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# Le Sueur County, MN

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Board Meeting

## Item 7

**9:55 a.m. Stacy Lienemann, Director - Waseca - Le Sueur Regional Library System (10 min)**

*RE: Library Legislation*

Staff Contact:

Le Sueur County Commissioners  
88 South Park Avenue  
Le Center, MN 56057

April 17, 2017

Dear Le Sueur County Commissioners:

Please contact our federal legislators and ask them for continued support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Recently President Trump released his budget proposal for FY2018. The Institute of Museum of Library Services (IMLS) is included in the list of independent agencies whose budgets the proposal recommends eliminating.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has provided Le Sueur County libraries two Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants in the past three years. These grants have funded:

- 1) Early Literacy Education: With this grant, we developed an early literacy curriculum that included activity cards and reading lists so that drop-in caregivers could walk away with tools to help them prepare their kids to read. We also provided training to local daycare providers and improved our story times with deliberate early literacy teaching including high-quality music, toys, instruments, activities, and books.
- 2) Playful Learning: Our LSTA grant-funded furniture and educational kits created more engaging spaces in our libraries. We know that people learn in different ways and these kits were designed for the experiential learner. The kits have been highly popular, engaging families to play together within the library and increasing educational object use within the library by 400%. The Playful Learning Kits are thematic, ranging from dinosaurs to numbers, and encourage passionate lifelong learning.

These grants allowed Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System to experiment and were the only government grants earmarked specifically for libraries to do so. To lose this source of funding would hold our libraries back from preparing our communities to be engaged community members and innovators. We would not be able to fund these important and valuable projects on our own.

Please ask our federal representatives to continue to work for Le Sueur County citizens by continuing to support the funding of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, including their Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stacy Lienemann  
Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System Director  
lienemann@tds.lib.mn.us  
507-835-2910

Le Sueur County Commissioners  
88 South Park Avenue  
Le Center, MN 56057

April 17, 2017

Dear Le Sueur County Commissioners:

Please contact our state legislators and ask them to support SF 1033 and HF 1382. These bills directly benefit Le Sueur County by keeping locally-funded library costs down. The public library system in Minnesota is paid for primarily with local funds. A much smaller amount of state funding is necessary to pay for the shared networks and infrastructure that improve our efficiency and quality. Local Minnesota communities across the state are working hard to do their fair share. Yet total state Regional Library Basic System Support funding (RLBSS) has increased only once in more than 20 years, and no new dollars have been introduced into the RLBSS formula since FY 2009.

All twelve of the Regional Public Library System Governing Boards have unanimously approved SF1033 and HF 1382. This legislation would provide a \$3 million per year increase to RLBSS funds coupled with a needed change to the current distribution formula for the funds.

These measures would benefit Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System greatly. We are members of the Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative (TdS), one of the twelve regional public library systems in the state. Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System contracts with TdS for interlibrary loan, research databases, a shared catalog, delivery services, cataloging of materials, and shared e-collections. Member library fees cover only part of the costs; state funding covers the rest. Because of increased costs for services without corresponding funding at the state level, local funding has had to make up for those costs.

Unfortunately, SF 1033, chief authored by Senator Gary Dahms of Redwood Falls, was not included in the first round of talks on the Senate E-12 Omnibus bill. In addition, the House Education Finance Committee's draft omnibus education finance and policy bill does not include HF 1382.

Please ask our representatives to continue to work for Le Sueur County citizens by passing this critical legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stacy Lienemann  
Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System Director  
lienemann@tds.lib.mn.us  
507-835-2910