

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**

**THURSDAY, January 15, 2009
Admiral Room, Blasco Memorial Library**

CALL TO ORDER:

Susan Ottaway, Board President, called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kathy DeSante, Sr. Kathleen Blair, Pete Ogden, Susan Ottaway, Mary Theiss, Barbara Wingerter.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amos Goodwine, Helene Grande, Jeanine McCreary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Library: Margaret Stewart, Library Director, Joan Duke, Blasco Coordinator, Diane Chlebus
Friends of the Library: Bob Gallivan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mary Theiss moved to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2008.
Sr. Kathleen seconded the motion.
Approved by unanimous vote.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT (Robert Gallivan)

Bob announced the Friends of the Library's Romance paperback sale is scheduled for February 12, 13 and 14, 2009. This year, the Friends will also include a selection of mystery and fiction books for sale.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT: (Margaret Z. Stewart)

The year end financial report has not been received.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: (Margaret Z. Stewart)

Commonwealth Libraries has approved ECPL's plan for County Coordination Aid (telecommunications). Construction is on schedule for the West County Branch library with an anticipated opening by August. The new Edinboro Branch Library has seen a large increase in its circulation: in the eight days they were open in December, they circulated 4400 items vs. 5500 items for the entire month in December 2007.

ECPL's has been notified that its state aid has been reduced by \$15,182. To compound that, the 2009 ECPL budget has been underfunded by approximately \$150,000. These budgetary shortfalls will pose challenges and library administration anticipates even tighter constraints in 2010.

ECPL anticipates its state aid payment around Wednesday, 1/21/09. On 2/3/09, Governor Rendell's will release his proposed 2009/2010 budget. Continuation of district services funding is imperative to maintain the IDS delivery system and fund the half time technology assistant position.

STATISTICAL AND OTHER REPORTS: (Joan Duke)

Joan noted that in December, overall circulation increased by 6%. Millcreek Branch Library continues to attract patrons with a 58% increase over December.

Visitors to the Blasco Library are on the rise (increase of 17%). Libraries typically see an increase in usage in economic recessions.

REPORT OF DISTRICT CONSULTANT: (Margaret Stewart for Anthony Keck)

ECPL filed its Schools & Libraries form for the 2008/09 e-rate. Tony and Technology Coordinator Ann Randall-Dill are in the process of preparing bid specifications for the e-rate reimbursement.

As part of the District Agreement, the district will continue to pay for full IDS membership for the nine Crawford County libraries for 2009.

It appears that Cochranon Area Public Library has resolved its recent board and personnel issues.

Unfinished Business

None at this time.

New Business

None at this time.

Miscellaneous discussion

Susan Ottaway commented that the new Edinboro Branch Library is lovely and encouraged all board members to visit the new facility.

A general discussion followed regarding library services with impending budgetary shortfalls. The board focused on ways to maintain adequate levels of service with fewer resources, noting positive staff input through this planning process would be valuable.

ADJOURNMENT - Adjourned at 1:04 p.m.