



163 US Highway 130 N, Building 1, Suite 1C, Bordentown, NJ 08505  
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### **NJLA Executive Board Meeting**

June 20, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

NJLA Office Bordentown, NJ and Zoom  
Draft meeting minutes

In Attendance: Ally Blumenfeld, Brett Bonfield, Daneille Cesena, Jeff Cupo, Corey Fleming, Lynette Fucci, Carina Gonzalez, Kate Jagers, Allan Kleiman, Adriana Mamay, Laverne Mann, Joy Robinson, Jessica Trujillo, John Wallace

Guests: Ralph Bingam, Alicia Gough, Darby Malvey, Rosy Wagner

1. Call to Order: Jessica Trujillo, President  
Meeting was called to order at 10:10am
2. Adoption of Agenda: Jessica Trujillo, President
3. Welcome and Introductions  
Members introduced themselves and those leaving the Executive Board were thanked.
4. Adoption of Meeting Minutes - Approved
5. Financial Reports: Allan Kleiman, Treasurer
  - As a reminder a week before each meeting the executive committee meets with the business manager to review all the financial reports.
  - All reports are available to all NJLA and board members via the office or the Google Drive. Allan and Brett are available to answer questions.
  - May report does not include all NJLA conference expenses and revenues.
  - As of May 31, we were a little bit higher than last year (almost 200K for assets). Based on last year's experience, all the bills and revenues will be show in June and July.
  - The membership dues gives us the ability to more in fiscal year 23-24.

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- Betty Turock's 90th birthday celebration was a fundraiser for the equity scholarships; we expect them to increase in revenue. Discussion about sharing this information with the membership in addition to thanking Betty.
  - a. Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget (for approval) (Brett and Alan)
- The numbers have not yet changed since the last meeting however the presentation was changed for clarity and transparency.
- The 20% increases in the notes section are conservative. Due to EIM, we expect to see more than 20% increase, especially since more members means more may attend the conferences.
- Projected expenses include two full time staff positions, lobbyist as a consultant, and web design consultant (one time cost). Dag Bulman funds will be used for an archivist position.
- Mini-Grants will assist sections with projects and events; each will receive \$200 reimbursement initially. Previously sections would get funds via the Member Services Committee. Members services funds were moved to the Presidential discretionary fund.

Heather motions, Corey seconds. All in favor. The budget passes.

## 6. Reports

### a. Jessica Trujillo, President

- Thanks to all for support and hard work this year. The executive board is a thankless job and all have showed up and been thoughtful with their comments.
- Thankful for Brett to have joined us.
- Jessica is happy to still be around and work.
- Will be meeting with the chair of the Professional Development committee to move towards professional development for different types of libraries. Videos to be uploaded to the Youtube Channel. Discussion included panels and recorded sessions; possible connection with MentorNJ. Hopes to support the local library schools as well.

### b. [Brett Bonfield, Executive Director](#)

- Thank you to Chris Carbone for connecting us to Senator Zwicker.
- Statement on Regarding Sensitive Places and Concealed Weapons was created quickly

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and not perfect. This will be reviewed and revised by the Public Policy Committee.

- Letter to the Sparta Township Schools – Discussion of the situation currently in Sparta and the overall experience of attending school board meetings and how they include organized groups - concerned citizens, not residents of the town, speaking and then leaving. We usually don't have a lot of notice but it is important that we show up. The NJ Public Education Coalition seeks to get parents and teachers outraged.
- The NJLA Office received a harassing voicemail directed to the head of NJASL via NJLA. The caller did not self-identify but callerID helped receive necessary information to report to the police.
- Opinionated Statement on Fundraising Philosophy shared with the NJLA Presidents, incoming chair of the fundraising committee. Helps steer away from the overhead costs that have come with some grants (i.e. Access Navigators and Ebsco).
- Will be attending ALA next week.

c. [Laverne Mann, ALA Councilor](#)

- Will be attending ALA next week. Currently preparing all the meetings and information sessions. Shared Highlights of the Conference.
- Nominated to run for the 2023-2035 Chapter Councilor to the Planning and Budget Assembly (PBA).
- Explained the ALA Councilor Role at the NJLA Conference Business Meeting.
- Thanks to the members of the executive board who are leaving.

7. Old Business - none

8. New Business



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9.

- a. Establishing Sustainability as one of NJLA's Core Values ([resolution](#))  
ALA passed this last year as a Core Value of Librarianship.  
Jessica worked with the Sustainability Section to write this resolution, based on the ALA resolution, made more specific to NJ.  
Motioned by Heather; Seconded by Danielle. Approved  
Discussion: John Wallace made a quick amendment to specify NJLA instead of librarianship. Corey made a grammatical correction.  
All in favor; Resolution passed.

This will be added to the Core Values on the NJLA website.

- b. Reorganization Task Force (Leah Wagner, Chair): Final Report and Concerns of Specific Committees

This document took a lot of time and effort to connect with all of the committees. Each member of the Task Force was assigned different committees to learn how people in leadership positions felt prepared to meet the charges of their committee. New chairs are unevenly prepared. The areas identified are 1) Communication, 2) Succession planning, 3) Clear definition of charge, and 4) Lack of institutional knowledge. The report includes recommendations. Discussion of how full time NJLA staff will really help and how this document can help shape full time job descriptions. And how a lobbyist will really help Public Policy.

Do the recommendations need to be approved? Kate shared that some things do not need approval but committee charges (for example) would need discussion and approval. This is exciting and more individuals seem willing to make changes to make NJLA a stronger organization.

Discussion about Organizational Committee and greater discussion on how individuals on committees don't know what to do and how a lot falls on the president and perhaps one or two members who are active on the committee.

- c. Creation of a Public Relations & Marketing Section: The purpose of this section is for library staff who work in Public Relations, Marketing, Social Media, Graphic Design and other related roles to exchange knowledge and expertise. NJLA can



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develop and support these workers so they can better serve their communities. The section will look at current and future needs for promoting library services, collections and programming , and for advocating on behalf of libraries.

The petition for this section had 32 signatures. We need to vote on its provisional status.

Motioned by Lynette, Seconded by Laverne Approved by all.

Executive Board members recommended individuals for the new Section and discussion of how and when the committee will start.

Another section proposal will be on the next Executive Board agenda.

## 10. Committees and Sections

### a. Member Services: NJLA Mini Grants Guidelines and Application

This does not require Board action and will be on the NJLA website soon. The first deadline is August 1 and it runs quarterly. Sections can partner with each other. Board gave recommendations. Each committee and section will have an initial \$200 for reimbursement. This \$200 can be used for food; the mini-grants cannot be used for food. Edits suggested. Vote to pass the Guidelines and Applications passed.

## 11. Partner Organizations Reports

### a. [NJSL](#): Jen Nelson - not present

### b. LibraryLinkNJ: Ralph Bingham and Darby Malvey

- Membership meeting last week. The budget passed.
- Special Projects will be available for conferences and speakers.
- Ralph read the list of members who are leaving the board and those joining. There will be more academic and school representatives.
- The reorganization will begin in July.
- New Website made by New Media Solutions in PA and will recommend them.
- All the staff attended the NJLA Conference and all the presentations went well.
- Look for information about the Second Year of the Summer Book Bash.
- One-day virtual conference proposals are due in Mid-July. The theme is



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literacy.

c. [NJASL](#): Darby Malvey

Thank you to the NJLA office for fielding the phone call and your partnership.

Thank you to NJLA for making Martha Hickson the librarian of the year.

Right to Read Bill (A5499 and S3893) modeled after the Illinois Bill to ban book bans. NJASL will discuss options for the bill.

NJASL's Board has issued a Statement on Selection Policies. This outlines how librarians select items and how that is not librarian censorship. You can read it here: <https://niasl.org/page-1863233>

[Information Literacy Standards bill](#) - work to write these will start this summer. Team is still being formed. Pushback has already begun - that liberal librarians will push their own liberal sources. Public comment and testimony will be accepted once written.

**Factsheet on difference between School Libraries and Public Libraries.** The ALA Ecosystem Subcommittee used this and added Academic Libraries. The use of the NJLA logo on this document may need Board Approval and Darby will share with Carina and Brett.

The NJASL Fall Conference Dec 3-5 at the Hard Rock - Role of Stories; Celebrate Diversity in Libraries.

d. Rutgers University - no report

e. NJLTA: Pat Pavlak - no report

12. Good of the Order

Jessica was presented with flowers for her work this year.

Jessica shared her thanks and stated that this was a great board to work with.

13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by John Wallace. Seconded by Danielle. Meeting adjourned at 12:19pm.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Dalal