms. Hetzel – Anytime a new class is open to refresh the list, there is a process. State Personnel has to make sure the minimum qualifications are good, and the position functions are still in line with the duties and overall class. Input from stakeholders take a little while. They have to formulate the test; when the test is developed, the candidates take the test, depending on what kind of test is. It could be another couple of weeks. They test, grade and get the Certificate of Eligible Applicants ready for the register. It can take a few weeks. The old list is being shut down because it's getting close to testing.

Baldwin County Cooperative Dissolve – Requesting APLS Assistance

Dr. Pack – Baldwin County Cooperative Library (BCCL) has a bookmobile that serves a lot of communities. They wanted APLS to possibly take over the bookmobile service as a demonstration grant. I haven't heard back from them. There are a lot of things to consider for APLS to do that. Considerations are: liability insurance for staffing; and for possible injuries on the bookmobile. The collection is held in the Foley Public Library; they are building a new library and it is not certain that they will maintain the collection. I have not received any additional information.

Mrs. Stokes – Did I understand you correctly that this is a bookmobile?

Dr. Pack – BCCL has a collection and they do have bookmobile service to Magnolia Springs and to small libraries in the area. For interlibrary loans (ILL), they have a courier service. They wanted APLS to look at providing courier service and to maintain the bookmobile.

Mrs. Stokes – Is this normal for them to do that with the bookmobile? I have never heard this before.

Dr. Pack – Yes. This is a normal function if you're a cooperative or regional library.

Mr. Snider – They are apparently in the process of unwinding or dissolving the cooperative.

Dr. Pack – They may have dissolved it by now, I don't know.

Mr. Snider – Was the only service they provided the bookmobile?

Baldwin County Cooperative Dissolve – Requesting APLS Assistance (continued)

Dr. Pack – They provided ILL services too. They had a courier service that carried books to all participating libraries. The bookmobile served the smaller libraires.

Mrs. Stokes – Do you think that’s going to happen to more and more bookmobiles because of the use of the internet and the courier services instead. Is it less expensive?

Dr. Pack – I can’t answer that. I know libraries that have bought bookmobiles have turned them into tech mobiles, some have concrete pads they set them on when they go to a town or community. Patrons check out books and have an internet resource.

Mr. Snider – Are we interested in performing joint services; I don’t think we are interested in doing that, are we?

Dr. Pack –I don’t know. It’s all what’s laid out on the table for me to bring back to the Board. If the county commission says they will provide the bookmobile, insurance and the building; it could be a model project. It will be new territory to explore.

Mr. Snider – What we need is a motion to authorize you to enter into discussions with them and come back at the next meeting with a recommendation. Mr. Wahl made the motion to allow Dr. Pack to discuss APLS assisting BCCL. Mrs. Minton seconded the motion. Members voting in favor by saying “aye” are as follows: Angelia Stokes, Debra Windsor, Ron Snider, Amy Minton and John Wahl. No “nays.”

2023 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) Form

2023 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) Form is attached for your review. The Form must be filed with the Alabama Ethics Commission on or before April 30, 2024. It is available for submission on the Ethics Commission’s website at www.ethics.alabama.gov.

Mrs. Stokes – I looked at this online and it’s a little different this time. They ask you to sign in online and open an account and create another password.

Mr. Wahl – The form is by calendar year. New board members appointed to the Board after January 1, 2024, are not required to complete the SEI form until the following year.

On A Different Topic

Mr. Wahl – At the last meeting, we chose to leave the American Library Association (ALA). I would like to look into if there were things that were provided by (ALA) that were positive things for local libraries. If that is the Library Bill of Rights, then Alabama should focus on these areas, where we as a Board can be putting these items out for support of our local libraries. The Library Bill of Rights coming from the state agency in charge of the Alabama libraries. I don’t know if that will require a motion, but I definitely would like to look into that and make sure no services that are beneficial have been cut for public libraries.

Dr. Pack – Our consultants are well-versed in helping libraries draft statements without using ALA’s Freedom of Information Act. Consultants work with public libraries by drafting policies and statements. They use their experiences and a variety of resources other than the American Library Association.

Mrs. Stokes – You have already sent that material out to various libraries?

Dr. Pack – Most libraries call Consultants to ask for their help if needed.

Mr. Wahl – Can we take this on and be proactive. Can we do a program or do a website especially for those areas. I was talking to one librarian when speaking at a local event. A librarian from a neighboring county came in and very excited to talk to me. She thanked me for working on the Board. It’s a very rural, small library, and she was excited about the things we are doing. I asked her what are the things that are positive for her, she stated not much, but I would love guidance from the State. I think about all the people we don’t meet; the people that don’t come up to you. If we could do something in the areas that might have been provided by ALA, or smaller libraries that might not be members of ALA.

Dr. Pack – We have an Administrators’ Meeting on April 18, 2024, I can announce consultants are available if you need our help. Other training opportunities for libraries to obtain training are through Niche Academy, our database vendors, and other resources.

Mr. Wahl – I want to be fair in that I am not looking to regulate libraries, I am not looking to add things we have to do; but I am looking at a resource for them. If they have things they are looking to the ALA for or through us, why not have that come directly from us as a state agency representing the views and the citizens of Alabama. I would very much like to have it state-centered and Alabama-focused than national focus.

Mrs. Stokes – Since we have voted to go away from ALA, here are other resources you can use. Consultants will visit their libraries twice a year.

Dr. Pack – Niche Academy reached out to me and asked for a list of things that I feel Niche needs to develop because APLS has withdrawn from ALA. Niche contacted all the states that have withdrawn. Niche Academy provided a list of training in development and what has been developed.

Mr. Wahl – What are the most common policy questions asked?

Dr. Pack – The local board chairman or the local directors haven’t asked us for any.

Mrs. Minton – I walked into one of our local libraries, and the librarian walked straight up to me with the bill of rights, and he said I am taking it down, I know we withdrew from ALA. His thing was Article V about Censorship. I think that’s where the tough situation is where we need to look at. We are not part of the ALA Censorship anymore.

Mr. Wahl – Just because we are not a part of ALA, I don’t want there not to be a bill of rights for our libraries.

Dr. Pack – It’s up to the individual libraries – they can still belong to ALA and they can still belong to ALA.

Mr. Wahl – Give them an alternative. I want to be back-up for them not to force it on a library but be a resource and a back-up for them.

Dr. Pack – What I am saying is, we already have that resource.

Mr. Snider – I think to make libraries aware of the availability of these resources at the Administrators’ Meeting on April 18 would be good. Things we can provide for them as requested.

Mr. Wahl – I want to make a motion that we give back what those items would be, policy recommendations and bill of rights. Then, we draft them on a state level so the libraries can have that as a template if they want it. If we take the role and the local libraries follow our lead I want to provide them with the resources and the backing to be respectful to our local libraries. Not something we force on them or push on them, but something that they have resources for. Mrs. Minton seconded the motion because I think we need to step in where they...

Mr. Snider – So what will they be Dr. Pack, the policy or the bill of rights?

Dr. Pack – I have no idea. We have resources out on the web page for a lot of different things. Each library is different. We encourage libraries to look at their policies every year. There is a diverse group. Some call and ask questions, it would be difficult to nail down. Example: We are working on a collection development tool; it will go on our website as a list. We have been working on it for a few months. It will be loaded in NICHE Academy.

Mr. Wahl – What would you say are the top three things ALA provided for public libraries.

Dr. Pack

1. Seminars, genealogy, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
2. Trainings for small rural libraries are provided by the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL). Keeping abreast of trends by using resources such as *Library Journal*, *Book List*, and other blogs such as e-mail. There are two consortiums of e-books; the cost is astronomical. They are worried about being able to pay for the books. They gain information on publishers on how to negotiate contracts.
3. E-rate and how it will impact public libraries. SHELBY, and broadband.

Mr. Snider – One of the main things ALA did was lobby for LSTA funding for the libraries. That was one of the biggest benefits.

Dr. Pack - That's very important because LSTA renewal comes up in FY2025; it is a division of IMLS. The position of head of IMLS is open now and they are looking for a Museum person. This position rotates between a Library person and a Museum person. IMLS is working with Senator Reed to conduct a survey of all library buildings in the United States. Many of our library buildings are in need of repair. States do not have funding to do so.

Mr. Wahl – Who appoints that position?

Dr. Pack- The President of the United States.

Mr. Snider – Twenty-five years ago, public libraries received hundred thousand dollar grants in Alabama to renovate or construct new buildings in small communities.

Mr. Wahl – I like it that you brought up about the Governor's office already looking into AI and being proactive on that. Forty (40) people is a good amount of people. If you took an hour a day to put together a monthly or bi-monthly webinar for local libraries.

Dr. Pack – We do that already.

Mr. Wahl – You do that already. Great. I just want to make sure the libraries are not missing things like with ALA. That's amazing. You're working on a curriculum, that's awesome.

Mr. Wahl – My main concern was, obviously we didn't have libraries that followed our lead. I wanted to make sure they were provided for and not left. The only area would be a template on the bill of rights that they can use from us. Policies for different items they can use as a resource instead of going to ALA. It was stated one library is taking down the ALA bill of rights. Let's not leave the library without a bill of rights. Let's have an APLS bill of rights.

Dr. Pack – We do everything. We have disaster planning. It's standard operating procedure to do what you are asking.

Mr. Wahl – No. I am glad you're already doing the other. Our motion will be limited to a template library bill of rights and template library policies as a recommendation to libraries if they want to. Mrs. Minton seconded the motion.

Mr. Snider – We have a motion and a second. Any other discussion?

Mr. Wahl – This may be included in the motion. Who wants to be involved with working on that?

Dr. Pack – That's a day-to-day operation as Director of APLS. The Board sets the policies, and I am responsible for the day-to-day operations.

Mr. Snider – That's what I would think. It would come back to the Board.

Mr. Wahl – Will you have that at the next Board meeting?

Dr. Pack – Probably not. There are so many policies that libraries can have.

Mr. Wahl – How many levels will you need, small, medium and large?

Dr. Pack – The Consultants have other projects and deadlines to meet. I am not saying they can't do it; they need to get this on their schedule. They have Reimagining School Readiness (RSR), young children literacy, Auburn Humanities, Summer Reading Program (SRP), New Library Directors' Orientation. I can't guarantee what you are requesting will be done by the next meeting.

Mr. Wahl – I don't want anyone to be disappointed with the time frame, but information is good. If I can help on the process, I can help. I do a lot of drafting on legislation and policies.

Dr. Pack – I appreciate your assistance, but library development and library policies are specific to libraries; it takes someone who has worked in libraries to work with trustees to develop the best policies. I appreciate what you're saying.

Mr. Snider – We have a motion and a second.

Mrs. Stokes – I am sorry. I would like to hear the motion again. That's a lot of information and I am not sure what happened.

Mr. Wahl – I want to simplify this. The motion is to have APLS look into a template bill of rights and a template policy that local libraries can use.

Mrs. Stokes – I thought we already have library policies; each individual library makes their own policies through their Board.

Mr. Wahl – This would be a small template for libraries, three classes (small, medium and large) to use for ideas if they want to, no regulations.

Mr. Wahl - Let's see the template policies. APLS formulate templates for library policies and the Alabama library bill of rights. That would be reported back to the Board. Mr. Wahl made the motion. Mrs. Minton seconded the motion.

Dr. Pack - The Board is going to start approving templates for the bill of rights.

Mr. Wahl – This will be a creation of the Alabama Bill of Rights.

Ms. Everingham – I would like to mention to the Board there are hundreds of policies. It's very important that it is decided what policy templates you're after as a Board.

Mrs. Minton – So it has to be specific.

Ms. Everingham - There are hundreds of policies that are applicable to public libraries (small, medium, or large). It will take months and months.

Mrs. Minton - Why don't we just start with the bill of rights.

Mr. Wahl – What are your recommendations? What are the most common used policies?

Dr. Pack –The ones listed to establish a public library, as listed in the Administrative code, the first nine policies.

Mr. Wahl – Let's start with the ones we list and if we want to expand, we can; right now, just the library bill of rights.

Mr. Snider – Dr. Pack, the policies you are talking about, we already have templates for the policies, don't we?

Dr. Pack – We don't have what Mr. Wahl is asking for. We have individualized ones that people have called and asked us.

Mr. Wahl – You don't have a general template?

Dr. Pack – We don't have a general template because each library is unique. They are all very different. Their Boards work with the trustees to write their policies. We provide them with the fields needed to write policies. We have examples of policies we can provide.

Mr. Wahl – Any professional organization that I have been a part of when you have guidelines, that's something you expect to see from a subsection of that organization; providing a template within the subsections can amend or change at their local. This is a guideline that they can change or amend to the local, just a general guideline.

Mr. Snider – I guess I am a still confused. The policies that we already have, that we made available to libraries, we already have that.

Dr. Pack – We already have, and we have websites that show other libraries' policies, web stations have several examples, they are not Alabama specific but can be adapted.

Mr. Wahl – Well let me be clear, I know ALA provided libraries with policies.

Mr. Snider – We never adopted the current bill of rights.

Mr. Wahl – No. but they did, I know that's something ALA put out there, policies in certain areas. This would be something for Alabama to have.

Dr. Pack – We never used ALA policies; we developed our own.

Mr. Wahl – I'm not saying we did. That was a resource they were providing for libraries.

Mr. Snider – It seems to me we are already doing what you are asking us to do.

Ms. Everingham – I think we are already doing what you want, Mr. Wahl; it's not in a nice, neat package. I would commend to the Board to let us continue what we're doing and give us a few months and we will give you what you need. We are already discussing this as a group.

Dr. Pack – This is what this Agency does and I feel the Board getting into the day-to-day operations of APLS.

Mr. Wahl – That is not my intent. That's why I was appointed by the Governor to be involved.

Dr. Pack – The purpose of the APLS Board is to look out for the districts, and for the whole state and help the director advocate and work on grants. I am sorry but I feel you are getting into my day-to-day operations.

Mr. Wahl – I agree. I don't want you to take this as criticism from me. The Board's job is to operate over every aspect of APLS. I think that is the responsibility of the Board. A responsibility I take very seriously.

Mr. Wahl – Day-to-day operations would be taking these policies and getting them to the local libraries to help them. That's the day-to-day operations. The creating of these is a much broader one-time thing that is not a day-to-day operation.

Mr. Snider – I think having listened to all this we should do a suggested bill of rights. We do nothing else at this point.

Mr. Wahl – My motion stands.

Mr. Snider – So you want to have this Agency come up with...

Mr. Wahl – APLS come up with a template, state bill of rights, Alabama focused and recommended guideline policies for the policies that are required to produce...

Mr. Snider – We have a motion and a second and again I want to say that I would support a bill of rights, I think. Getting into all of these other policies are not appropriate.

Mrs. Stokes – We're trying to fix something that is not wrong.

Mr. Snider - We have a motion and a second. All in favor of the motion say "aye". Wahl, Minton, yes.

Mrs. Hughes – I am a little confused. I think I know what's going on but I missed a lot of the discussion. I don't know if I'm ready to vote.

Mr. Snider - Maybe we should table this.

Mrs. Minton – Can you separate those two motions?

Mrs. Stokes – We have to start all over again.

Mr. Wahl – I will try to recap. My original attempt was – we opted out of ALA and I know some local libraries have as well. There are some services or benefits they are losing. I was speaking at a library in Elmore County and a librarian came over talking to me, very excited. One of the things she spoke about was policy. They struggle on the local level; small libraries don't have money. So, my thought was every year ALA puts out a template for the bill of rights and I thought why don't we create a template bill of rights with Alabama focused. On the template on policies, we as a Board, as a state agency, require certain policies to be in place in order to be a recognized library. My thought was we put out a template for each of those items, these are the policies that are required, that way the library can take it and don't have to re-create the wheel. Take it, look at it, to address the needs of their local communities. No requirement for us, just a resource, having guidelines and a recommended policy.

Dr. Pack – After the April 30 hearing everyone will be rewriting the collection development policy.

Mr. Wahl – According to Dr. Pack, this is going to take multiple months. We can start with the ones we have in place now and you can work on those after.

Dr. Pack – I feel we should wait to see what the Board decides regarding the changes to the Administrative Code. Any policies we develop now will have to be rewritten depending on what passes, so I agree with the Chairman, they should be tabled until we vote on the changes to the Code.

Mr. Wahl – The majority is saying this is going to take months. If we table this, that is a two-month delay.

Dr. Pack – I can write the bill of rights and will have that for you at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Snider – We've had enough discussion on this. Mr. Wahl, I can't support your motion if it includes beyond the bill of rights at this point. If your motion is going to continue to extend beyond the bill of rights, I can't support it. I will call for a vote.

Mr. Wahl – For me, the discussion is we're talking about something that's taking months to do, months past April 30, I really don't want to keep this game on the road.

Mr. Snider – My concern having heard this. I'm not sure we ought to be adopting standardized policies on all these issues given what we already have and what we already do. We are creating something that is unnecessary that has been working for decades the way it's done and to start trying to create something else is not wise.

Mr. Wahl – Remember, this was a request from a local library, and one of the things I take seriously is my local libraries.

Mr. Snider – Well if you would refer her to the staff here they can easily do that. I guess if you don't want to amend the motion to include a bill of rights at this point, we will vote on it.

Mr. Wahl – Let's do a vote on this and if it fails, we can talk about the bill of rights.

Mr. Snider – All in favor of that motion. Members voting in favor by saying “aye” are as follows: Mr. Wahl, Mrs. Minton, and Mrs. Windsor. Members voting in opposition by saying “nay” are as follows: Mr. Snider, Mrs. Hughes, and Mrs. Stokes. The motion failed.

Mr. Wahl – I will make a new motion to include the bill of rights to get it done by the next meeting. Mrs. Minton seconded the motion. Members voting in favor by saying “aye” are as follows: Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Windsor, Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Snider, Mrs. Minton, and Mr. Wahl. No “nays.”

Director’s Report

APLS Financial Update

Dr. Pack – We are in good shape right now. We have money to pay our bills.

Director’s Report on Activities

Legislative Activities

The House Bill 185 for Shelby County to have their legislative persons appoint Library board members passed through the committee yesterday. It will go to the full House; they will vote on it. It’s local legislation.

Mr. Wahl – The full House will vote on it.

Senate Bill 10 – Senator Chris Elliott is the sponsor. There hasn’t been much action on this bill. Since the last board meeting, two amendments have been added to that bill.

Mr. Snider – Dr. Pack, can you explain SB10 to the new members?

Dr. Pack – Senator Chris Elliott wanted appointed municipalities to have the authority to remove a Library board member instead of the chair taking actions to remove a board member. The Senate changed two things.

1. Each library board created pursuant to this section, no later than December 31, shall provide, annually, to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate a report detailing the membership of the board and any actions the board has taken regarding the review or removal of items in their collection during the previous 12 months.
2. Another amendment passed in the House Judiciary Committee where it was said the city/county boards cannot remove anyone without cause.

Mrs. Stokes – Doesn’t ‘cause’ have to be defined as well?

Dr. Pack – Yes. Mr. Wahl will provide the update on the Ways and Means Education Trust Fund Committee. Representative Garrett and Mr. Wahl met recently to discuss the APLS budget.

Mr. Wahl – I requested that we receive level funding from last year. I spoke to the Governor’s Office and to other members of the Legislature in the House and the Senate. He has concerns over things going on in the state of Alabama. We talked about several of those issues. We talked about things he would like to see addressed, one of those I think we just did. The budget is still moving forward; I am going to stay in communication with them and we will see. It’s an on-going process, obviously in both chambers.

Dr. Pack – Did he say he was going to cut APLS’ budget?

Mr. Wahl – He has not said anything exact. He said he will be talking to the Senate side making a decision; nothing is set in stone, and no final decision has been made at this point. I will continue to advocate for full funding.

Staff Activities

Kelyn Ralya and Jessica Everingham – March 4, 2024 - COSLA Spring Meeting - Voices for Libraries, Washington, DC

Kelyn Ralya attended the COSLA Spring Meeting, Voices for Libraries in Washington, DC, on March 4-8, 2024. Jessica Everingham did not attend the meeting. Ms. Ralya met with legislative aides of state senators and representatives. She discussed Alabama's uniqueness, our need for LSTA, and issues of concern similar to construction grants.

Kenneth Herston – Evergreen Conference – February 22-23, 2024 (Virtual)

Kenneth Herston attended the virtual Evergreen Conference on February 22-23, 2024. Evergreen is the circulation of small public libraries holding collections. He learned new information about what we can do with Evergreen as an open resource that is developed.

LSTA Grants to States program – Letter from Teri DeVoe, Associate Deputy Director of State Programs, Approving LSTA Grants to States Report

A letter was received from Teri DeVoe, IMLS, awarding approval for the LSTA State Program Report.

Administrators' Meeting Statistics - February 1, 2024

The February Administrators' Meeting was held on February 1, 2024 at APLS (in-person only) and virtual, from libraries around the State. The meeting was held in February due to a conflict with another conference. Statistics are as follows:

178 public libraries participated

225 persons attended the meeting

Ninety-six public libraries need to attend one more meeting and sixty plus have not attended any meetings. They must attend both meetings in order to meet state aid requirements.

Service Certificate and Pin – Vanessa E. Carr

A service certificate and pin were presented to Vanessa E. Carr for forty (40) years of service to the state of Alabama. Mr. Snider and Dr. Pack presented Mrs. Carr with the certificate and pin and thanked her for her years of service.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Mr. Wahl made the motion for adjournment. Mrs. Stokes seconded the motion. Members voting in favor by saying "aye" are as follows: Michelle Hughes, Debra Windsor, Ron Snider, Amy Minton, Angelia Stokes, and John Wahl. No "nays."

Mr. Snider - We hope as many as can come to the April 30, 2024 hearing.

The next meeting will be held on May 16, 2024.


Ron Snider, Chairman



Nancy C. Pack, Ph.D., Director



Vanessa E. Carr, Recording Secretary