

PROPOSED  
MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BUFFALO AND ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
December 17, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library was held on Thursday, December 17, 2009, in the Central Library pursuant to due notice to trustees. The following members were present:

Sharon A. Thomas, Chair  
Jack Connors, Vice Chair  
Frank Gist, Secretary  
Sheldon M. Berlow, Treasurer  
Richard L. Berger  
Phyllis A. Horton  
Anne M. Leary  
Rick Lewis  
Hormoz Mansouri  
Albert L. Michaels  
Elaine M. Panty  
John G. Schmidt, Jr. (via conference call)  
Judith K. Summer  
Wayne D. Wisbaum

Absent:

Mario J. Rossetti

Chair Sharon Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. in the Joseph B. Rounds Conference Room. Trustee Schmidt was in attendance via conference call.

Agenda Item B – Agenda/Changes to the Agenda. The agenda was approved as mailed.

Agenda Item C – Minutes of the Meeting of November 19, 2009. On motion by Ms. Panty, seconded by Ms. Horton, the Minutes were approved as submitted.

Agenda Item D – Report of the Chair. Ms. Thomas shared she attended the first of two interview presentations on the B&ECPL Central Library Use Analysis Request for Proposals December 2, 2009. She noted the presentations were fascinating and invited

trustees who were unable to attend to visit the Library's website link where audio recordings for all six interviews were available.

Agenda Item D.1 – Election of Nominating Committee. Per the Bylaws, a Nominating Committee is to be appointed at the December meeting. As Board Chair, Ms. Thomas named Judy Summer and Frank Gist as her two appointees, and requested Ms. Summer to act as Chair of the Committee. Ms. Thomas asked for nominations or volunteers for the additional three positions. Mr. Connors proposed a slate of Rick Lewis, Rick Berger and Anne Leary, although Ms. Leary was not yet in attendance. Ms. Horton moved for approval and was seconded by Ms. Panty. There being no further discussion, the aforementioned individuals were approved as the Nominating Committee. Ms. Summer stated she would contact the Committee members to meet in early January before the January Board meeting.

Agenda Item E – Committee Reports.

Agenda Item E.1 – Executive Committee. Ms. Thomas reported the scheduled December 9, 2009, Executive Committee meeting was cancelled due to bad weather.

Agenda Item E.2 – Budget and Finance Committee. Mr. Berger asked Deputy Director Kenneth Stone to present budget and finance items to the Board.

Trustees Wisbaum and Leary arrived at approximately 4:08 p.m. and 4:10 p.m., respectively.

Agenda Item E.2.a – Adoption of 2010 Budget. This resolution presented the Library's 2010 Budget for consideration and adoption. Mr. Stone explained the 2010 Budget presented is essentially the same budget originally submitted which requested a \$750,000 increase in support; \$250,000 of that was to send back to Erie County in connection with the RFID grant and the net \$500,000 was to help support literacy efforts and operations. He further explained when the County Executive's budget was released, he had eliminated those items from the budget; however, the County Legislature restored \$750,000. This budget will put the funds back in the same places as the requested budget. In response to a question by Mr. Connors regarding the possibility of the County Executive withholding funding these, discussion ensued and Mr. Stone replied technically the allocation to the Library falls under the Library Protection Act because they are County funds being provided to the Library and that is how the Library would interpret it. Trustees inquired how this budget was affected by the State. Mr. Stone reminded trustees that when the Library adopted the 2009 Budget it was anticipated the State would be providing the Library with fewer resources and with the latest word we have on the cuts is that the State Library is intending to allocate the 12.5% cut of undisbursed aid across all of the aid categories which translates into a 4.5 to 5% cut to our aid. That puts us on the operating side at about \$24,000 to the good.

We had anticipated a more severe cut than it ultimately ended up. The 2010 Budget assumes the same level of funding as 2009 which gives us a 1% margin to work with. Mr. Stone feels the chance of the cuts being more severe is high so this may be an issue. He referred to the Monthly Financial Report before them and pointed out throughout this year the Library has been very successful not only in making the turnover target but exceeding it which also has a ripple effect on the fringe benefits. Discussion regarding reserve and undesignated funds ensued in response to a question by Mr. Berlow. Ms. Panty moved for approval and was seconded by Mr. Berger. The 2010 Budget was adopted unanimously as presented.

RESOLUTION 2009-51

WHEREAS, on December 1<sup>st</sup> the Erie County Legislature adopted the County's 2010 Budget, and

WHEREAS, the County's budget includes restoring \$750,000 requested by the Library to help sustain operations, emphasizing the Library's initiatives involving County-wide literacy services, cultural tourism opportunities, programs to assist our patrons meet the economic challenges of today's economy, and

WHEREAS, the restoration further allows the Library, pursuant to Resolution 2009-5, to include in the 2010 Budget an annual payment to Erie County in the amount of \$250,000 to return savings associated with the ECFSA's (Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority) efficiency grant for the Library's RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) initiative,

WHEREAS, the County Executive did not veto this change, so the change becomes part of the County's 2010 Budget, and

WHEREAS, the resources provided, combined with prudent use of available fund balance, allow continuing implementation of a logical financial plan to address the reduced revenue picture while continuing to address key initiatives and maintaining quality library services throughout the entire Library System, and

WHEREAS, the Library will use these funds to maintain hours of public access and library services demanded by our public: Year-to-date circulation through October has risen over 5%, while year-to-date public access computer use has increased more than 26% across the System, and

WHEREAS, this reinforces both the continuing need for basic library services; the nationally documented trend of increased library use during tough economic times; and the continuing importance of the Library in bridging the "digital divide," and

WHEREAS, what is clearly the most serious economic downturn since the great depression is significantly boosting demand for library services at the same time state and county resources available to support library operations are reduced, and

WHEREAS, during 2010, the Library will continue assessing options and scenarios to proactively address potential significant additional budget reductions in 2011, including one of several options listed in the current Erie County Four Year Financial Plan to balance projected funding gaps that would reduce the Library's 2011 allocation by a further 10% (\$2.2 million), now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library adopts the *2010 Budget*, utilizing the following sources to provide library services in 2010:

\$22,171,833 – Property Tax for Library Purposes  
\$ 750,000 – Erie County Interfund Revenue Subsidy  
\$ 2,023,834 – New York State Aid – Operating Budget  
\$ 1,192,126 – Use of Fund Balance  
\$ 1,119,973 – Library Fines, Fees and Other Revenue  
**\$27,257,766 – Total Operating Budget**

\$ 612,844 – Library Grants Budget

**\$27,870,610 – Combined Operating and Grants Budget**, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the budget documents and schedules be promptly posted on the Library's website and all needed forms and accounting entries to implement this budget be promptly completed and transmitted.

Agenda Item E.2.b – Implement Contract Library Extensions. Mr. Stone explained this resolution implements the contracting library contract extension provision. This allows contracting member libraries to continue operating under the existing contract, replacing the budget schedule with the 2010 Budget that was just adopted in Resolution 2009-51 until a permanent contract replaces this with a deadline of July 31, 2010. Ms. Leary moved for approval. Ms. Horton seconded. Approval was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2009-52

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2009 the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library adopted Resolution 2009-27 which authorized executing 2009 contracting library contracts, and

WHEREAS, the resolution and the resulting 2009 contracts incorporated a provision to extend the 2009 contract into 2010 thus avoiding the November-December rush to extend contracts given recent years' recurring pattern of final

budget allocations, particularly from New York State, being in flux at the normal contract adoption time , and

WHEREAS, budgetary allocations from Erie County and New York State to the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library constitute over 90% of the financial resources supporting the contract with the "Public Library," and

WHEREAS, Erie County's 2009 allocation was not known until December 7<sup>th</sup> and New York State's allocation will not likely be known before April 2010, and

WHEREAS, this makes it difficult for the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library and the contracting libraries to develop, consider and approve a full contract prior to the beginning of the 2010 fiscal year on January 1, 2010, and

WHEREAS, the contract extension provision provides for allocations based upon the 2010 requested budget amount as may be amended by the Board until such time as a final 2010 contract is adopted, not to exceed July 31, 2010, and

WHEREAS, implementing the contract extension provision may be made by Board adopted resolution notifying contracting libraries of said extension, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library authorizes implementing the 2009 contract extension as described above, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Library Director is authorized to transmit this resolution to each contracting library.

Agenda Item E.2.c - Amend 2009 Grant Budget: Amend CLBA Grant. Mr. Stone explained one of the requirements of the Central Library Book Aid Grant is that the cash be expended by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year or it is forfeited. This resolution adjusts the budget for this one grant to the adopted State Budget amount as we still do not have final figures as to what the budget will be for the year. He reminded trustees that we will only spend the amount that actually ends up being allocated by the State. He further explained this is going for a database already purchased which was planned to be split between the general fund and this grant fund; the Library will simply change the ratio of the split. Mr. Berger moved for approval. A second was made by Ms. Summer, and approval was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2009-53

WHEREAS, the Central Library Book Aid Grant is a state grant whose funds are used to support the acquisition of library material in print and/or electronic form for the Central Library, and

WHEREAS, the grant amount disbursed as of October 2009 modestly exceeded the Library's grant budget, and

WHEREAS, this grant requires that the proceeds be expensed by December 31, 2009 or forfeited, and

WHEREAS, the Library wishes to adjust the grant's budget to reflect the actual amount disbursed through October 2009, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees approves amending the 2009 grant budget to implement the following revenue and offsetting expenditure budget change:

*Increase NYS Central Library Book Aid Grant revenue and expense:   \$3,835*

Agenda Item E.2.d – Monthly Financial Report. The monthly financial report for the period ending October 31, 2009, was presented for information. Mr. Stone reported the Library is doing reasonably well and is ahead of turnover targets generating some fund balance to help next year.

Agenda Item E.3 – Building Oversight Committee. Jack Connors updated trustees that the Building Oversight Committee/sub-committee has met four times since November 30<sup>th</sup>. The first meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> was to discuss the procedures for the review of the presentations for the RFP finalists that were held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Committee, sub-committee and Board members who sat in for one or both of these meetings were Jack Connors, Rick Lewis, Sharon Thomas, Elaine Panty, Michelle Mazzone (Erie County Director of Real Estate), Robert Shibley (UB School of Architecture, Director, The Urban Design Project and special assistant/consultant to UB President Simpson), Bridget Quinn-Carey, Ken Stone, Mary Jean Jakubowski and Stanton Hudson. A follow-up sub-committee meeting held on December 14<sup>th</sup> allowed the group to share their thoughts. Highlights were discussed, noting the bottom line is it needs to be both the community's and Library's vision and it will be a public/private partnership in the end. They agreed to meet in January to evaluate all of the presentations and plan to make some recommendations. Notes on the meeting were distributed. Mr. Connors reminded Board members they are welcome to attend any of the meetings. Ms. Summer commended the Committee and sub-committee for their time spent on this.

Agenda Item F.4 – Planning Committee. Rick Berger reported the Committee held their second meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. At this meeting one of the things that came out was looking at the 5 and 10% level of reduction probably was not sufficient. Staff will concentrate on putting together figures for 10% and even 20% levels of reduction. He commended staff on the work they are doing to come up with these figures. In addition, possible changes in the structure of the Library System will be explored.

Agenda Item F – Report of the Director. Ms. Quinn-Carey went over some items in her report sent out prior to the meeting, highlighting eBooks and Book a Librarian. She praised the IT Department who recently did a conversion of the Library’s e-mail server, from Eudora to Outlook, and who is also working on the e-rate application; she pointed out these projects represent a huge part of what the Central Library does as a System center, providing backbone for all of our libraries to operate. She shared information on some of the upcoming Darwin exhibition programs being planned and noted further details would be sent out to trustees.

The Director called upon Deputy Director Stanton Hudson for his report. Mr. Hudson conveyed the annual campaign letters of solicitation will be out sometime early to mid next week. Approximately 75,000 mailings will go out; a 10,000 bump over last year. A target date to conclude the campaign has been set for the second week in April with a publicized goal of \$125,000 (approximately double of last year).

Mr. Hudson commented on the Junior League’s Decorators’ Show House Proceeds application which was discussed in his written report and Trustee Leary stated for full disclosure that while she is the current President of the organization, she has nothing to do with the proceeds; it is a separate committee quite isolated from the membership.

In response to a question by Trustee Berger on where the Library came up with the extra 10,000 mailings, Mr. Hudson explained a list was purchased of the highest income families in every one of the zip codes throughout Erie County. Mr. Gist inquired if there had been any progress on website donations. Mr. Hudson replied not to date but hopes to do this soon. Ms. Leary questioned if any corporate solicitations were being done. Mr. Hudson replied it is not planned at this point. He commented there are a few on the list compiled internally and feels this is an area that needs to be pursued more aggressively in the future. Discussion on sending letters to library vendors took place, with Mr. Connors noting County vendors cannot be solicited for donations and this fine line was further discussed. Ms. Quinn-Carey voiced they are holding out on this with thoughts of involving some vendors as sponsors for future events or to possibly underwrite programs.

Trustee Michaels left the meeting at approximately 4:47 p.m.

Ms. Thomas informed Ms. Leary that she was elected to the Nominating Committee and Ms. Leary accepted this position.

The following was submitted by the Director and transmitted to Board members prior to the meeting:

**Report of the Director  
December 11, 2009**

While it may be a bit early to fully recap and review 2009, we have made great strides in a number of areas that are worth highlighting.

Our efforts on the literacy front continue to be a major focus for our staff and in our planning efforts. We will soon be welcoming Project Flight and Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo and Erie County as collaborative partners within the Central Library. The presence of both of these renowned literacy organizations within a library bode well for a future of literacy services throughout our System. Cooperative planning, funding and implementation will be a benefit for all three organizations. And, our programmatic relationship with other organizations such as Buffalo Adult Education, the Museum of Science, WNED, Explore & More and other key partners are strengthening the Library System's ability to enhance the essential educational programming and accessible services in our communities.

In the coming months, Library Literacy Centers will be introduced within four of our System Libraries, two in the City of Buffalo and two outside the City in Cheektowaga and Lackawanna. Over time, we will build upon the services in these centers and explore additional locations with the County.

Our branch and member libraries continue to welcome record numbers of visitors, lend record numbers of materials and host record numbers of computer users – many seeking career resources, job-seeking related information and skill training. They are also providing quality programming and access to a wealth of valuable resources in a variety of formats.

As of early December, eBooks are available. As with our other digital collections (audio books and films) access is free of charge with a valid B&ECPL card. With new e-readers more available and much easier to use than previous devices, eBooks are a quickly developing digital format and one we are delivering to our users on the leading edge of the technology.

Another new service: Book A Librarian, which enables researchers to request specific subject or topical help from a librarian and schedule a convenient time to meet. This service is currently available at the Central Library, but may expand to other locations depending on the demand. Our librarians are also preparing to join the Ask Us 24/7 online reference service coordinated by the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC). More information will be forthcoming early next year.

The 2010 County budget process has concluded, with the Library poised to see an overall increase of \$750,000 in operating funds and an allocation of capital funds to replace the aged and unreliable escalators at the Central Library. The net increase for our operating budget is \$500,000 however, as \$250,000 has been allocated as the offset for the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority (ECFSA) Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) efficiency grant. This additional funding will provide a welcome cushion for the process of closing our budget gap, but does not eliminate the need to continue to reduce our expenses through attrition and restructuring. Expenses continue to rise, even in the time since the 2010 budget request, and fund balance spending will not sustain us indefinitely.

We can thrive as a System, now and in the future, and continue to provide excellent services to our community. But now is the time to consider how we will be sustainable in the long term and how to define the scope and range of the Library System's role in the community - an issue the Planning Committee is committed to addressing.

The reports that follow will provide a more detailed overview of the programs, services and projects under way at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System.

### Report of the Chief Operating Officer

#### General Highlights

**East Delavan Library Receives Award:** On Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, the East Delavan Branch Library received the 2009 Corporate Award from the Child Care Resource Network. The Corporate Award is given to an agency or corporation that has demonstrated a commitment to family issues related to child care and early education. The library was cited for being an integral part of the community campaign against illiteracy and for promoting the well-being of families in the community. The branch has been instrumental in the Read to Succeed Coalition, Mayor Brown's Summer Reading Program and the Community Action for Reading Excellence Grant. Previous winners include Rich Products, Buffalo General Hospital, Fisher Price, HSBC Bank, WNED ThinkBright, and other well known agencies and corporations. Congratulations to Branch Manager **Jamie Smith** and all of the East Delavan Branch Library staff.

**NEW Service:** *Book a Librarian* recently "opened" for business at the Central Library. Patrons are able to schedule one-on-one sessions with a subject specialist for research assistance. Patrons can register online and via the telephone.

**Getting Funky at Merriweather:** On Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, more than 120 young adults enthusiastically enjoyed a concert featuring local rap groups G-Rec and Team Freaky at the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library.

**Central Staff Members Graduate from Leadership Institute:** Librarians **Dorinda (Hayes) Darden** and **Angela Pierpaoli** graduated from the WNYLRC Leadership Institute November 18<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Darden presented her project on Adult Literacy and Ms. Pierpaoli presented her work on the B&ECPL Staff Page created on NING. Town of Tonawanda Librarian **Amy Chrisman** also participated in the Leadership Institute. Congratulations to all!

**RFID Conversion Continues.** The Niagara Branch went RFID 'live' on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Tagging and collection encoding continues at the East Delavan and Dudley Branches which are next in line for implementation. It is anticipated that all City Branches will be fully functioning RFID facilities during the first quarter of 2010.

**November Was a "Twitterific Month."** The B&ECPL presence on the popular social networking site Twitter continues to attract new followers. The buffalolibray now has over 700 "tweeps" following our every chirp. Here is a sample of what's being said about us in the twittersphere:

**versonic** At the downtown @buffalolibray. Because there is no better way to spend yr break than doing research

**archivefever** @buffalolibray I'm about 1/2 way done w/my MLS. I'll drop by & apply 4 a page position. I know a couple of ur pages :) -- thx!

**TinyPliny** @buffalolibray Thank you so much! I love the quotes you post everyday. They unfailingly bring a smile and many times, a hearty laugh. :-)

**Rare Book Room - Move to New Storage Complete:** After months of hard work, the move to the new rare book storage area is done! This collaborative effort coordinating the completion of shelf construction, punch list review and completion, humidity adjustment and stabilization, material dusting, vacuuming and cleaning is successful because of the many dedicated staff members who worked on the project. Special thanks to Rare Book Room staff: Librarian **Robert Alessi**; Clerk **Peter Scheck**; Sr. Page **Jason Barone**; Maintenance staff: Supervising Stationary Engineer **Chip Campbell**, Laborer **Matthew Bravo** and to all others without whom this project would not have happened. Funding for this project was made possible through the New York State Construction Grant program.

**Buffalo Branch Locations Provide for Census Bureau Testing:** Several B&ECPL Buffalo Branch Libraries have provided employment testing space for the United States Census Bureau. In preparation for the 2010 Census, the Bureau is looking to hire several hundred local residents as census information takers in the Buffalo area. Tests were held at the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch, East Clinton Branch and Riverside Branch Libraries. Testing will continue in the month of December.

**Central Library Restructuring/Consolidation Continues:** Library Associate **Christopher Wielgus** and Chief Library Clerk **Kathy Sweeney** conducted training classes for public service staff on November 20<sup>th</sup> and November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The class was repeated four times during the two days with a total of 32 Central public service staff members attending. Reference Desk and Public Service Desk staff can now make simple changes to patron records. Patrons will be able to renew their borrowing privileges, modify personal information such as a telephone number or e-mail address and change their pin number at every public service desk.

**Twilight Comes to the Library:** Haven't heard enough about Stephanie Meyers' *Twilight* and *New Moon*? On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Library Associate **Sean Goodrich** created and hosted a "Twilight Trivia Contest" at the Riverside Library. Over 25 *Twilight* followers participated, testing their skills and knowledge of this extremely popular series. Winners received *Twilight* related prizes. A fun time was had by all!

**Collection Management Guidelines:** The Collection Management Committee created guidelines to help libraries with weeding and managing their collections. With the advent of RFID, as well as the changing focus of collections and community interests, a well maintained collection is paramount to enhancing and sustaining visibility and circulation. The Collection Management document was presented at the Manager's meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> and is accessible on the Intranet.

**Programs:** Programs continue in abundance at each of the Buffalo Branch Libraries and the Central Library. Tween time, preschool story hours, toddler time, computer training, book clubs, teen gaming, *Branched Out* - Buffalo Museum of Science, Explore & More, Project CARE, afterschool craft hour, AnimeSeekers Club, *Young Explorers* and *Young Scientists*, Wordflight Poetry, Wii gaming, *Let's Go to the Library*, CAO Headstart, movie matinees, etc. are some of the plethora of examples.

Programming and Outreach Librarian **Kara Stock** presented a *Job Resources at the Library* workshop on November 4<sup>th</sup> to 40 [unemployed] members of The Parachute Group at the Harlem Road Community Center, and on November 19<sup>th</sup> presented this workshop for 20 [unemployed] members of the Buffalo Employment & Training Center's POD (Professionals on Demand) Group. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Stock presented a *Career Awareness* workshop for 30 high school teachers and school counselors from throughout Erie County. This workshop was organized through Erie 1 BOCES for members of the Niagara Frontier Industry Education Council, Inc (NFIEC).

The Central Library Children's Room provided numerous programs throughout the Buffalo Branches and the community in November. Highlights include: *Family Fun Night: Little Chefs* on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the E. Clinton Branch Library and November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Dudley Branch, and *Family Fun Night* November 18<sup>th</sup> at the Niagara Branch Library. Children's Room staff also conducted a class visit at the Niagara Branch

Library on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Children from the D'Youville Porter Campus attended. On November 19<sup>th</sup>, *Family Fun Night* was also held at the Central Library. November 28<sup>th</sup> brought the return of the *Pizza Lovers Book Club*.

The Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library hosted several community interest programs including: November 10<sup>th</sup>, the Erie County Department of Health presented *Renovating Right and Other Ways to Protect Your Child from Lead Poisoning*; November 14<sup>th</sup>, the Black Chamber of Commerce of Western New York, with support from Senator Antoine Thompson, presented the 2009-2010 KIP Business Education Seminar Series, *Can U Work in the Dark: Preparing for the Future*; and on November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Teaching American History Program (Buffalo Public Schools, Dept. of Social Studies) held an outreach class at the branch. Branch Manager **Sandra Williams Bush** conducted a session on the African American databases and resources in the African American Resource Room for this group.

The Niagara Branch Library hosted the *Latino Diabetes* workshop sponsored by State Senator Antoine Thompson on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Fifty individuals attended the workshop, which was conducted in Spanish.

**Tours and Class Visits:** Grosvenor Librarian **Carol Pijacki** and Assistant Deputy Director for Special Collections **Peggy Skotnicki** gave a tour of the Library's Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) archival material to the BPO Director of Marketing Richard A. Doran and his assistant Jennifer Smith on November 20<sup>th</sup> in preparation for the Orchestra's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010. Rare Book Room Clerk **Peter Scheck** conducted a tour for 17 children and 3 adults from Allendale Elementary (West Seneca) on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The class visited both the rare book display room and Mark Twain Room.

Niagara Branch Manager **Brian Hoth** conducted tours of the Niagara Branch Library for refugees from the Bell Center on November 10<sup>th</sup> and on November 23<sup>rd</sup> from the Erie 1 BOCES Workforce Center. The Niagara Branch Library continues as a Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo Drop-In Center, where tutoring sessions were held for 26 adults.

North Park Branch Manager **Dale Schmid** conducted class visits for students from both School 64 and School 81.

Librarian **Charles Alaimo** coordinated a class visit for WNY Maritime Charter School on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Librarians **Angela Pierpaoli**, **Kevin Wall**, **Glenn Luba** and Central Library Manager **Nancy Mueller** led the tours and did library instruction for the students; Ms. Pierpaoli also led training in the Training Lab on the Library's databases for the students. Mr. Alaimo conducted a "Map Presentation" to a group of second graders on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Meetings/Conferences/ Presentations/Outreach:** Dudley Branch Manager **Kathryn Galvin** attended the conference *By the Book: Readers Advisory in a Dynamic World* with Amherst Public Library Director **Roseanne Butler-Smith** on November 13<sup>th</sup> in Albany, New York. East Delavan Branch Manager **Jamie Smith** attend the Infant to School Age Taskforce meeting and the Project CARE Board meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> respectively. Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Manager **Sandra Williams Bush** participated in the *National Black Storytellers Festival* in Little Rock, Arkansas, performing on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Bush was also a featured storyteller at the November 21<sup>st</sup> TELLEBRATION! And on November 28<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Bush was interviewed on “The Umoja Presents Radio Show” (WHRD 1270 AM). Niagara Branch Manager **Brian Hoth** attended a workshop entitled *Conducting an E-Records Inventory* sponsored by New York State Archives on November 13<sup>th</sup>. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Hoth visited the CAO Head Start at The Old First Ward Community Center and on November 18<sup>th</sup> the CAO Head Start at Ferry Academy. Mr. Hoth conducted a story hour at each of the locations. On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Riverside Branch Manager **Kerra Alessi** attended *Literacy Night* at School #65. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, Assistant Deputy Director for Public Services **Ann Kling**, Manager Buffalo Branches **Linda Rizzo**, and North Park Branch Manager **Dale Schmid** attended *Marketing Your Library Like a Bookstore* presented by Jill Mesner, Community Relations Manager for the Clarence Barnes & Noble.

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, Grosvenor Librarians **Rob Alessi** and **Amy Vilz** and Assistant Deputy Director for Special Collections **Peggy Skotnicki** attended a lecture on Darwin by Dr. Niles Eldredge of the American Museum of Natural History at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute. On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Grosvenor Room Librarian **Amy Vilz** attended *Conservation and Exhibition of Print Material* at the WNYLRC.

Technical Services and Technology Support Manager **Maureen McLaughlin** attended a WNYLRC Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting at the Lockport Public Library on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Technical Services Manager **Jennifer Childs** attended a Preservation Committee meeting at WNYLRC on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Book Repairer **John Farah** attended the Preservation Institute at the WNYLRC on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Librarians **Kathy Goodrich** and **Peggy Errington** attended *Connecting Books with Boys* on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Librarian **Tim Galvin** attended a WNYLRC Resource Sharing Committee meeting November 4<sup>th</sup>. Librarian **Suzanne Colligan** attended the November 4<sup>th</sup> session of the WNYLRC’s Digital Boot Camp. Librarians **Kara Stock** and **Dan Caufield** and Assistant Deputy Director **Ann Kling** staffed a library table at the Veterans Opportunity Fair at the Convention Center November 5<sup>th</sup>. Library card applications and information about library services for job seekers and small businesses were provided to the veterans who attended. Librarian **Dan Caufield** spoke at the SBDC’s (Small Business Development Center) Restaurant Institute Orientation November 9<sup>th</sup>. He also attended the November 18<sup>th</sup> ECIDA Area Managers meeting. Children’s Room Librarian **Gwen Collier** presented the program *How to Recruit and*

*Retain Boys in the Library Through Creative Programming* at the Rochester School Library System Conference day on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Central Library Manager **Nancy Mueller** attended a quarterly meeting of the Erie County Records Commission on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at Erie County Hall. Librarian **Britt White** attended a conference in Pennsylvania on *Young Adult Literature* on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and November 24<sup>th</sup>.

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Caufield and Ms. Stock along with Librarian **Peggy Errington** and Yellow Team Leader **Meg Cheman** attended the Library's Coordinated Outreach Advisory Committee meeting. This Committee meets twice a year providing opportunity for community member representatives, assigned from various community organizations, to review the Library's outreach plans and make suggestions how to better serve and approach segments of Erie County's diverse population. Librarian Trainee **Alison Farinacci** presented *Teen Room Activities* at this meeting.

### **Report of the Chief Financial Officer**

**NYS Legislature Modifies Governor's Proposed Current Year Budget Cuts, Library Aid Hit Harder:** Citing concern that the Governor's proposed reduction of undistributed aid would unduly impact schools and health care providers if imposed midyear, the legislature eliminated reductions to schools and health care and increased cuts that impacted other state aid programs to local governments, including library aid, to 12.5% rather than the 10% of undistributed aid originally proposed by the Governor. State-wide, this reduces library aid by \$4.1 million vs. the \$3.3 million originally proposed. The irony that Public Library Systems operate on a calendar year and this aid cut comes in the last month of the year was not lost in the Library community.

For B&ECPL, state library system aid, budgeted in both the Library Fund and Library Grants, will have been reduced by just over \$50,000 from the state's originally adopted budget for this year. The revised 2009 amount, \$2.71 million, is down \$260,000 from the \$2.97 million provided in 2008 and down \$347,000 (over 11%) from the \$3.06 million provided in 2007.

Fortunately, the Library's 2009 budget anticipated a more severe reduction than was eventually implemented, so this action does not create a negative budget condition in 2009. However, the magnitude of the reduction so late in the year combined with the continued bleak financial picture at the state level is an ominous sign of things to come.

Libraries have already taken more than their fair share of cuts. Since 2007, we've seen the following reductions in state aid:

**Public Library System Aid (Library Operating Fund and Grants):**

2007 (2007-08 State FY) - \$3,057,844 in adopted state budget

2009 (2009-10 State FY) - \$2,710,951 including Dec 2009 estimated reduction

A reduction of (\$346,893)

Also, **the \$800,000 Library Construction Program was eliminated** from the 2009-10 State Budget. B&ECPL's share in 2008 was \$37,855.

Combined, the Library will have sustained a reduction of \$384,748 for those two main programs, levels not seen since the late 1990's - and these are actual dollar amounts - not adjusted for inflation - so the impact is more pronounced.

Staff will continue to monitor the situation.

**County Legislature Adopts 2010 Budget, includes \$750,000 Interfund Transfer Revenue Subsidy to Assist the Library:** This amount offsets the \$750,000 reduced from the Library's 2010 Budget Request in the County's Proposed Budget. Legislators expressed interest in the Library's literacy initiatives and recognition of the strains incurred as the Library meets recession induced increased service demands with flat county funding and declining state aid. Staff is working to quickly incorporate these changes into the budget to be presented to the Board for consideration at their December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Old North Park Library Move Out Completed:** Maintenance staff has moved, reused or recycled remaining equipment at the old North Park Branch facility at Delaware and Hertel. The facility was turned over to the City as of early this week.

**Maintenance and Shipping Departments Ready for Winter:** Maintenance crews have tuned and tested City Branch and Central Library heating systems, installed and tested plows and salters on their pickup trucks, and are ready to clear snow as needed. The Shipping Department issued early reminders to check salt inventories at branches and contracting libraries and delivered additional supplies where needed.

**Work to Clear and Prepare Space for the Project Flight and Literacy Volunteers move to the Central Library is well under way:** Anticipated move-ins are expected to occur over the first quarter of 2010.

**LIST of VISITS and MEETINGS ATTENDED by BRIDGET QUINN-CAREY**  
November 16, 2009 – December 11, 2009

**NOVEMBER**

- 16 Common Council 2010 Capital Improvement Budget workshop
- 17 Rare Books Commission meeting
- 17 Librarians Association meeting
- 18 Library Managers & Directors meeting – Central Library
- 18 Meeting with Roseanne Butler-Smith, Director Amherst Public Libraries
- 19 Art of Fundraising & Grant Writing Online Conference
- 19 B&ECPL Board meeting – Central Library
- 20 Meeting with Anna Links, NY Council for Humanities
- 20 Erie County Commissioners meeting – Rath Building
- 24 Meeting with Joan Bukowski, Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society
- 24 Meeting with Jack Quinn and David Stieglitz – Downtown Education Center concept
- 30 Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority Finance Committee meeting
- 30 B&ECPL Building Oversight Committee meeting

**DECEMBER**

- 01 Meeting with Wayne Wisbaum, B&ECPL Trustee
- 01 Meeting with Uncrowned Queens Institute
- 01 Meeting with Patrick Martin, Library Counsel
- 02 Central Library Use Analysis RFP Interviews
- 03 ACT Board Meeting at Marilla Free Library
- 03 Interview with Joyce Kryszak, WBFO, regarding Darwin Exhibit
- 03 Meeting with Project Flight, LLC
- 03 B&ECPL Planning Committee meeting
- 04 Regent's Advisory Council meeting – New York City
- 07 Meeting with Literacy Volunteers
- 09 Central Library Use Analysis RFP Interviews
- 10 Introduce speaker Dr. Sheila Dean – Darwin Exhibition
- 10 Meeting with B&ECPL Chair Sharon Thomas and Deputy Directors

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Bridget Quinn-Carey, Director  
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

**FROM:** Stanton H. Hudson, Jr., APR, Fellow PRSA  
Deputy Director & Chief Development and Communications Officer

**SUBJECT:** November 1-November 30, 2009  
Development & Communications Office

**DATE:** December 8, 2009

## **OVERVIEW**

Major activities centered on:

- Preliminary grant proposal for \$515,000 for the Junior League of Buffalo's Show House proceeds accepted. Full grant proposal due December 11.
- Big Read wrap up.
- Kickoff of B&ECPLS/UB/Buffalo Zoo collaborative exhibition to celebrate the legacy of Charles Darwin.
- Initial strategy sessions on work plan development for National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Digital Humanities Planning Grant. Discussion of development of larger Institute for Library and Museum Services (IMLS) grant to implement the NEH grant (due February 2010).
- Working with Erie County's Commission on the Status of Women to develop strategies for celebrating National Women's History Month (March 2010).
- Continued discussions on renewal of lease with Fables Café/Palate Catering.

## **SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES/TASKS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **Development**

- The 2009 Decorators' Show House Proceeds preliminary application was researched, written, and submitted. The grant request of \$515,000 would be used to support the Library's Literacy Master Plan to create/provide a holistic framework to address academic underachievement, literacy enrichment, and remediation for adults, students, and children and their families. If granted, the monies will enable the B&ECPLS, in collaboration with major partners Project Flight, Literacy Volunteers, Buffalo Public Schools Adult Education Division, and WNED to: 1) launch four Library Literacy Centers (LLCs) as defined in the Master Plan; 2) enhance teaching and training resources at six of the Library's City of Buffalo branches; and 3) offer early childhood literacy services in 20 additional libraries during the next two years. Received word in late November that preliminary application accepted and invited to submit full grant proposal due December 11.
- Held meeting with other participants in the Library's \$25,000 NEH Digital Humanities grant to discuss ways in which a regional inventory of materials associated with the Great Depression and New Deal will be captured and catalogued. Second meeting held to explore the feasibility of preparing a second grant request to IMLS for a much larger amount (\$250,000-\$1 million) for implementation for the project. The goal of "Re-Collecting the Great Depression and New Deal as a Civic Resource in Hard Times" is to encourage and strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and

culture through the support of projects that explore significant events and themes in the nation's history and culture and that advance knowledge of the principles that define America. Particular focus will be made to the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, a WPA project in 1935, its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010-2011, and ways in which the Library System can play a lead role in celebrating this milestone event by featuring elements of the Library's music collection and historical materials relating to the orchestra. A tour of the music collection, including materials collected by the Library from the Philharmonic's inception through 2001, was shown to BPO representatives during a tour and luncheon to discuss the potential collaboration. The Library is now represented on the BPO's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration committee. A second emphasis will be on The Milestones of Science. The 198 items in this one-of-a-kind collection were purchased during the Depression. In 2013, this important asset of the Library's will be 75 years old.

- More than 150 programs associated with the 2009-2010 Big Read, funded, in part, through a \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), were held during the month of October and the first week of November. Various promotional materials were developed internally and distributed system-wide. Book discussions, dramatic readings, children's dance parties, and film viewings were among the diverse array of offerings. All System libraries participated. Wrap up activities, including a final report to the NEA, are in the process of being prepared.
- A kickoff for the B&ECPLS/UB/ Buffalo Zoo exhibition featuring Charles Darwin was held on November 12, and featured Darwin expert Niles Eldredge of the Museum of Natural History in NYC. Eldredge spoke at Roswell Park Cancer Institute at noon, followed by a private luncheon at the Central Library and a tour of the exhibition. That evening he spoke at a private gather at the Buffalo Zoo, attended by the Library Director. Remarks by Dr. Eldredge about the exhibition were highly laudatory and have been received in writing to be used as a testimonial at a future point.
- Met again with representatives of Fables Café/Palate Catering preliminarily to discuss needs of both parties which should be reflected in any new agreement for food services at the Central Library. The current five-year arrangement ends in March 2010.
- Initiated work with a new vendor for direct mail services for the 2009-2010 Annual Fund Campaign. It is anticipated that approximately 80,000 pieces will be mailed in December, with an ambitious goal of \$125,000 (goal in 2008-09 was \$65,000).
- Initiated work on the sale of approximately 7,000 books and periodicals currently stored in space at the top of the escalator on the second floor of the Central Library. Arrangement with World Book Auction guarantees a minimum of \$7500 from the online sales initiative.

- Monitored sales from Novel Ideas on a weekly and monthly basis.

### **Community Contacts**

- Presented at annual non-profit summit sponsored by accounting firm Lumsden & McCormick. Topic of the presentation was "The Value of Collaborations in Developing New Revenue Streams for Non-Profits." Approximately 200 attended.
- Attended Graycliff Conservancy Board meeting.
- Attended Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Foundation meetings.
- Attended follow up meeting at Forest Lawn Cemetery to discuss ways in which the Library could play a role as the cemetery prepares to transition to a historical venue.

### **Programming/Public Relations/Marketing**

- Met again with representatives of PBS station WNED to discuss potential tie-ins between the stations and the Library/UB/Buffalo Zoo Darwin collaboration. Linkages will be made between the exhibition and regularly-scheduled PBS programming.
- Continued to meet and discuss plans for exhibits/themes emanating from the Special Collections area for the remainder of 2009 and through 2011.
- Continued to meet and discuss 2010 programming plans and the role of the Development & Communications Office in support planned activities.

### **B&ECPL Meetings**

- Attended/participated in B&ECPL Senior Management meetings
- Attended/participated in B&ECPL Administrative Team meetings
- Attended/participated in B&ECPL Managers/Directors meeting
- Attended/participated in B&ECPL Board meeting

## **Contracting Member Library Activity Reports - December 2009**

### **Newstead Public Library** - submitted by Kristine Sutton

December is a month filled with joy and spirit. We begin our holiday festivities with our annual hand-knit sweater raffle. This year, our very talented senior library clerk donated 5 hand-knit sweaters to be raffled off at the end of the month. Patrons will be treated to our annual Cookies and Punch Holiday Open House on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Along with our goodies, we are collecting food items for the Akron/Newstead Food Pantry. For every bag of donations, folks can choose a book from our Friends donation as a thank-you. During the evening children can make a card and gift for someone special.

Also happening this month we are hosting our first, Friends of the Library Thank-you Breakfast, to show our appreciation for all the Friends do throughout the year. Earlier this month we completed our fall preschool story time session with success. Our monthly Children's Book Club will discuss *No More Dead Dogs* by Gordon Korman. Our Women's Book Club will take their December meeting on the road to local Orazio's restaurant to enjoy dessert and discuss the book *An Irish Country Christmas* by Patrick Taylor.

During winter break families can spend the Saturday morning after Christmas at the library watching the movie *Monsters vs. Aliens*. The last of our Great Gatsby movie series will show *Some Like it Hot*.

As long as the weather cooperates we plan to have a kindergarten class visit and our local Headstart visit for a story.

Happy Holidays!

**City of Tonawanda Public Library** – submitted by Beverly Federspiel, Library Director

November has been a very busy month at the City of Tonawanda Public Library. The routine and the not so routine all took place.

For the first time in several years, the library was a polling station. The Friends of the Library seized this opportunity to raise funds. They held a bake sale and a mini basket raffle; both were very profitable. Residents were happy to help fund programs at the library.

The City of Tonawanda Public Library created a "Teen Scene" space. Shelving was moved and collections were relocated to give our middle school students a place to hang out and to work on homework. Our Friends Group was very generous in helping the library purchase new furniture for this area. The new furniture gives Teen Scene a distinct look from the rest of the library. Artwork from the local middle school will rotate on a monthly basis on the wall in this area. This will give young artists a spot in the community to showcase their talents. Three youth computers were installed courtesy of the Gates Grant.

Three circulating laptops also became available this month. They have been popular especially during peak times. For patrons that bring in their own laptops, we have created a small laptop area. A privacy screen to divide a long table was purchased along with electric table outlets. Patrons trying to plug into the electrical outlets have been a safety issue. This new area will allow patrons to access electricity for their laptops safely.

November had a nice mix of programs for all ages. Toddler time continues to be strong in attendance. The library finished out the Big Read with two movies and the Jazz Baby program. Thursday nights are family nights. These programs invite families to have fun at the library together. Late Nite@the Library (a program for the tweens) continues to be a popular program. Adult programs consisted of Sudoku for Adults, Monthly Book Discussion and computer training. This is the first year that the City of Tonawanda Library participated in ALA's National Gaming Day on November 14<sup>th</sup>; the turnout was great. Kids came early and stayed late. They had their choice of the Wii, as well as board and card games. It was great to see kids playing with kids that they did not know and inviting a lone child to join in. Parents were on hand, and they had fun watching as well as playing board games.

November was an exciting month, as so many projects came together. The community is excited by the changes. Unfortunately, as demand for library services continues to climb, budgets to support these services decline. Budget reductions were announced and will begin in 2010. We hope that this is the only decrease that we see, so that we can continue to bring our community new and better services. The City of Tonawanda Library staff looks forward to working with the director and the System Board to advocate for better funding.

Agenda Item G - Public Comment. No public comment.

Agenda Item H - Unfinished Business. None.

Agenda Item I - New Business.

Agenda Item I.1. Adopt 403(b) Plan Document. Deputy Director Mary Jean Jakubowski introduced this resolution stating back in December of 2008 the Board adopted Resolution 2008-60 which allowed the Library to freeze the 403(b) tax deferred plan for some employees as a result of new IRS regulations that went into effect January 1<sup>st</sup>. As part of that resolution, the Board charged the Library with creating the Plan Document which is also an IRS regulation requirement. The Library worked with benefits attorney Robert Pizzo to develop the Plan Document presented in this resolution. Mr. Pizzo was in attendance at the meeting and available to answer questions. She explained this does keep the 403(b) in a frozen status for the period of time as designated. Mr. Berger moved and Ms. Summer seconded. Mr. Pizzo further explained rules attached to 403(b) monies in response to questions posed by trustees. Ms. Jakubowski noted they do plan on putting together a FAQ to address library staff questions. Approval of Resolution 2009-54 was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2009-54

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Library's labor contract with the Librarians Association, employees had been eligible to participate in a tax sheltered retirement plan under Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, and

WHEREAS, the contract further provided that: 1) all respective costs under such a plan are the direct obligation, through payroll deduction, of participating librarians; and 2) the implementation and continuation of such program is contingent upon there being no additional cost, direct or indirect to the Library, over and above that normally attributable to other payroll deductions currently provided to the bargaining unit herein, and

WHEREAS, as of January 1, 2009, new Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations implementing major changes affecting the administration of 403(b) tax deferred compensation plans went into effect, and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of these changes, the Library was not allowed to continue the 403(b) program as it is was previously administered pursuant to the Librarians Association contract, and

WHEREAS, to address these changes, the Library researched options and contracted for specialized expert legal consultation regarding 403(b) and 457(b) plan administration, and

WHEREAS, as a result of this review, the Library Board on December 18, 2009 adopted Resolution 2008-60, which directed that all contributions to the 403(b) plan be discontinued effective December 31, 2008 which in effect froze the plan, and

WHEREAS, for future tax deferred deductions, current employees are eligible to enroll in Erie County's 457(b) tax deferred plan, and

WHEREAS, as the IRS requires that even frozen plans develop and formally adopt a plan document, the Library's legal expert has drafted the required plan document which continues the frozen status of the plan, staff has reviewed the plan document and recommends it be adopted, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library adopts the 403(b) plan document effective immediately, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library authorizes the Library Director to execute the necessary documents and notices to implement this action.

Agenda Item I.2 – Approval of Contract Agreement with Library Foundation of Buffalo & Erie County. As background information, Ms. Quinn-Carey distributed two handouts to trustees: (1) *Establishing a Library Foundation: Planning, Persistence, Patience,*

*Progress and (2) Library Foundation Outlays.* She reminded trustees the reason this resolution is before them is because the Library's financial future is of huge concern to all. The future of public funding is not a guarantee and needs to be supplemented through other kinds of funding. She pointed out because of the way we are structured as a public library, it is very difficult and almost impossible for us to get certain kinds of private investment and many other libraries and non-profits have set up foundations to deal with this and added we are fortunate that we already have a foundation in place. The contract before the Board articulates a relationship that would enable the Library and Library Foundation to come together to strengthen each other and create a path forward and it gives the Library Board a great deal of flexibility in how that is implemented and it gives the Library Foundation a role in helping to shape how they are going to move forward also. Ms. Quinn-Carey noted this has been something that has generated many questions and concerns, but hopes everyone's questions have been answered. On advice from Library legal counsel Patrick Martin, Ms. Quinn-Carey read the following for the record: "Trustees are advised prior to the vote that, pursuant to Library bylaws and NY Non-Profit Law section 715, which the bylaws restate, all Library trustees must declare all interest they have in this case in the Library Foundation and that failure to do so will make an agreement entered into by the Library voidable. The Library Foundation Board members that also serve on this Board are Jack Connors, Anne Leary, Wayne Wisbaum, Hormoz Mansouri and Rick Berger. It should also be stated that pursuant to the Library bylaws, if the Library action to authorize the agreement requires the votes of interested directors for passage, the agreement is also voidable (not automatically void, but subsequently voidable for that reason)." Hormoz Mansouri announced for the record he has resigned from the Library Foundation. Ms. Summer moved for approval of Resolution 2009-55 and was seconded by Mr. Wisbaum. Questions posed by Trustee Schmidt about the Library Foundation were answered by Ms. Quinn-Carey, Ms. Leary, Mr. Berger and Mr. Berlow. Mr. Schmidt also inquired if the contract before the Board reflected any of the comments he previously sent in to Ms. Quinn-Carey. Ms. Quinn-Carey replied she had discussed these with Mr. Martin; there were no changes made to the contract. The following message received from Trustee Rossetti, who could not be at the meeting, was read by Ms. Quinn-Carey for the record: "I anticipated attending the Board meeting but an unexpected matter will prevent my attendance. Although the proposed contract has been "vetted" by various parties, answers to my concerns have not been satisfied. In addition to my e-mail addressing the contract and its contents, I have a problem with the confidentiality provision by virtue that we are subject to open and full disclosure of all Library actions whatever they may be. I am aware that my absence prevents my negative vote to be recorded but I respectfully request that my comments be placed on the record. To all happy holidays and a Happy New Year." Ms. Summer called the question. Resolution 2009-55 was approved by a vote of 12 to 1, with Trustee Hormoz Mansouri voting in the negative. Ms. Thomas thanked trustees for their input and participation on this particular topic and hoped everyone was clearer about what the Library is doing and where they are going.

RESOLUTION 2009-55

WHEREAS, public libraries all over the United States are struggling to maintain services and access in light of reductions in public funding, and

WHEREAS, public support, while an essential piece of the funding package, needs to be supplemented by private support, and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library is fortunate to have the Library Foundation of Buffalo and Erie County already established, and

WHEREAS, the Foundation's sole mission is to support the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System, and

WHEREAS, the proposed contract has been vetted by the Executive Committee, the Library's legal counsel, the Foundation's legal counsel and library staff, and

WHEREAS, the proposed contract authorizes the Library Director to allocate staffing resources to enable leadership of the Foundation and provide clerical support. This cost saving and collaborative partnership will not only make more Foundation funds available for Library System programming and projects, but will ensure open communications and a shared vision for the future of fundraising endeavors, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees Chairwoman is authorized to sign and execute the proposed contract with the Library Foundation of Buffalo and Erie County.

There being no further business, on motion by Ms. Summer, seconded by Ms. Horton, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Gist  
Secretary