Minutes

Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

Meeting Date: Sep 20, 2024
Meeting Time: 10:00a.m.
Location: Hybrid – Springwater Public Library- Elmvale Branch, Virtual via Zoom
Secretary: Dina Stevens, Executive Director/Secretary of the Board

In Attendance: ***First Nations Caucus*:** Kathleen Copegog
***Francophone Caucus*:** Catherina Moskau
***Large Urban Caucus*:** Wayne Greco, Margie Singleton, Sarah Vaisler, Kathy Fisher, Alicia Subnaik-Kilgour
***Small & Medium Caucus*:** Jodie Delgado, Anne Smith, Beverley King, Nadine Williams
***Northern Caucus*:** Rebecca Hunt
***Rural Caucus*:** Susan McGibbon, Jennifer La Chapelle
***Toronto Caucus*:** Vickery Bowles, Lisa Radha Vohra, Jonathan Hoss
Former Library Leaders: David Harvie
Guests: Devan Sommerville, Council Public Affairs

Regrets: Feather Maracle
Absent: Paul Ainslie

FOPL Team: Dina Stevens, Executive Director, Diana Chiavaroli, Administrative Assistant

Prepared By: Diana Chiavaroli, Administrative Assistant

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1. Call to Order & Roll Call

The Q3 Board Meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by the Vice Chair.

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Regrets

As noted above.

4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the May 17, 2024 Board Meeting

Amendments to In Camera minutes and names were made.

Moved by Sarah Vaisler and seconded by Jodie Delgado, THAT this Board approves the minutes of the May 17, 2024 board meeting, as amended. CARRIED.

6. Approval of the Agenda.

Moved by Jennifer La Chapelle and seconded by Kathy Fisher, THAT this Board approve as circulated, the FOPL Board Agenda of September 20, 2024. CARRIED.

Motion to move to In-Camera Session

Moved by Rebecca Hunt, seconded by Catherina Moskau THAT this Board go into Closed Session at 10:10 a.m. CARRIED.

In- Camera Session

The board discussed provincial funding for First Nation public libraries.

Exit In- Camera Session

Moved by Jennifer La Chapelle, seconded by Kathleen Copegog, THAT the Board exit the Closed Session at 10:19 a.m. CARRIED.

Moved by David Harvie, seconded by Susan McGibbon, THAT the Board accept the report from the Closed Session as information. CARRIED.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Admin Travel line being overbudget was discussed. The primary reason for this was accommodations for conferences having increased significantly over the past year. Overall, expenses are under budget. The need for attending conferences and possibly reducing budget would be discussed later in the agenda. Year over year revenue will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Discussions were had regarding strategy on getting members back after they are lost. Budgetary issues are the most common reason for non-renewal, particularly in the Niagara region. Member campaigns occur annually to regain lost members and attain new members. Generally, the pluses and minuses of each year balance out.

Accounts receivable was discussed. Most of the outstanding fees were already recovered since the Treasurer's report was run. The main reason for outstanding dues was internal personnel turnover. Alternate methods of cost recovery would be discussed during the ED report.

It was suggested that a survey be sent to all libraries to collect data on the value and expectations of FOPL. A similar survey was already sent as part of the strategic planning process. Feedback was noted and incorporated, however much of the comments are not a part of FOPL's mandate. The board had a brief discussion on sentiments from libraries regarding what FOPL should be pursuing. All members agreed there is a limit to what FOPL can do, and the strategic plan has defined FOPL's role within budget. Commendations were given for what FOPL has achieved.

A discussion was had regarding a joint communication being sent out to all libraries from FOPL, OLS, and OLA, delineating the roles of each. The board agreed on the benefit of this, and further discussed what should be included, and a motion was put forward.

Moved by Catherina Moskau and seconded by Margie Singleton, THAT the Executive Director investigate the creation of an information bulletin or session on the roles of FOPL, OLS, OLA and CFLA. CARRIED.

Moved by Sarah Vaisler and seconded by David Harvie, THAT the Board received this report as information for the period ending August 31, 2024.

8. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director provided a summary of the report, highlighting a few key points. ED also provided an update on discussions with Ministry staff regarding ODPL. Engagement was positive. However, at the AMO conference, the conversations were less encouraging and there was a sentiment that PLOG needs to be pushed for over ODPL. ED believes one last push for ODPL can be made.

[Devan Sommerville joined the meeting]

The ED report was then paused as Devan Sommerville joined the meeting and item 11.a. was pushed up.

11. New Business

a. Fall/ Winter Advocacy Campaign

The ED provided a summary on strategy for advocacy in the coming months, and the impact of the new Minister and possibility of a spring election impacting the strategy. Strategy and timeframes for an ODPL push was discussed and the balance between ODPL and PLOG.

[Devan Sommerville exited the meeting]

8. Executive Director's Report

ED continued the summary of the ED report. Highlights were noted regarding the First Nations funding, and the new member campaign flyer.

Moved by David Harvie and seconded by Anne Smith, THAT this Board receive the Executive Director's Report, as amended, as information. CARRIED.

[Vickery Bowles exited the meeting]

9. Working Group and Committees – Reports and Updates

a. Research and Development Working Group

The ED provided a summary of the transition to Power BI.

Moved by Jodie Delgado and seconded by Kathleen Copegog, THAT this Board receive the Research and Development Working Group's report as information. CARRIED.

b. Strategic Planning Project Team

i. Draft Strategic Plan

ED questioned the timeline for the strategic plan. The Board discussed the most appropriate timing and agreed a 4 or 5 year plan is acceptable. Amendments were made to remove mention of the global pandemic, and to relocate Truth and Reconciliation to the top of each section it is within.

Moved by Beverley King and seconded by Jennifer La Chapelle THAT the Board adopt the Draft Strategic Plan with amendments as stated. CARRIED.

c. French Translation Working Group

The report was summarized, noting the upcoming AMFO conference September 27.

Moved by Catherina Moskau and seconded by David Harvie THAT the Board receive the French Translation Working Group's report as information. CARRIED.

d. Indigenous Libraries Partnership Working Group

The ED provided a brief update of the monthly meetings and the creation of a letter to reintroduce the municipal libraries sponsoring FN library membership to the FN library, aimed at engaging local FNPLs and providing support. Attendance of Tea and Chats hosted by the FN libraries was also discussed.

A formal report is deferred at this time.

10. Deferred Business

a. CELUPL Terms of Reference

Deferred to next meeting.

b. Intellectual Freedom Statement / Adoption

Updates to the statement that were provided. Once approved, the ED will send the document out to the full membership.

Moved by Lisa Radha Vohra and seconded by Jodie Delgado THAT the Board adopt the Intellectual Freedom Statement. CARRIED.

11. New Business

b. Municipal Engagement Conferences

The ED summarized engagement with MPPs that is being tracked. Municipal conferences and their expenses over the past few years was reviewed and the recommendations for attendance moving forward. The Board discussed the value of attendance at the various conferences. The overall concurrence of the board was to not cut back on conferences as much as the ED recommended. AMCTO can be cut to every other year, but AMO should continue every year.

Moved by Jodie Delgado and seconded by Sarah Vaisler THAT the Board receive the report as information. CARRIED

c. Small/Medium Caucus election

The ED summarized the election process and results. Beverley King was elected.

Moved by Sarah Vaisler and seconded by Lisa Radha Vohra THAT the Board receive the report as information. CARRIED.

d. Preparation for Attending Tea and Chats

Expectations and suggestions for the ED were made.

e. 2025 Schedule of Board Meetings

Suggested dates and alternates were discussed. ED will revise and adjust the dates.

f. Four Seasons of Reconciliation

The ED summarized that the executive has discussed furthering commitment to truth and reconciliation. The Four Seasons of Reconciliation Course was suggested for the full board. A few board members had already taken the course and recommended it. The feasibility of extending the course to the entire membership was discussed, however there were concerns over this causing extensive delays to the board taking the course.

Moved by Jodie Delgado and seconded by Sarah Vaisler THAT the Board Members take the Four Seasons of Reconciliation course, and that the ED investigate the possibility of extending the course to all members. CARRIED.

12. Next Meeting

Friday, December 13th, 2024
10:00AM
Virtual ONLY

13. Adjournment

The Board meeting was called to adjourn by the Chair at 1:53.

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Wayne Greco, Vice Chair Dina Stevens, Board Secretary