NJLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Piscataway Public Library - Kennedy, 500 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ and via Zoom

1. Call to Order: Carina Gonzalez, President 10:20 am
2. Adoption of Agenda: Carina Gonzalez, President - approved
3. Welcome and Introductions.
4. Partner Organizations Reports
   a. NJSL: Jen Nelson
   b. LibraryLinkNJ: Ralph Bingham
      i. NJLA and LLNJ met to better collaborate on ideas
      ii. LLNJ looking into ways to improve delivery
      iii. Keep an eye out for more online learning opportunities soon
      iv. Book Bash coming up
   c. NJASL: Darby Malvey
   d. Rutgers University: Lilia Pavlovsky- no update
   e. NJLTA: Pat Pavlak- update provided by Brett
5. Adoption of Meeting Minutes- approved
   a. Overall the organization is in good financial health
   b. Have not yet received all Conference expenses and revenues
   c. Mini grants totaling $7,500 are included in the new fiscal year budget
   d. Allan recommends the last two pages of the report to get the best sense of expenses and revenue
7. Reports
   a. Laverne Mann, ALA Councilor
      i. Idaho Library Commission also considering leaving ALA
   b. Carina Gonzalez, President
      i. Carina assessed regional library representation within NJLA sections and leadership- Central Jersey is highest, followed by North Jersey around 26% and South Jersey lowest around 14%
      ii. Efforts coming to promote EIM to those regions, promote NJLA to those
iii. Breakdown of NJLA Presidential plan for the year by Carina and Jeff
   1. Listed in priority order, not deadline/launch date
   2. Website will launch January 2024
   3. Discussion followed regarding the creation of a Strategic Plan
      a. Let Brett know directly if there is something you want to see addressed in this plan
iv. Lynette Fucci challenged the idea of Exec Board investigating why the Master’s is required to certify Librarians
   1. Jessica proposed a task force to do the research
   2. Jeff clarified this would simply be research
   3. John Wallace shared his support for the idea
   4. Darby Malvey commented on pay versus value of the Masters—how do we use this research to encourage our institutions to provide salary commensurate with education

  c. Brett Bonfield, Executive Director
    i. Brett attended the IMLS 2023 National Medal for Museum and Library Service Ceremony at the White House to see them honor the Long Branch Public Library
    ii. Discussion about Presidential Plan replacing Strategic Plan
       1. Multiple board members (John Wallace, Rosy Wagner, Adriana Mamay) questioned this, Carina asserted that she does not want this to replace a strategic plan
       2. Brett mentioned concerns about NJLA having the capacity to take on too many initiatives concurrently
       3. Tabled for further discussion

8. Old Business
9. New Business
   a. ALA President Emily Drabinsky and the Montana State Library Commission (information or action)
      i. Jessica Trujillo proposes an official statement from NJLA
      ii. Resolution for Executive Director and President to issue statement to support Emily and ALA proposed by Allan Kleiman
      iii. Seconded by Joy Robinson
      iv. Carina shared that a member requested more than statements with regards to showing support
      v. Allan suggested having Emily come and speak to NJLA members
      vi. Carina requests amendment to resolution to include Emily’s name in statement and speaking invitation
vii. Allan Kleiman moved, Joy seconded
viii. All board members voted in favor

10. Committees, Sections, and Task Forces
    a. Liaison assignments for Executive Board members and NJLA staff
       i. Carina reminds everyone to select desired sections and committees in Memberclicks in order to receive communication

11. Good of the Order
12. Next Meeting- Zoom only
13. Adjourn
    a. Adriana moved, Rosy seconded