

**RPLAC meeting
Virtual meeting
May 12, 2021**

Meeting called to order by Chair Stephen Houser.

Requested motion to approve the meeting agenda.

Motion: Darla Chambliss

Second: Lisa McKinney

No objections.

Requested motion to approve the minutes of the December meeting.

Motion: Lisa McKinney

Second: Katherine Youles

No objections.

Beth McIntyre was introduced to talk about the newly-named “State Grant Requirements Policy”. The wording for this mandatory document has been read/approved by State Library Director Julie Walker. The work was done by Beth M. and by the document committee, including Cynthia Kilby, Pat Herndon, Christopher Evans, and Whitney Payne.

The document’s been reduced to seven pages from eleven. Some definitions/terminology was eliminated for redundancy. There were several discussions of library standards, but it was agreed that the grant requirements document should be revised/clarified first. Beth M. is looking forward to moving ahead with the standards document. Nine support documents (or nine sets of requisite information) are now required, but – per a question from Natalie Marshall – the required information can be combined in the documents. For example, a collection development policy can include a gift policy and a materials reconsideration policy.

Anne Isbell asked if the \$750K local funding requirement for a library to split off from a regional system was a recent figure. Beth M. said that she had not changed any dollar figures from the previous version of the document. It was commented that the local funding requirement figure had been in place since 2010.

The local funding/MOE requirement was clarified at the state library director’s behest.

Beth M. stated that it was an objective to create a document that new library directors could read and readily understand, and that included the definition of the word “policy”.

There was a call for additional questions. Hearing none, Chair Houser called for a motion for a vote on the new document. After quite a lot of discussion regarding who was or was not eligible to make/second motions, the following happened:

Motion: Anna Lyle

Second: Darla Chambliss

At the vote, the document was approved unanimously.

From the discussion of standards (from both attendees speaking, and from the chat-based comments). (*NOTE from the RPLAC Secretary: I tried to quote/attribute accurately and accept responsibility for any errors.*)

- *Statement – Standards should be aspirational, rather than a hard requirement.*
- *Question – Can standards be applied across the board, or should there be standards for each of the four library types?*

Alan Harkness:

What services can a patron expect when they enter any Georgia library?

Julie Walker:

“Apirational” is a key word.

Anna Lyle:

Should we (Georgia libraries) be aspiring to reach national standards?

Julie Walker:

Should we include references to national standards in the updated document?

Wendy Cornelisen:

Many states have their own standards.

Alan Harkness:

Georgia libraries vs. national library standards is not an apples-to-apples comparison.

Beth McIntyre:

One of the standards is following requirements (as specified in the grant requirements document), and not all of them require money.

Natalie Marshall:

Standards can sometimes be muddled in terms of what's actually required vs. what is to be aspired to.

Darla Chambliss:

It is about possibilities.

Beth McIntyre:

Remember that many “civilians” don’t assume that we have strategic plans. Some citizens don’t even realize that we have (and have to follow) budgets.

Jan Burroughs:

Some things are a time issue, and smaller libraries/systems may not have a team of professionals to help.

J. Lautzenheiser:

The absolute baseline minimum for demonstrating EDI support is an anti-racism statement.

Beth McIntyre:

Such a statement should be included in the standards document.

Stephen Houser:

RPLAC elections will be held tomorrow (May 13th) – GPLS is providing “rooms” for all four RPLAC divisions.

Chair Houser requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Lisa McKinney

Second: Leslie Partridge

No objections.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Richard Sanders, RPLAC Secretary