

THE LIBRARY BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Library of Virginia

April 17, 2023

PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Public Library Development Committee met at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, virtually over Zoom. The following committee members were in attendance: Lana Real, *vice chair*; Laura L.L. Blevins; Preston L Bryant Jr.; Maya Castillo; Suzette Denslow; and Shelley Viola Murphy. Also in attendance were Nan Carmack, Director of Library Development and Networking; Kim Armentrout, State Data and Grants Consultant; and C. Paul Brockwell Jr., Library Board Chair. Committee member Marcy Sims, *chair*, was absent.

As a standing agenda item, Dr. Carmack updated the committee on various public library challenges. She noted that most seem to be related to titles that explore the perspective of marginalized communities for young adult audiences. She reported that libraries' positions are based on supporting an individual's choice of reading materials, and that librarians are extensively trained for collection development and focus on presenting balanced collections for all community members.

Ms. Armentrout reviewed the various scenarios for the allocation of state aid funding next year, based on the potential increases proposed by both houses of the General Assembly. She noted, however, that until a final state budget passes, these numbers were tentative.

In response to the Governor's request to examine regulatory burdens placed on citizens and sub-units of government, the Library has chosen three regulations to examine, two of which relate to requirements of state aid. The "three consecutive hours after 5:00 p.m." requirement is intended to provide working people with an opportunity to use public libraries. This requirement has been the subject of numerous waivers from both suburban and rural communities. The waivers have indicated that door count after 7:00 p.m. makes the third hour a waste of resources, in terms of both staff time and wages. Approved waivers have been supported by door count data. After much discussion, staff were directed to survey the library community to establish the broader environment in regard to this requirement. The requirement of a five-year strategic plan was also discussed, based on the difficulty of small libraries to have the staff and financial capacity to conduct a plan every five years. Library staff are working on a template that would alleviate this burden and will report back in June.