

Board report March 2006

Long Range Plan:

Approved by the membership. It does not have to be sent to LM for approval.

SBC:

On February 2, we hosted the media event that SBC/AT&T for to announce the 2005 SBC Excelerator grants. Three other awards were announced.

Visits:

February: Merrill; Bridgeport; Birch Run; Taymouth Township; Thomas Township; Deckerville; Croswell and Fostoria.

Board presentation:

Reese Unity District Library, Reese on February presented, Boards: Roles and Responsibilities.

Library Profiles:

... have been continuing to update profiles as updated State Aid Reports are sent in. I have been working on WPLC Profiles/comparisons for each class size in the Cooperative. I do not have the information to do this on a statewide level yet. This information won't be available till the fall. Then, we will be able to put together a state-wide comparison chart.

Books:

Staff and I picked up 12,000 books to distribute to the members.

MLS degree:

Have had more discussions with Emporia State (Emporia, Kansas) about brining their program to this area. They are discussing it there. The Assistant Dean thinks it may be good timing for them since the distance program in Utah is ending in 2007. They may want to start another program in the fall of 2008 somewhere. The Dean of the Library School is going to contact Joe Mika, Dean of Wayne State's Library School. We also need to have the State Librarian request Emporia State to come to Michigan. I talked with Nancy Robertson and sent her the written documentation that I have from Emporia State. She is weighing the pros and cons. Obviously, there are political ramifications in asking an out of state institution to provide this service. It could get the Legislature involved; which could direct the Michigan institutions to provide the service.

Baseball tickets:

I have the tickets for sale. The "Meet Ernie Harwell" open house for ticket holders at the DPL should be a selling point. Parking at DPL is free. There should be shuttle buses to take people to Comerica Park and back.

Notable Books Authors:

Libraries selected to participate in the author program this year are: Bullard Sanford, Vassar, Pigeon District, Chippewa River District, Mt Pleasant and West Branch. Authors will appear at these libraries during May and June. The Library of Michigan Foundation sponsors the programs.

Gates Grant:

The Library of Michigan submitted the grant to the Gates Foundation on time. It is pretty much a given that the grant will be approved. However, the official approval has not been received – probably around mid to late May. The only timeline we know now is that group 1 money must be spent by 12/06 and groups 2 & 3 money must be spent by 12/07.

SB 491:

Thank you to all that contacted their legislators.

QSAC:

2 more workshops added to our spring schedule. April 21, 9:30 – 12. Martha McKee will present QSAC Essentials. Then from 1 – 3:30, QSAC Enhanced Levels.

Workshop:

The March 31st workshop on how to pass a millage has 86 people registered so far. The March 15th on computer security has 14.

We have added a workshop on children's services for September 27. Elizabeth Andresen will present "selection, reference and story hours". This is an all day session.

State Aid:

State Aid for 2006/07 should remain at the current levels. Funding for LM has been increased by 3%, \$240,000. Of course, this is the Governor's recommended budget. The Legislature must act on it. Last year, it was the Legislature that reduced State Aid.

Ballot Issues:

Minimum wage increase from \$5.15 to \$6.85 per hour.

Unicameral Michigan Organization, to eliminate the Senate.

K-16 Education coalition, to guarantee annual inflationary increase in state K-12 education and college funding.

Local government funding crisis:

Since 2001, revenue sharing has been cut or frozen. In the Gov's budget for next year, it is again frozen. This could severely impact public libraries that do not have their own separate millage, or services a parent agency currently provides. Localities may have to go to voters with tax increases. This may affect all types of library funding.

MLA Legislative Day:

Tuesday May 9, 2006. 8:00 – 3:30

Investments: (PA 20, 1945 is still applicable)

\$100,000.00 invested in a CD at Independent Bank for 9 months at an interest rate of 4.76

\$ 100,000.00 invested in a CD at Citizens Bank for 6 months at an interest rate of 4.60

\$ 60,000.00 invested in a CD at Citizens Bank for 3 months at an interest rate of 4.50

and \$ 40,000.00 invested in a CD at Citizens Bank for 2 months at an interest rate of 4.40.