



**State Library Board  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** July 22, 2021  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Zoom Meeting

**Board Member Attendance:**

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Ms. Martha Murtiashaw, Chair	Present
Ms. Deborah Hyler, Member	Absent
Mr. Walter Caudle, Member	Present
Ms. Loretta Green, Member	Present
Mr. Marty McKenzie, Member	Present
Ms. Alanna Wildman, Member	Absent
Mr. Mark Herring, Member	Present

**Other Attendees:** Ms. Leesa Aiken, SCSL, Ms. Mary Elizabeth Land, APLA Representative, Ms. Breanne Smith, SCSL

**I. Board Business and Approval of Minutes**

1. Motion: Martha Murtiashaw called the meeting to order. Marty McKenzie made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the May 27 board meeting with 2 corrections. Mark Herring seconded the motion; all present approved the minutes.

**II. Director Report**

A. Agency Administration

1. Aiken stated that we will have additional board vacancies filled by August 23 according to information received from the Governor's Office.
2. Aiken stated that the Agency Director Performance Review will be distributed to Board members in the next few days.
3. Aiken discussed the Learn DigitalSC program that is a train the trainer program that addresses low literacy and low digital literacy and will be rolled out to the public libraries, with a subscription to Northstar Literacy database as well.
4. Aiken discussed AccessSC which is the State Library's homework help center project.

5. Aiken discussed the Build America's Library Act and how beneficial it would be to South Carolina since 35 county libraries are currently planning renovations ranging from minor upgrades to construction of new buildings.
6. Aiken discussed summer reading programs, both virtual and in-person, and was hopeful that the numbers will be high this year as they were last year when programs were transitioned to virtual.
7. Aiken discussed the new electronic resources that have been added to Discus including African-American History, PebbleGo Animals, PebbleGo Next Biographies, Gale-Poetry for Students, and Gale-Short Stories for Students.
8. The Department of Education will be transferring \$500,000 to the SCSL as secured for K-12 educational resources.
9. The \$177,000 in funds that Aiken requested from the K-12 Board for Tutor.com and TumbleMath was approved by the K-12 Board.
10. Aiken discussed the assistance that is being provided by the State Library IT staff to Orangeburg County libraries as they prepare for the opening of a main headquarters library, which will also serve as a conference center for Orangeburg. Support by local officials has been significant and all are eagerly anticipating the opening.
11. Aiken discussed the Northeast Document Conservation Center training that assists libraries in preparing for emergencies and disasters; training is scheduled for September 2021. Participants are expected from several states in addition to South Carolina libraries.
12. Aiken discussed Emergency Preparedness Kits that are being distributed to public libraries; 40 libraries are participating in the Emergency Preparedness training and will receive corresponding kits.
13. Aiken discussed Library Network Recovery (Linear) grants that are being offered to public libraries by the Department of Administration. These grants allow libraries to invest in products and services that mitigate security risks. 17 libraries have applied, 8 libraries have been approved for \$83,000 for items including servers, cloud back-up, and security training.

### **III. Personnel**

1. Aiken announced that Curtis Rogers, Communications Director, has retired.
2. Two staff members were promoted, Tiffany Hayes to Library Development Director and Virginia Pierce to Library Resources and Services Director.
3. Denise Lyons, Deputy Director, will be leaving the SCSL to relocate to be nearer to family. Lyons last day will be October 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. An offer will be made to an applicant for the Metadata Librarian position.
5. Aiken discussed internal organizational structure changes that may occur as positions change, etc.
6. The SCSL is experiencing a current challenge similar to many employers related to what is being called the "Great Resignation" or "Great Retirement" as employees leave to pursue other interests after the pandemic. Turnover in libraries and other industries are high right now. Aiken is concerned about the ability to

recruit given the changes to retirement and benefits for state employees the last few years.

**IV.** Agency Administration

1. The FY21 closeout has been completed and the FY22 budget is open.
2. The FY20 audit has just been completed. Audit findings are currently being discussed. A full report will be provided to the Board when available.
3. LSTA Reporting is in process and the LSTA20 grant will close at the end of September.
4. The Cares Act grant is closed, with all funding spent.
5. The SCSL received \$113,000 in reimbursement from the State in Cares Act funds.

**V.** Travel and Meetings

1. Travel will be resumed in moderation. Staff will be using virtual options when available. Library consultants will be resuming in state travel.

**VI.** Public Libraries

1. Aiken discussed the modified hours of public libraries; 11 are currently offering limited service hours.
2. Aiken discussed budget cuts expected for many counties and a loss of staff.
3. Aiken discussed the impact of the Open Carry Law on public libraries. The requirements are very specific regarding display of signs. The SCSL will provide signs that public libraries can print and display at their libraries.

**VII.** APLA Report

1. Mary Elizabeth Land discussed the new partnership between Abbeville Public Library and the Abbeville Opera House.
2. Mary Elizabeth spoke about her personal experience with Talking Book Services.

**VIII.** Finance

1. Aiken discussed the SCSL Financial Report; no changes were suggested.

**IX.** Adjourn

1. Marty McKenzie made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Walter Caudle seconded the motion and all approved. The next Meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2021.

**Attachments:** Board Minutes 05/27/21, SCSL Budget Report