

School Library System (SLS) Western Suffolk BOCES

Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025 **Time:** 9:00 AM **Location:** Learning Lab

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM.

2. Approval of January 14, 2025, Meeting Minutes The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved. (Motion by Bea/ second Dawn).

3. Expiring Council Terms

- The following Council members' terms expire on June 30, 2025: Jill Adler, Dr. Bea Baaden, Aurelia Cardamone, Dr. Matthew Covey, Tim Spindler.
- All members expressed their willingness to continue serving.
- As per the SLS By-Laws (Article V, Sections 2 & 4), members may serve multiple terms, and school media specialists should form the majority of the Council.
- Motion to extend terms: Approved (Motion by Cathy/ second Kim).

4. Appointment of Council Officers

- Council officers were reappointed with the same titles Motion by Aurelia/ second Bea:
 - Chairperson- Dawn Koziarz
 - Vice-Chairperson- Jill Adler
- As per SLS By-Laws (Article VI, Section 1 & 2), officers serve a three-year term and may be reappointed.

5. 2025-26 Proposed Budget

- Review of the approved 2024-25 State budgets and current expenditures was conducted.
- The following COSER expenditures were reviewed: Library Automation and Online Resources (514), Regional Institute (506).
- Motion to accept the contingency State budget for 2025-26 was passed (Motion by Sue/ second Matt).

6. Proposed Meeting Dates for 2025-26

- Council Meetings: 9/18/25, 11/19/25, 1/13/26, 4/17/26.
- Liaison Meetings: 10/22/25, 12/11/25, 3/10/26, 5/1/26 ("Celebrate Our Successes").
- Previous meeting dates for 2024-25 were noted for both Council and Liaison meetings.

7. Awards and Recognition Criteria Updates

- Changes to the Librarian of the Year criteria were discussed, highlighting the need to:
 - Recognize certified School Library Media Specialists (SLMS).
 - Require participation in and provision of professional development in and outside of SLS.
 - Demonstrate service to students, staff, and the community.
- Eligibility was set for Librarian of the Year award to be an SLMS with more than 5 years of experience.
- Rising Star Award: A new award that recognizes SLMS with up to 5 years of experience.
- Administrator Award: Recognizes administrators who actively promote and support certified SLMS in their buildings and/or district.

8. Governor's Budget Update

- NOVELny funding is included in the Governor's budget and is expected to be renewed.

9. Digital Library Updates

- WSBOCES SLS Regional Digital Library: Magazine bundle renewed until October 2025; All Access Comics ended in December 2024 and was not renewed.
- February 2025 usage data was reviewed.
- New features and updates:
 - TeachingBooks.net Sora Discovery feature.
 - NYReads added LOTE collection (1689 titles, 19 languages).
 - LIStudentsRead incorporated 2025 award-winning titles.

10. Professional Development (PD) Update

- Workshops since the last Council meeting:
 - 2/4/25 – Navigating Book Selections (5 attendees).
 - 2/11/25 – LibraryReady.AI concluding Zoom (21 attendees).
 - 3/12/25 – Liaison Business Meeting and Professional Learning (27 attendees).
 - 3/18/25 – Engaging Young Researchers (3 attendees).
 - 3/25/24 – Media Literacy Leadership Training (6 attendees).
- Upcoming Workshops:
 - 4/9/25 – Weeding to Grow Your Collection (6 registered).
 - 4/10/25 – Comics+ Demo with LibraryPass (1 registered).
 - 5/1/25 – 10th Leadership & Information Symposium: Celebrate Our Successes (50 registered).

11. Recognition of Sara Kardasz's Retirement

- The council recognized and showed appreciation for the hard work, dedication and service of Sara Kardasz to the School Library System and wished her well in retirement.

12. New Business

- Regional Institute scheduled for November 4, 2025. Call for presenters issued.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned

All Council members were in attendance, except for Tim Spindler.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kim Bronzino, Recording Secretary