

# **MINUTES OF THE MARYLAND STATE LIBRARY BOARD**

**Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

## **Kent Island Library Branch**

**200 Library Circle**

**Stevensville, MD**

The Maryland State Library Board met in regular session on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Kent Island Library Branch. Some members joined through Google Meet. The following members were in attendance: Ms. Mary Alice Ball, Ms. Heidi Daniel, Ms. Mychelle Farmer, Ms. Sharon Maneki, Ms. Sharan Marshall (Vice-Chair), Mr. Al Martin, Ms. Irene Padilla, Mr. Wilson Parran, Ms. Kristen Pironis (Chair), Dr. Mega Subramanian, Ms. Tiffany Sutherland, Ms. Brittany Tignor, and Ms. Lynn Wheeler.

Ms. Lynae Polk, Office of the Attorney General, and the following staff members were also present: Ms. Donna Liberto, Mr. John Owen, and Dr. Tamar Sarnoff.

### **Call to Order**

Ms. Pironis called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Pironis thanked everyone for attending the board meeting, both in-person and virtual. Ms. Pironis welcomed new board members, Ms. Sutherland representing the Maryland Library Association (MLA), Ms. Ball representing the Congress of Academic Libraries (CALD) and Ms. Farmer, Member at Large. Each of the board members introduced themselves.

Ms. Pironis also thanked Ms. Padilla for attending the Maryland Association of Counties' (MACO) annual conference. She congratulated the library community on a great job discussing access. Ms. Padilla commented that the conference was very productive for libraries and that Ms. Daniel spoke very eloquently at the program on libraries about the issues in Baltimore City.

### **Approval of June 14, 2023 Minutes**

The minutes of the State Library Board of June 14, 2023 were considered. Ms. Wheeler moved to approve the minutes as presented; Ms. Sunderland seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

### **Executive Session**

Pursuant to 3-305(b)(7) of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and upon motion by Ms. Tignor and seconded by Mr. Parran and with unanimous agreement, the Maryland State Library Board met in closed session both in-person and virtually on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. All State Library Board members were present.

The Executive Session commenced at 10:23 a.m.

Ms. Pironis ended the Executive Session stating that she is very happy with these budgets.

Ms. Subramaniam motioned to adjourn the Executive Session; Ms. Ball seconded.

The Executive Session adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

**State Library FY 2025 Operating Budget - Irene Padilla**

Ms. Wheeler motioned to approve the FY 2025 Operating Budget; Ms. Daniel seconded.  
The motion received unanimous approval

**County Library FY 2025 Capital Project Grants Program – Irene Padilla**

Mr. Martin motioned to approve the FY 2025 Capital Grants Program, excluding the Enoch Pratt Free Library Projects; Ms. Sutherland seconded.  
The motion received unanimous approval.

Mr. Martin motioned to approve the Enoch Pratt Free Library Projects; Ms. Subramaniam seconded.  
The motion received unanimous approval.

**State Library Board Bylaws – Revision for Approval**

Ms. Padilla stated that in 2020 the bylaws for the board were revised. In the meantime, a new ethics policy was created. This proposed revision contains the statement: “Board members are responsible to support the Board and the State Librarian and to demonstrate that support within the community. Board members do not deal with an issue individually. Authority is vested in the Board as a whole. A member who learns of an issue has the obligation to bring it to the attention of the State Librarian and the chair of the Board.” Several Board members noted that they have experienced issues like this on other boards. Ms. Pironis stated that Ethics are important. This is a living document and there is an expectation of privacy and transparency and we should review these policies annually.

Ms. Farmer moved to approve these policies as amended; Mr. Parran seconded.  
The motion received unanimous approval.

A meeting break began at 11:05 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:16 a.m.

**Permission to Publish – COMAR 14.38.01.03 Library Programs Involving Federal Funds**

Ms. Padilla stated that when the COMAR regulations were transferred at the time we became an independent agency, the language of COMAR 14.38.01.03 was not updated. She asked the board for permission to publish the amended regulation. “The regulations for the acceptance and administration of federal funds for the further development of public library and cooperative library services as provided in Public Law [91-600] 104-208, as amended, shall be those set forth in the [Basic] State Plan for the administration [on] of the Library Services and [Construction] Technology Act.”

Ms. Ball moved to grant permission to publish COMAR 14.38.01.03; Ms. Tignor seconded. The motion received unanimous approval.

## **State Librarian's Update**

### **Personnel**

Positions pending hire include:

- Procurement Officer I
- Management Associate (Maryland Accessible Textbook Program)
- Communications Manager
- Youth Challenge Grant Coordinator

### **State FY 2024 Operating Budget**

- The Governor's FY 2024 Operating Budget was approved as presented by the General Assembly during the 2023 session. This funding includes additional State funds to support the increases to the Public Libraries–Aid to Education program (§23--505), the Regional Libraries (§23-205(c)) and the State Library Resource Center (SLRC). (§23-205(d)).
- This budget also includes an increase of \$335,149 for LBPDP, \$235,000 for the Deaf Culture Digital Library (MD DCDL), \$3 million to continue the increased operating hours at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, funding for the Library Associate Training Institute (LATI) program and funding for the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) program through the University of Maryland, College Park.
- Additional FY 2024 funding includes the MSLA Communications Manager position and \$250,000 for the Young Readers Program Youth Challenge Grants program.

### **State FY 2025 Operating Budget**

- As part of the FY 2025 budget process, MSLA submitted the updated Managing for Results (MFR) report to DBM on August 30, 2023. The MFR features key performance indicators for the Library for the Blind and Maryland's public libraries.
- The proposed MSLA FY 2025 Operating Budget is complete and ready for review by the State Library Board.
- The proposed FY 2025 County Library Capital Project Grants Program and Annual Capital Budget is complete and ready for review by the State Library Board.

### **Federal FY 2023 Budget**

- Maryland's funding allotment provides an increase of 7.36% to Maryland's LSTA budget, an increase of \$229,950, from \$3,124,301 to \$3,354,251. This is a welcome relief as the FFY 2022 funding increase was 0.9%.

### **Governor's Maryland 250 Commission**

- MSLA has been appointed to the Governor's Maryland 250 Commission. In 2026 we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. This event offers an opportunity for Marylanders to reflect on the struggle for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the ongoing evolution of American democracy, and the impact of Marylanders on the nation's past, present, and future. The link to the executive order for this program is [Maryland 250 Commission](https://gocm.maryland.gov/md250/). The website can be found at <https://gocm.maryland.gov/md250/>.
- This commission has been established to develop, encourage, and execute an inclusive yearlong statewide celebration and commemoration in 2026 that acknowledges our successes, reckons with our setbacks, offers a deepened understanding of our complex history, strengthens public appreciation for service to our nation, and heightens public engagement in civic life.
- Ms. Padilla is working with Joe Thompson, Assistant Director, Carroll County Public Library, and Josh Stone, Executive Director of the Maryland Library Association (MLA) to ensure that libraries are represented on the three advisory groups of the Commission -- history, civics, and service.

- Michele Johnson, Director of the Governors Maryland 250 Commission, Maryland Department of Planning, will speak at the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators (MAPLA) meeting on October 12 with the goal of involving library systems around the state in Maryland 250.

### **Capital Grants Program/ Facilities Development**

#### **Current Projects**

- Construction is underway on libraries in five counties: Baltimore County (Catonsville renovation), Calvert County (new Twin Beaches Branch), Caroline County (Denton renovation), Frederick (new Middletown Branch), Prince George's (Baden renovation). One project in Anne Arundel (new Riviera Beach Branch) is approaching substantial completion of construction. The renovated and expanded Kent Island Library in Queen Anne's County was dedicated on August 8, 2023.
- Design is underway in Harford (Bel Air) and Talbot (St. Michael's) Counties.

#### **FY 2025 Capital Grant Cycle**

- A funding recommendation will be presented to this Board at the September meeting.

### **Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD)**

#### **Programs and Events**

- LBPD hosted an in-person event on July 22 with a program in the morning on the **Victor Reader Stream**, a pocket-sized accessible digital media audio player from Humanware, and a **drum circle program** in the afternoon. LaShawn Myles coordinated this effort. It was attended by 40 patrons. Thanks go to the Friends of LBPD for their support of this program.
- LBPD will host an in-person tactile art program on September 23, led by patron Cheryl Fogle-Hatch.
- The **Clyde Shallenberger Recording Studio** has uploaded 300 books to the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD). BARD is a web-based service that provides access to thousands of special-format books, magazines, and music scores available from NLS. 284 titles are approved by NLS and available to patrons. In-person and remote recording continues. The studio currently has 24 projects in process and has begun Phase VI of the analog-to-digital conversion project, which turns reel-to-reel audiobook masters into quality digital files to upload BARD. This has been an ongoing project for the studio, supported by the Friends of LBPD.
- LBPD is beginning the second phase of its **renovation** with furniture for the Studio and equipment areas. LBPD has requested an estimate for design services for Phase III, which will include Technical Services and the Patron Area, incorporating new shelving, furniture, computer stations, a new reference desk, and a new small conference room for staff meetings.
- LBPD will have a new **VOIP telephone system** installed in September. This new system will feature voicemail-to-email capability and a softphone client that will allow staff to answer and manage calls from their office phones, on their computers, or wherever they are working. The softphone client has been tested for accessibility by blind and print disabled staff.
- MSLA is procuring a **new sole source contract with Keystone Systems, Inc.** to continue to provide the KLAS integrated library management system for LBPD staff and patrons. KLAS helps staff manage patron records, patron preferences, circulation, equipment inventory, cataloging, and the online catalog. The new contract will begin in January 2024 with a 5-year base and two 2-year renewal options. This contract will require Board of Public Works approval.
- LBPD currently serves **over 5,678 Active Patrons** in every county in the State of Maryland.

### **Public Libraries and State Networking Branch (PLSNB)**

### **Programs and Events**

- Dr. Sarnoff facilitated Trustee Training for the **Charles County Library Board Retreat** on August 11, 2023.
- The newest cohort of the **Library Associate Training Institute (LATI)** started on Wednesday, September 6th.

### **Grants**

- The **State Program Report of American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA)** grants was completed, certified, and delivered to IMLS on August 28, 2023. IMLS approved the report on August 30, 2023
- The **FFY 2023 Competitive Grant cycle** begins July 1, 2023 and ends June 30, 2024.
- LSTA Competitive grant funds were awarded to 18 Maryland public library systems totaling \$397,500. Here is a breakdown of funding by Strategic Plan Goal:

### **LSTA-Funded Competitive Grant Awards - FY 2024**

**Total Allocation: \$397,462**

| <b>Goal 1: Inclusive, Responsive, and Connected Institutions</b> |                                                                                |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Calvert Library                                                  | Enhancing Accessibility and Customer Experience through Effective Signage      | \$10,000         |
| Carroll County Public Library                                    | Feasibility Study for CCPL Eldersburg Branch                                   | \$35,000         |
| Charles County Public Library                                    | Charles County Public Library Strategic Planning                               | \$30,000         |
| Harford County Public Library                                    | Harford County Public Library Strategic Plan                                   | \$22,500         |
| Queen Anne's County Free Library                                 | Feasibility Study for a North County Branch                                    | \$12,500         |
| St. Mary's County Library                                        | St. Mary's County Library Strategic Plan                                       | \$20,000         |
| Somerset County Library                                          | MAPLA Strategic Plan                                                           | \$20,000         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                     |                                                                                | <b>\$150,000</b> |
| <b>Goal 2: Resilient and Engaged Library Staff.</b>              |                                                                                |                  |
| Carroll County Public Library                                    | Carroll County Comprehensive Procedures Manual                                 | \$6,000          |
| Harford County Public Library                                    | Harford County Public Library Futures Thinking                                 | \$13,000         |
| Western Maryland Regional Library                                | Safety and De-Escalation Training for Staff                                    | \$10,000         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                     |                                                                                | <b>\$29,000</b>  |
| <b>Goal 3: Informed and Thriving Marylanders.</b>                |                                                                                |                  |
| Baltimore County Public Library                                  | Ensuring Equitable Access for Vulnerable/At-Risk/Underserved Community Members | \$2,500          |
| Cecil County Public Library                                      | Culinary Education Classes for the Community                                   | \$10,000         |

|                                                |                                                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Charles County Public Library                  | Intergenerational Play Time @ POTO                                 | \$15,000         |
| Howard County Library System                   | TeenLIVE                                                           | \$15,630         |
| Howard County Library System                   | Path to Kindergarten Readiness Booklet                             | \$18,500         |
| Kent County Public Library                     | Mobile Community Computer Lab                                      | \$12,700         |
| Montgomery County Public Libraries             | Blerdtino: Mid-Atlantic Black & Latino Comic Con                   | \$12,000         |
| Prince George's County Memorial Library System | Ask A Librarian Reimagined                                         | \$21,000         |
| Queen Anne's County Free Library               | Empowerment Library                                                | \$11,000         |
| The Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County       | Virtual Tourism                                                    | \$6,500          |
| St. Mary's County Library                      | Memory Lab for Digital Preservation                                | \$2,572          |
| Somerset County Library System                 | Let's Collaborate                                                  | \$10,810         |
| Talbot County Free Library                     | Digital Access & Digital Literacy                                  | \$10,000         |
| Washington County Free Library                 | Creating Equitable Healthcare Access: Telehealth at the Library    | \$31,000         |
| Wicomico Public Libraries                      | STEAM Studio                                                       | \$35,000         |
| Worcester County Library                       | Creative Aging with Care: A series for older adults and caregivers | \$4,250          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                   |                                                                    | <b>\$218,462</b> |

### **Statistics**

- The final version of the **FY22 Maryland Public Library Statistics Tables** have been released and uploaded to the web. The Tables can be accessed on the Sailor [Maryland Public Library Statistics page](#) and the MSLA [Data & Evaluation libguide page](#). The latter provides additional graphical representations of the data.
- A two day **Tableau training** was held on June 21 and 22, 2023. This intensive, hands-on training was hosted by Cherry Bekaert and was well received by participants. Topics covered ranged from basic introductory skills to more involved skills.
- The **Managing for Results** tables have been submitted and will be shared with the Board following final approval by DBM.
- We are currently preparing the **FY23 Public Libraries Survey**. The survey is set to launch at the beginning of November, with the annual training to be held on October 17th.

### Youth Services

- Several statewide partners supported the “**All Together Now**” **summer 2023 reading season** which has just concluded. **The Maryland State Fair** hosted the Reading Ceremony for Maryland special readers on Saturday, August 26. **The Baltimore Orioles** provided 2,100 tickets to the August 8 and 9 games, enjoyed by many Maryland youth and families. Additionally, **the Maryland Science Center and the National Aquarium** provided tickets to all public libraries to disseminate to families as part of their summer programming.
- Carrie Sanders, in collaboration with the Carroll County Public Library, spearheaded a **reprint of the Maryland Day by Day Early Literacy Calendar** this summer, where Maryland libraries and Judy Centers were invoiced individually for their orders. This reprint will yield almost 24,000 calendars that will reach young children and their families throughout Maryland with their daily early learning activities!
- A Maryland **Youth Sensory Services Summit** occurred on September 7 at the Abingdon Branch, HCPL. Library staff members convened at this all-day, in-person training to learn about several aspects of youth sensory programming and services. Along with knowledge to share with colleagues, attendees from each library system received two Sensory Kits of materials to use for sensory programming.
- LaShawn Myles, Youth Librarian, LBPd, and Carrie Sanders, in partnership with Dr. Melissa Peibly, Portland State University, concluded the Inclusive Storytimes Learning Series for Maryland youth services staff in August. This series, “**Incorporating Universal Design for Learning in Public Library Programming**”, consisted of three learning sessions and three accompanying coaching sessions, focused on how to plan and implement inclusive literacy programs for all patrons, including those with extensive support needs. Participants learned how to apply the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) when creating storytime and/or book club programming to encourage meaningful participation and the development of literacy skills for all. LaShawn and Carrie will be meeting soon with the attendees of this learning series to discuss next steps and application of the content learned into practice.
- The focus on inclusion and accessibility in library services continues this fall through a statewide study of the [Project Enable](#) curriculum. Teams of two library staff members (one youth services staff and one non-youth staff) will participate in this study which launches in November. A **Project Enable Speaker Series** will supplement the statewide study and will be open to all Maryland library staff.
- Carrie Sanders is offering a four-part **Teens SOS series** this fall to support library staff in understanding and meeting the needs of teens post-COVID. This series will guide library staff in ways to meet their basic needs in times of crisis; best engage with teens to build positive relationships; provide meaningful and relevant programming for them; and collaborate with community partners in workforce, health care, and other areas, in order to support teens’ present and future needs. [This flier](#) provides more information about the Teens SOS Series.
- **Teen Connect** 2023 will take place on September 27 at the Miller Branch, Howard County Library System.
- Maryland libraries continue to be involved with the national **IMLS project, Building Equity-Based Summers (BEBS)**. Last year, five Maryland libraries participated in Year 1 of BEBS and are now a part of a national Community of Practice in this equity work. This fall, additional library staff and library systems will form Maryland BEBS Year 2 by participating in learning sessions that will help them provide equitable services, and strengthen communities.

### Staff Development

- The in-person meeting of the Statewide Blueprint initiative was held on June 5-6, 2023. The **Statewide Blueprint meeting** had robust representation from most Maryland public libraries. It was facilitated by Miguel Figueroa and Lessa Pelayo-Lozada, ALA President. Miguel continues to work with the Maryland State Library Network (MSLN) to complete the final report, and he will present it at the October MAPLA meeting.
- **MD Tech Connect 2023** will be held on Tuesday, December 5 at the Universities at Shady Grove. The theme is “Building Bridges with Technology” and will encompass the ways in which Diversity, Equity and Inclusion intersect with library technology. Additionally, **MD Tech Connect Extended** will provide a special webinar series that will be offered free in addition to MD Tech Connect 2023 for any staff member who is interested. The focus will be on emerging technologies with webinars set in October and November that focus on **Artificial Intelligence**. Additional webinars will be announced for 2024.
- **The Workforce, Career & Business Community of Practice** is planning their second **Career Success Month for 2024**. The topic is “**The Future of Work**”. [Please read about the success of the first-ever Career Success month held in January 2023 in this final report.](#)
- **Everyone Leads** was held virtually and at various central and regional locations this spring and summer. Most classes were full and evaluations were extremely favorable. The facilitators plan to offer more workshops during Spring 2024. Each session will be facilitated by graduates of the Leading Everyone to Everyone Leads program.
- The next **Branch Managers Summit** will be held online in October. The Maryland Library Association (MLA) held an in-person Branch Managers Summit in July at the Michael E. Busch Library, Annapolis, MD. MSLA is also providing funding to support the **MLA Managers Academy**, which will be a more in-depth training for branch managers. MSLA has also recently provided one seat for each library system to participate in the **Library Management Training** offered by Library Journal.
- **Live webinars** continue to be offered statewide. The recordings are posted on the [Maryland Libraries Training Academy on Niche site](#). Special thanks to Jennifer Hopwood, Southern Maryland Regional Library Association (SMRLA) and Alicia Blake, Eastern Shore Regional Library (ESRL) for managing these statewide offerings. [SkillSoft Percipio](#) has been renewed for another year starting July 1. This subscription provides all public libraries with access to thousands of online courses for all staff on business and technology-related content.

### Updates

#### Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML)

Dr.. Sarnoff provided an update to the board.

- CML is proud to announce that Jim DeArme is the new Director. He is very excited to serve in this capacity and is looking forward to working with everyone.
- The CML annual meeting will be held on October 21, 2023 and there is no virtual option this year.
- Ms. Pironis stated that CML is a great organization and she is very happy with the new Director.

Mr. Martin left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

#### University of Maryland College of Information Studies

Ms. Subraminon provided the following update:

## Upcoming Events

- **Paul Jaeger** has been honored as a Distinguished Scholar Teacher by the university. As part of this recognition, he will deliver a lecture. There will also be a reception after. Lecture date and time: November 2 (Thursday), 4:15 to 5.15 pm Title of Lecture: Censorship, Disinformation, and the Immortality of Hatred. **Location:** INFO Commons (Hornbake Building, Room 0300, basement). Register here: [here](#)
- **Ana Ndumu** and **Manuel Mendez** (Ph.D. student) will be hosting Dr. Vanessa Valdes for a hybrid talk on "[Arturo Schomburg's Information Legacy](#)". [Schomburg](#) was a pioneer in both library and archival science. The talk is a partnership among INFO, the UMD Libraries, the National Association for LIS Service to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking (REFORMA) AfroLatine Affinity Group, the UMD U.S. Latina/o Studies program, and the UMD Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center.
- Bi-weekly industry recruiting and networking events, beginning 9/7
- OTTRS Webinar: 9/22
- Search Mastery Speaker Series: 9/28
- Center for Archival Futures (CAFe) talks will take place on September 20th, and then the first Wednesday of each month during the semester from 4-5. All welcome: <https://cafe.ischool.umd.edu/events/>

## MLIS Program Updates

### • Admissions and Enrollment

|                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Applied             | 225                          |
| Admitted            | 198                          |
| Acceptance Rate     | 88%                          |
| Committed Fall 2023 | 69 (Enrolled Fall '23)       |
| Yield Rate:         | 34.85%                       |
| Citizenship status  | 68 domestic, 1 international |

### • Students

- MLIS student, Alan Wierdak, co-presented at the Joint Annual Meeting of SAA and the Council of State Archivists (CoSA) in July. The topic was "Reframing 'Labor' Collections as Social Justice and Community History: Educational Initiatives to Counter Historical Erasure and the Symbolic Annihilation of Working Class History"

### • Curriculum

- None at this time

## Other Academic Programs Update

- **Ana Ndumu** facilitates an LIS Pedagogy Lunch, Learn, & Lightning Talk among INFOfaculty and UMD Libraries staff who are interested in library-related instruction.
- The INFO College's Health Justice Carillon Community <https://carillon.umd.edu/carillon-experience/communities/health-justice>) has just launched for its second year! We have 32 freshmen who have joined this living-learning community. These students take INST 232C (Health Justice: Investigating the Roles of Information in Preventing & Addressing Health Disparities), taught by Associate Professor **Beth St. Jean**. In this course, we focus on the Big Question, "How do we ensure that every individual has the information they need to live a long and healthy life?" We explore the intersections between information and health justice – the conviction and enactment of the idea that every person is morally entitled to a fair and sufficient capability to be healthy. Our goal in this class

is to promote health justice for all by leveraging information to help to prevent and address health disparities.

#### **Innovations & Service to the State of Maryland**

- **The University of Maryland Search Mastery Interest Group** will reopen the Search Better! online search engine training program in September 2023. The program helps library staff refresh search skills and provides support for patron search education. Approximately 150 Maryland library staff have enrolled in the program since 2022. Fees are currently waived for additional enrollments for Maryland librarians and library staff. This program is supported in part by a grant from Microsoft. The group would also like to hear from interested parties who would like to share ideas on additional search-related training for and through library professionals. Registration and content information is available from **Mary Ann Francis** at [mfranci1@umd.edu](mailto:mfranci1@umd.edu) or **Ryan O'Grady** at [rogrady1@umd.edu](mailto:rogrady1@umd.edu).
- **Jennifer Sturge** is serving on the Freedom to Read committee to craft legislation to support Maryland Public and School Libraries.
- **Caro Williams-Pierce** just wrapped up being a summer-long mentor through [Polymath Jr.](#) The program supports undergraduate math students across the world in doing original math research. [Caro's project](#) focused on them designing and developing math games.

#### **Innovations & Service to the Profession**

- **Mega Subramaniam** served as the Chair of the [ALISE Diversity Travel award](#).
- **Mega Subramaniam** served as the Chair of the [Doctoral Students to ALISE Award](#).
- **Mega Subramaniam** is serving as a member for the External Review Panel for ALA Accreditation for University of Missouri
- **Susannah Paletz** served as the Chair of the Joseph E. McGrath Award for the Lifetime Achievement in the Study of Groups committee for the Interdisciplinary Network for Group Research (INGroup)
- UMD, under the leadership of **Gregg Vanderheiden**, developed the Morpheic open source accessibility utility that is being deployed system wide in the St Louis Library System. All computers in all 13 branches are having this free utility installed that makes it easier to use assistive technologies and the accessibility features installed in computers.
- **Diana Marsh** participated in the Archives on the Hill Day of advocacy, with a team of current and former State Archivists of Maryland and members from the Lincoln Digital Archives Project. They met with staffs of Ben Cardin (Senate), John Sarbanes (House), Chris Van Hollen (Senate), Steny Hoyer (House), and Glenn Ivey (House) – advocating for robust funding for NARA & NHPRC, NEH, and IMLS, attention to electronic records, and participation in the America250 caucus to represent an inclusive and evidence-driven approach to the how the country celebrates its 250th anniversary in 2026.
- **Ana Ndumu** was elected secretary of the ASIS&T Information Needs, Seeking, & Use (SIG-USE) ASIS&T Special Interest Group.
- As part of the [iBlackCaucus](#) team, Ana Ndumu helped plan and launch fall 2023 student enrichment activities. iBlackCaucus is a national organization for Black/African American MLIS students. Their work was featured in the [ALA Call Number Podcast "What's new in Library School?"](#) August episode.
- **Victoria Van Hyning** collaborated with prison librarians, state library administrators, formerly incarcerated librarians and activists to write new Standards for Library Services to the Incarcerated or Detained (during 2021-2023). This work was commissioned by ALA and received unanimous

support at the formal vote to adopt the standards at ALA annual in Chicago, 2023. The Standards are slated for publication and distribution in 2023.

- **Victoria Van Hyning** is working with the Library of Congress, on advising them on accessibility issues.
- **Paul Jaeger** and **Jonathan Lazar** are collaborating with the Association of Research Libraries on responses to the Title II Rulemaking for web site accessibility within the Americans with Disabilities Act.

#### **Faculty Awards / Recognition**

- **Paul T. Jaeger** has been named a winner of the University's Distinguished Scholar-Teacher award, which honors tenured faculty members who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments as educators. See upcoming events above for his lecture.

#### **Faculty/Students Presentations/Workshops**

- **Mega Subramaniam**, along with Marylanders Online team members, Isaias Tesfalidet and Dr. Jinhee Kim presented their work titled, "Digital Inclusion: Case Studies and Practices" at the Rural Maryland Council Symposium in June 2023.
- **Mega Subramaniam**, along with IMPACT project team members, **David Weintrop** and **Nitzan Koren** presented their work, "Going beyond attendance data: Using assessment tools to capture computational thinking outcomes in youth library programs" at the International Association for School Librarians Conference in Rome, Italy.
- At the SAA's Annual Meeting, **Diana Marsh** and PhD students **Ia Bull** and **Amanda Sorensen** presented work on reuniting Indigenous communities with heritage materials held across institutions (the Indigenize [SNAC](#) project).
- **Victoria Van Hyning** organized a webinar at the SAA conference in DC featuring authors from a forthcoming volume titled Archives: Power, Truth, Fiction, die out with Oxford University Press this year.
- **Susannah Paletz** gave a plenary talk at the Human-Computer Interaction Lab 40th Annual Symposium titled "Emotions in social media; Computational social science needs good social science."
- **Susannah Paletz**, with coauthors at Duquesne University and the Fraunhofer USA Center Mid-Atlantic, and INFO doctoral students Sarah Vahlkamp and Tammie Nelson, presented "Developing a platform and experiment for AI supports in intelligence analyst asynchronous teamwork" at the 18th Annual Interdisciplinary Network for Group Research Conference in Seattle, WA. In June, Paletz also gave invited, longer versions of this talk to colleagues at the Behavior Lab at INSEAD (Fontainebleau, France) and the Institute of Psychology at the University of Hamburg (Hamburg, University).
- PhD student Connie Siebold presented a talk titled "I feel in between worlds: Understanding international students' acculturation in the United States" at the International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology Regional Conference.
- **Amelia Gibson** co-facilitated a discussion on survey methods and presented a poster titled "Best practices in addressing social needs for maternal health" as part of the American Heart Association Maternal & Infant Health EQUATE Health Equity Research Network Annual Meeting in Boston.
- **Paul Jaeger** co-hosted a [webinar](#) for Every Library Institute entitled "Teaching the Policy, Law, and Politics of Information."
- Based on an earlier [paper](#), **Richard Marciano** and **Greg Jansen** authored the [article](#) "Giving Data Back Through Computational Scholarship: Three Case Studies on Japanese American Incarceration Records from World War II" published in Archival Outlook.

- PhD student **Alia Reza** participated as a Teaching Fellow at the 2023 iSchools Inclusion Institute (i3) in Austin, Texas. Alia also presented a paper entitled “Inclusive to Some: Examining Immigrant Interactions With Museum Practice” at the Visitor Studies Association Conference.
- **Tammy Clegg** gave the keynote address, “Critical Data Literacy and Why It Matters,” at the AI in Education Conference in Tokyo, Japan. The talk featured research from the DataGOAT project, which focuses on NCAA athletes’ data literacy. (Picture attached)
- **Mark Conrad** and **Richard Marciano** gave a webinar presentation through the Thought Leader CivicPlus Program sponsored by National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators. During their presentation, they shared several examples of their recent work that used free tools to access information hidden in large collections of records. The collections include records concerning Japanese-American internees, persons displaced by urban renewal in Asheville, NC, and records concerning Mary McLeod Bethune and Black Women's Civil Rights.
- **Katie Shilton** was a featured panelist for the Summer Roundtable Series sponsored by the PATIENTS Program at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. She presented her presentation titled “Race and Racism in Digital Health and Information Technology”
- **Katie Shilton** gave the talk "Learning Code(s): Supporting Community Moderation Through Participatory AI" at the Federal Information Integrity R&D Interagency Working Group (IIRD IWG) meeting. (This is a forum for federal agencies such as NSF, DARPA, NIH, and DHS to coordinate and advance Federal R&D activities in information integrity.)
- **Paul Jaeger** and **Ursula Gorham** presented “Power, Control, and Fear: Eight Historical Tenets of Censorship” as a part of the EveryLibrary Institute’s new [webinar series](#) on how people can push back against book bans in their communities.
- On June 19, **Jason R. Baron** and **Nathaniel Rollings** presented their co-authored paper at the 3rd International Legal Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Assistance [Workshop](#) for Legal Professionals in the Digital Workplace, in Braga, Portugal. The workshop [paper](#), “Using ChatGPT for the FOIA Exemption 5 Deliberative Process Privilege,” was also authored by **Doug Oard**.
- **Samuel DiBella** presented a paper, "Against Digital Scholarly Editions in the Business of Surveillance Publishing" at the Keystone Digital Humanities [conference](#) this month and wrote a [book review](#) of Data Paradoxes: The Politics of Intensified Data Sourcing in Contemporary Healthcare for the LSE Review of Books.
- **Eric Hing-Tao Hung** recently gave presentations at Columbia University’s “Asian American Jazz: Past, Present, Future” symposium, the Music Library Association, and the Association of Asian American Studies. Eric also gave a lecture-recital on recent Asian American piano music at the University of South Carolina and participated in the [Equal Justice Initiative Classical Music Convening](#) in Montgomery, Alabama.
- **Katie Shilton** gave a talk recently titled “NET+: Building Ethical Tech Identities With Undergraduate Students” at the CCE STEM Summer Workshop on Ethics.
- **Gregg Vanderheiden** was a keynote speaker at the NSF-sponsored Abilities, Opportunities, and the Future of Work Conference. His keynote address was titled "Unaddressed accessibility barriers and new opportunities for addressing them."
- **Alison Harding** presented a paper, “‘i’m mixing comic book canon and mcu canon to suit my own needs’: Information Sharing as Community Building in a Fandom in Flux,” at the FanLIS 2023 symposium hosted by the City College of London, Library and Information Science program.
- **Jonathan Lazar** gave the closing keynote speech at the INTERACT 2023 conference in York, UK, titled, “A born-accessible model (BAM) of software and digital content development”

- **Eric Hing-Tao Hung** will be on a panel entitled "We Are Not Okay: Responding to Archival Violence and Archivist Pain" at the forthcoming Society of American Archivists meeting (July 26-29, 2023). Eric has also been selected as the writer of the forthcoming exhibit on Asian American music at the Wing Luke Museum in Seattle, Washington. The exhibit opens October 13, 2023, and he will make a presentation at the opening ceremony on October 14.
- **Katie Shilton** will give a talk on October 17th titled "Excavating awareness and power for trustworthy data science and AI": at the Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics seminar series.
- **Stacy Surla** will speak on a panel at the [Human Factors and Ergonomics Society](#) meeting on October 25 in Washington, D.C., on Advances in UX Research and Practice.
- **Doug Oard** will be presenting a talk on Proximity-Based Indexing for Physical Content in Archival Repositories at the 27th International Conference on Theory and Practice of Digital Libraries in Zadar, Croatia on September 27. The paper is available online at <https://terpconnect.umd.edu/~oard/pdf/tpdl23.pdf>
- **Jason R. Baron** will be a panelist in New Haven on October 13, speaking about "FOIA meets AI" at the Access & Accountability Conference sponsored by the Media Freedom & Information Access Clinic at Yale Law School.
- **Jason R. Baron** will moderate a panel on "Using AI to help alleviate FOIA workloads" at the National FOI Summit, hosted virtually by the National Freedom of Information Coalition on October 4.
- **Katrina Fenlon** will give a keynote address at the Potomac Technical Processing Librarians 99th Annual Meeting on October 13, speaking about "Resilient processes: Centering communities in collaborative digital collections."
- **Paul Jaeger** participated in a panel discussion hosted by University of Maryland Libraries entitled Safeguarding Intellectual Freedom – How to Counter Censorship and the Criminalization of Librarianship in America. The panel examined the political and cultural challenges libraries face and explored the actions that can be taken to ensure that they remain advocates of intellectual freedom.

#### Faculty/Students Publications

- **Beth Bonsignore** co-authored a new [paper](#) titled "Co-designing for Environmental Engagement: Moving inside people outside and moving outside people outdoors" found in the journal for the International Conference of the Learning Sciences. **Susan Campbell**, and **Elizabeth Bonsignore** co-authored the [article](#) "Defining and Modeling AI Technical Fluency for Effective Human Machine Interaction" published in the journal Human Factors in Robots, Drones and Unmanned Systems.
- **Joel Chan** and **PhD student Zijian Ding** co-authored the article "How Diverse Initial Samples Help and Hurt Bayesian Optimizers" published in the Journal of Mechanical Designs.
- **Paul Jaeger, Jonathan Lazar, Ursula Gorham, and Natalie Greene** (MLIS '11 /Ph.D. '15) co-authored the new [book](#) "Foundations of Information Law." This book is a valuable resource for library and information science students and practitioners, offering a comprehensive exploration of the impact of information law on professionals and institutions.
- **Beth St. Jean, Ursula Gorham, and Beth Bonsignore** co-authored the new [book](#) "Understanding Human Information Behavior: When, How, and Why People Interact with Information," just published by Rowman & Littlefield.
- **Charles Harry** and **Ido Sivan-Sevilla** co-authored the [paper](#) "Measuring the Integrated Cyber Attack Surface Across US County Government Networks" that has been publicly shared via OSFPreprints.
- **Naeemul Hassan** and PhD student **Mohammad Ali** attended AEJMC 2023 and presented their paper "Semantic-based Unsupervised Framing Analysis (SUFA): A Novel Approach for

Computational Framing Analysis." It was selected as the Top Method Paper in the Communication Theory and Methodology Division Competition.

- **Md Naimul Hoque, Kari Kraus, and Niklas Elmqvist** co-authored the [paper](#) "Portrayal: Leveraging NLP and Visualization for Analyzing Fictional Characters," published in the Proceedings of the 2023 ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference.
- **Cody Buntain** authored the [paper](#) "Measuring the Ideology of Audiences for Web Links and Domains Using Differentially Private Engagement Data" found in the Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media.
- **Tammy Clegg and Beth Bonsignore** co-authored the [paper](#) "Participatory Approaches to the Ethics of Emerging Technologies for Children" found in the IDC '23: Proceedings of the 22nd Annual ACM Interaction Design and Children Conference.
- **Tammy Clegg, and Jessica Vitak** co-authored the [paper](#) "Understanding Research Related to Designing for Children's Privacy and Security: A Document Analysis" found in the IDC '23: Proceedings of the 22nd Annual ACM Interaction Design and Children Conference.
- **Doug Oard** co-authored the [paper](#) "BLADE: Combining Vocabulary Pruning and Intermediate Pretraining for Scaleable Neural CLIR" found in the Proceedings of the 46th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval.
- **Jessica Vitak** co-authored the [article](#) "Surveillance and the future of work: exploring employees' attitudes toward monitoring in a post-COVID workplace" published in the Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication.
- **Vanessa Frias-Martinez** co-authored the [article](#) "Using COVID-19 vaccine attitudes on Twitter to improve vaccine uptake forecast models in the United States: Infodemiology Study of Tweets Abstract," published in the JMIR Infodemiology journal.
- **Eric Hing-Tao Hung** co-edited with Mandi Magnuson-Hung the article "[Special Forum on Public Musicology and the Music of Asian America](#)," in American Music, Vol. 40, No. 3. In the same issue, Eric also contributed an article entitled "Applying Commemorative Museum Pedagogy to Public Music Studies."
- **Susannah Paletz and Tammie Nelson** had their book chapter, "Project management of innovation teams," published in June 2023 in the Handbook of Organizational Creativity: Individual and Group Level Influences (Elsevier).
- **Susannah Paletz** co-authored the [article](#) "Speaking Similarly: Team Personality Composition and Acoustic-Prosodic Entrainment" in Sage Publishing and Small Group Research. Susannah also gave the talk, "A Task and Platform for Studying Human-Agent Teaming in Intelligence Analysis Shift Handovers" to academic audiences in Germany and France and remotely to audiences in Singapore.
- PhD student **Sunyup Park** along with **Jessica Vitak, Vanessa Frías-Martínez**, and other authors, co-authored the [paper](#) "The BALTO Toolkit - A New Approach to Ethical and Sustainable Data Collection for Equitable Public Transit," published in the Proceedings of the 6th ACM SIGCAS/SIGCHI Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies.
- PhD student **Connie Siebold** published a paper titled "English language education and acculturation research: Problematic historical parallels and the path ahead" published in the open access records of Wiley Online Library.
- **Ido Sivan-Sevilla** authored an [journal article](#), "To Save Society from Digital Tech, Enable Scrutiny of How Policies Are Implemented," published in the Issues in Science & Technology journal. He was also featured in the news [article](#) "Is Johns Hopkins the bad guy in the patient data breach? Or a victim?" by the Baltimore Banner. He comments that policymakers have shied away from regulating

the software industry in order to incentivize companies like Apple and Microsoft to engage in rapid innovation.

- **Jessica Vitak** co-authored the [article](#) “Boundary Regulation Processes and Privacy Concerns With (Non-)Use of Voice-Based Assistants” published in the Human-Machine Communication journal.
- **Richard Marciano**, along with other contributors, authored the chapter “Conversing with the Past: Re-examining the Legacy of Slavery in Domestic Traffic Newspaper Advertisements with OpenAI's GPT3 LLM” in the book Artificial Intelligence for Cultural Heritage Organizations across the Atlantic (2023), soon to be published by the UCL Press.
- **Doug Oard** co-authored the [paper](#) “Neural Methods for Cross-Language Information Retrieval” published in the Proceedings of the 46th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval.
- **Caro Williams-Pierce** co-authored the [article](#) “Toward Professional Development for Multimodal Teacher Noticing” found in the Journal for Research in Mathematics Education.
- **Joel Chan** co-authored a new [paper](#) “CausalMapper: Challenging designers to think in systems with Causal Maps and Large Language Model,” which has been submitted to the ACM
- **David Weintrop** co-authored the [paper](#) “Developing preservice teachers' intuitions about computational thinking in a mathematics and science methods course” published in the Journal of Pedagogical Research; as well as the [paper](#) “The Tools Being Used to Introduce Youth to Data Science” published in the Proceedings of the 22nd Annual ACM Interaction Design and Children Conference.
- **Douglas Oard** co-authored the [paper](#) “HC3: A Suite of Test Collections for CLIR Evaluation over Informal Text” published in the Proceedings of the 46th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval.
- **Beth Bonsignore** co-authored two papers published in the Proceedings of the 22nd Annual ACM Interaction Design and Children Conference: “Funds of Identity in Co-Design” ([paper](#)) and “Co-Design Across Cultures: A Two-Country Study With Children” ([paper](#)).
- **Ana Ndumu** co-wrote an De Gruyter opinion piece on “[How the ban on affirmative action affects Black librarianship](#)”
- **Jason R. Baron** was a named investigator on a [report](#) entitled “Employing AI for Retention & Disposition in Digital Information and Recordkeeping Systems,” published by InterPARES Trust AI, an international consortium of archivists engaged in research on AI, recordkeeping, and archival practices.
- **Victoria Van Hyning** wrote a piece for ACRL “Keeping Up with...” series about cultural heritage crowdsourcing and emerging applications of ChatGPT to cultural heritage <https://acrl.ala.org/acrlinsider/keeping-up-with-cultural-heritage-crowdsourcing/>

### Grants

- In partnership with the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) and the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL), **Mega Subramaniam** (lead PI) and PhD student **Nitzan Koren**, received a \$245K [IMLS National Leadership Grant](#) to build a Field Guide and develop training materials to prepare public library staff nationwide to support historically marginalized youth and families before, during, and after natural and man-made crises.
- **Wei Ai** received a new [NSF award](#) to fund research on the applications of machine learning to assess the quality of instructional plans/materials for middle school math classes. The lead PI on this \$1.49M award is Dr. Min Sun of the University of Washington College of Education. Along with Wei, Co-PIs include researchers from the UMD College of Education, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Education, and Duquesne University College of Education.

- **Diana Marsh** (PI) and **Katrina Fenlon** (co-PI) are recipients of a \$349.9K NSF award for their [project](#) entitled “Building a sustainable future for anthropology's archives.” They will look at the phenomenon of culturally important, but unpublished archival materials that are neither digitized nor findable via web search. They are seeking to develop best practices for archiving original data across a range of formats and adapting emergent linked data infrastructures in support of broad access to cultural research data.

#### **Student Awards**

- **Leigh Dunewood**, MLIS student, has been awarded an ALA Spectrum Scholarship award.

#### **Past Events**

- **Beth Bonsignore** and the KidsTeam just wrapped up their annual KidsTeam Summer Session – a week filled with exciting activities. They participated in machine teaching sessions to support doctoral research, collaborated on a KidsTeam logo, brainstormed ideas for an exhibit at Glen Echo Park Aquarium, and explored VR using Meta Quest 2 headsets. The children also created [presentations](#) for their parents/visitors.
- **Kathy Weaver** and **Sami Kemper** hosted the Info Challenge Summer Camp 2023 in July, where high school students from Maryland and the surrounding areas spent a week working on Data Analysis projects. There were a total of 39 campers from Howard, Montgomery, Prince George’s Fairfax, Anne Arundel, Frederick, and Baltimore Counties, and also Washington DC that attended one of the two in-person sessions at UMD, or virtually. Six INFO undergraduate students worked as mentors during the camp sessions, teaching the campers about data analysis, and showing them around the UMD campus. The theme this year was Global Change. Camper projects included Air Quality and Social Vulnerability, Climate Change and the Chesapeake Bay, and World Mosquito Day. The final day of camp gave the students an opportunity to present their final projects to a team of Information Judges in the morning, then they were able to show off their projects to family and info enthusiasts in the afternoon, followed by an awards ceremony to close the camps. [Here](#) are some example final projects.

#### **Congress of Academic Library Directors (CALD)**

Ms. Ball reports that CALD’s first meeting of the academic year will be held on September 22. At that time, they will be discussing potential partnerships with other library groups in Maryland. This was the top recommendation coming out of the CALD Spring Meeting. She will have more to report after that meeting.

#### **Enoch Pratt Free Library/State Library Resource Center (SLRC)**

- Ms. Daniel reports that there is good news for SLRC. Between FY2022 and FY2023, SLRC increased the number of programs offered from 744 to 1,916 and the number of participants increased from 14,309 to 44,068. Ms. Daniel stated that this is a significant increase and thanks to Liz Sunderman for working so hard.
- Also, there is a new MOU that was executed between MSLA and EPFL.
- The delivery study was finalized and implemented this year. ILL delivery is now in place for all three regional library systems.
- There have been additions to the digital library collections. These include Black Lives Matter (BLM) with DC Public Library, an Anne Arundel County historical collection that includes Riviera Beach history, local Baltimore City history, etc.

- The Sailor databases are seeing increased usage across the board. Staff have worked hard to select the best databases.
- The SLRC Library Administrators EDI Summit – This is what Democracy Looks Like is scheduled for November 8. The first day will be virtual and the second day will be in person. Please encourage your folks to attend.
- She reports that Pratt is proud to announce that Aaron Neville, Misty Copeland and a lot of other popular entertainment figures will be presenting at EPFL. Come out and enjoy.
- Ms. Daniel updated the board on the Washington Village development. EPFL hopes that the developer will be demolishing the old building by the end of this year. The new branch at Greenmount is the same design as Washington Village.
- The infrastructure of our library branches is old. Although Ms. Daniel loves historical cities, she is very much aware of what a problem they can be to develop. She was also happy to report that six to seven library branches are getting new air conditioning.
- She discussed the ongoing collective bargaining negotiations happening at EPFL. Ms. Daniel advised that though this is new to the library, everything is going well so far.
- Ms. Daniel reports that EPFL has submitted an advertisement in the Carroll County Times supporting libraries and intellectual freedom. She gives credit to Megan McCorkell in our Marketing Department for such good work.
- The EPFL HR Director is retiring at the end of this month and Kenny Clash is moving into the Chief Operating Officer (COO) role at the end of this month. We are bringing in a Comptroller to help get things done. Though we have some vacancies we are being very choosy.

### **Maryland Library Association (MLA)**

- Ms. Sutherland stated that she has been the President of MLA for six weeks. At this time many things are happening.
- Josh Stone, MLA Executive Director, has brought about the MLA membership of all staff in twelve or thirteen different library systems and a number of academic libraries.
- They are also working on restructuring the advocacy for MLA so that all libraries are prepared to speak about current issues.
- MLA is also working closely with the President of the Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL) to support the Carroll County issues regarding book challenges. She is attending the Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) Board of Education meeting this evening. MLA plans to respond to these issues with an official letter. The content will be based on how the meeting goes tonight. There has been some interaction with some of the media.
- The MLA Carnival will be held on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Busch Library in Anne Arundel County. We have asked library systems to set up booths.

### **School Library Media**

This position is currently vacant. No report.

### **Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL)**

- Ms. Tignor discussed how school libraries are under fire. She feels she is always discussing this issue. The Carroll County Public Schools issue is probably one of the most egregious book challenges in the state. As librarians, we know and expect challenges. However, what seems to be happening in Carroll, the shifts in policies are more like censorship. The supervisors of school

libraries are no longer supervisors. Librarians are to report to Social Studies teachers and/or section heads.

- Ms. Tignor went on to explain the issues involved in the CCPS book banning issue. More than 50 books were removed from the library shelves. The superintendent stated that the school librarians are to confirm that the books are removed from the shelves and boxed up. MASL does not agree with this policy but this is the final decision made by the CCPS Board. What is concerning is that the established CCPS materials collection policy and review procedures are not being followed. No one is advocating for the school libraries. The ACLU/MASL/MLA/CML/and Penguin Randomhouse have submitted opinions and are hoping that these will be read this evening. The process for public comment is that an application must be made. Of all of these applications, fifteen of them will be chosen. As of right now, I am not sure if the MASL representative will be chosen.
- Ms. Ball stated that she has the list of the materials to be banned. She had applied to speak but didn't make it onto the list so she will be sending in her public letter.
- Ms. Tignor stated that Ms. Tiki Love, MASL Past President, was going to speak tonight on behalf of MASL though it sounds like she wasn't selected to speak. She is going to focus on working with ALA on these issues and send an official certified letter to CCPS Board members. MASL has met with Carroll County librarians to hear their concerns. They have also sent out an advocacy alert. If you are going to go to the meeting this evening at 5:00 please wear black. If you are not invited to speak you can make a public comment to be posted on the school website using the link provided. MASL also has a letter prepared to send to Board members, along with their contact information.
- Ms. Padilla stated that the Maryland library community is preparing legislation entitled Freedom to Read to guard intellectual freedom in all Maryland libraries. The proposal is that School Libraries be included in this legislation. If this becomes problematic, Ms. Padilla proposed that the board write a letter of support to include school libraries.
- Ms. Tignor stated that in Calvert County they tried to do something similar. They tried to shift established collection policy and procedure. Initially school board members were very much in favor of this but the messaging done ultimately turned them around. Ms. Padilla asked whether the Calvert County Schools issue, requiring an extensive review of each book, was resolved. Ms. Tignor replied that the county wanted every librarian to read every single book on the shelf. This didn't pass because of how time consuming this is.
- Ms. Tignor explained how the book banning has continued in Carroll County schools. In order for librarians to purchase a book, every book must be verified and has to be checked for alignment to the curriculum. This document is required to be completed for every title that is ordered. The school librarians were told they would be accountable for banned books that are purchased. What does this mean for the school librarians? They have paused on purchasing because they don't know what could happen.
- Ms. Sunderland stated that Calvert notifies parents via email about what their child has checked out from the library. Cecil County has the same program. The schools cannot buy books that are higher than the lowest grade. For example, high school libraries can only buy books for ninth grade, not tenth, eleventh grade or higher. Ms. Tignor states that MASL is trying to find alternative ways to buy books.
- Ms. Tignor clarified the email notification program for Ms. Sunderland. The program is called Folett Destiny. According to their website, Follett Destiny® Library Manager, enables librarians and administrators to keep thorough, real-time track of a library's inventory and media assets, helping to strengthen the crucial bond between the library, the classroom, and the home. Many school librarians do not like it but some systems have gone ahead with it anyway.

- Ms. Farmer asked what schools are involved in book banning. Ms. Sunderland stated that this issue has arisen in Frederick, Calvert, St. Mary's, and Baltimore County. Ms. Farmer stated that if a child or student wants to have access to material, they will find them. Banning will not stop them. It is troubling and pointless. The other issue is all the talk about sexually explicit material, with no regard to books about wars, etc. Ms. Sunderland stated that civilians think that the labeling system is the way to go. Ms. Farmer stated that it is worrisome that whomever is the controller of information will be the leader of censorship. Ms. Wheeler spoke about how heartbreaking book banning is and that the school librarians are the rockstars for working so hard for children. Ms. Tignor advised that a lot of people who are supporters of Moms for Liberty are using this information to push their own agendas.
- Ms. Pironis stated that as a State group, the board will be making a strong statement on school libraries. Ms. Padilla added that MASL has put together a compilation of issues going on in schools around the state. The Freedom to Read legislation includes language to protect librarians from retribution. The bill sponsor advises that we will need librarians and library advocates to testify in Annapolis during the hearings. If the bill gets passed in Maryland, it will be a model for the country. Ms. Ball advised that ALA has a learning series on how to advocate for libraries.
- Ms. Tignor stated that an update will be sent out after the CCPS meeting and after the feedback from the letters.

### **Other Business**

Ms. Sarnoff discussed the One Maryland One Book program for this year.

### **Public Comment**

No public comments were submitted.

### **State Library Board Member Updates**

Ms. Farmer advised the board that September is Childhood Awareness Month. The Maryland Council on Health and Wellness are trying to help new moms and babies create good exercise habits. We would like to pilot this program with libraries around the state. Ms. Sarnoff advised Ms. Farmer that her staff would like to work with her on this issue.

### **FY 2024 Meeting Calendar**

- Monday, December 18, 2023
- Monday, March 11, 2024
- Wednesday, June 12, 2024

### **Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.