

PIONEERLAND LIBRARY SYSTEM
EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES - DRAFT
Thursday, March 18, 2021, Via Zoom due to COVID-19

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair B. Olson.

Committee members present (attending remotely): Brent Olson, Ron Antony, Doug Erickson, Duane Anderson, and Dennis Ulrich. Admin Staff present: Laurie Ortega
Guest: Katy Hiltner, head librarian Hutchinson/Winsted. Absent: Marlys Bjur, Julie Asmus, Eric Rudningen, and John Winter.

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present. All votes were taken by roll call.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Ulrich, seconded by Antony.

Minutes of the February 18, 2021 Executive/Finance Committee were approved on a motion by Antony, seconded by Erickson.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee:

- A. **The February 2021 Financial Report** was approved on a motion by Ulrich, seconded by Anderson.

- B. **Bills and Check Registers** were approved on a motion by Antony, seconded by Ulrich.

Personnel Committee:

- **New Hires:** The following new hires were approved on a motion by Antony, seconded by Anderson: Nicole Wynsteker, Library Asst. II, Willmar
Beverly Kellogg, Library Asst. II, Olivia/Bird Island

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **2020 MN Public Library Report:** A motion to sign/submit the annual public library report was approved on a motion by Ulrich, seconded by Erickson.

- B. **FFCRA Extension:** The previously approved 90-day extension of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) will expire on March 31, 2021. On a motion by Anderson, seconded by Olson, approval was given to continue this extension an additional 90 days until June 30, 2021. This 90-day extension will be superseded by any renewal, extension, or revision to the original FFCRA put in place at the federal level.

- C. **Brainfuse Renewal:** Motion was made by Antony, seconded by Anderson, to approve a 1-year renewal of the homework help database Brainfuse. Total cost for this renewal is \$13,750 – which is the same cost as the original 1-year agreement.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:

- A. **2020 Audit:** The 2020 audit is wrapping up. A virtual presentation by the auditor will be on the agenda for the April 15th board meeting.

B. Legislative Update: The Regional Library Basic System Support (RLBSS) improvement bill working its way through the legislature proposes an addition of \$2 million/year in state funding supporting regional public library systems. The bill also amends the distribution formula for these funds in order to stabilize the distribution from year to year as well as improve funding to the deeper rural systems while holding all 12 regional public library systems harmless with current allocations.

C. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): This bill, recently signed by President Biden, contains dollars earmarked for libraries under the Emergency Connectivity Fund for expanded e-rate services including “100% reimbursement for hotspots, modems, routers, and ‘connected devices’ for use by students and patrons.” These funds are not available yet. Ortega will continue to gather information on this.

Additional IMLS funds earmarked for Minnesota are also contained in this package to “address digital inequities, respond to Covid-19, and stimulate the economy.” These dollars are typically distributed by State Library Services in the form of competitive grants. Again, the parameters for use of these funds are still being determined. Director will continue to inform the board as more information on how all this will work is made available.

OTHER: Next board meeting scheduled for April 15, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m. (Finance Committee meeting at 6:30 TBD) Executive/Finance Meetings: May 20 @ 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:40 p.m.
Recording Secretary – Laurie Ortega