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MEDIA RELEASE: LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING REPORT Leadership Transition Team Announced

The Board of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System released the following report after their monthly board meeting held Thursday, February 17 at the Dudley Library in South Buffalo.

Director's Search:

The Board has appointed a *Transitional Administrative Leadership Team* to lead the Library System until a successor to Director Bridget Quinn-Carey is in place. The Team will be Susan Kent and June Garcia of Library Strategies International LLC, an international consulting practice, and Mary Jean Jakubowski, Chief Operating Officer of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System.

Kent and Garcia have both served as public library directors and have extensive expertise in strategic planning and oversight for public libraries. Ms. Kent has served as the Director and Chief Executive of the Branch Libraries at the New York Public Library and City Librarian and Director of the Los Angeles Public Library, among other positions. Ms. Garcia served as the Director of the San Antonio Public Library, and has held a number of positions at the Phoenix Public Library.

As individual consultants and as library directors, each has assisted libraries with many of the same issues that are being faced now by the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System: financial stability, governance, library facilities, collections and services planning, changes in staffing patterns and implications for staff morale and staff development, the public perception of the library and its future, and advocacy. The Team will be in place as of March 1, 2011, and will serve until a Director is found; the estimated time frame for the search is 4-6 months.

Library Advocacy Day: Trustees were updated on *Library Advocacy Day* which is Tuesday, March 1 in Albany. Local staff will join others from the New York Library Association in an effort to encourage state lawmakers to restore \$2.4 million in statewide library funding cuts.

Additionally, while in Albany, there will be meetings with the western New York State delegation to discuss plans to create a Special Library District, meaning a predictable and dedicated source of funding for our Library System. As a first step in the process state officials will be required to approve the Library District before it can become law.

175th Anniversary Year: Trustees were updated on the 175th Anniversary fundraising Gala being planned for November 5, 2011 at Central Library.

The next board meeting of the Library System is scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at the downtown Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square in Buffalo. All board meetings are open to the public. For more details, visit www.buffalolib.org.

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