

**North Dakota Library Coordinating Council (NDLCC)**  
**Special Meeting May 3, 2019**  
**North Dakota State Library Zoom Meeting**  
**Bismarck, North Dakota**

**Call to order:** Chair Seil called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

**Council Members Present:** Mary Soucie, Chair Michele Seil, Carmen Redding, David Gray, Stephanie Kom, Patricia Caldwell, Susie Sharp, Tammy Oltz, Jason Matthews, Tim Dirks, and Mark Holman.

**Council Members Not Present:** None

**Others Present:** Cynthia Clairmont-Schmidt, Assistant State Librarian, and Cheryl Pollert, NDSL Recorder

**NDSL Database Review:**

- Tutor.com is up for renewal, therefore the State Library is recommending that we drop the database as cost per use has become expensive with usage on average down to 70 users per month and cost to renew at approximately \$42,400. The last 3 years has seen usage steadily dropping to nearly half of what it was when Tutor.com was first purchased; they have provided the State Library with monthly reports on usage confirming this. The State Library previously offered in school classroom training for Tutor.com but Soucie thinks it is not the State Library's role to do training in school classrooms. Other entities have noticed that Tutor usage has dropped off as well and the thought as to why is because students are defaulting to online sources such as Google. Google provides the how to more quickly than Tutor.com. The State Library has spent time promoting Tutor.com on Facebook, at trainings, the Flickertale newsletter, the ND State Fair, etc. Soucie feels the State Library has done a great job promoting Tutor.com but must move onward to a database users will use more.
- The recommended replacement is Mango Languages which would be well received. Dirks said his library already has it as one of his databases. With the State Library purchasing it, any library that purchased it may be able to be receive a rebate on their purchase and use the State Library's database. This issue would be addressed at a later time.
- The approximate \$6,000.00 left would be spent on eBooks, eAudio, eMagazines, and eComics. Dirks said that his library sees a huge bang for the buck with eAudio and eBooks. Soucie said that with RB digital, the State Library has seen huge increases in usage of eComics the most but the eMagazines, eBooks, and eAudio are still very well received. Any library card or a State Library card can access RB digital.

- Chair Seil asked for a motion to be made on the recommendations of the State Library regarding the database discussion. Gray moved, seconded by Sharp, that the State Library's recommendation of not renewing Tutor.com and replacing it with Mango Languages plus spending any leftover funds for RBdigital be approved. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Notice of the change will be released next week to any or all formats available after contacting Tutor.com today regarding the cancellation.

#### **Announcements:**

- a. Partnership Grant Feedback:** Soucie asked the Council their opinions on the partnership grant for the next biennium with an example question. If a group of libraries that want to partner with the Homeschool Association received a Partnership Grant, would their grant amount be higher than a single library receiving the Partnership Grant? Council members said that the grant amount would be higher if a minimum of three libraries in a group were to partner, and what their scope of usage is. It was discussed that for 3 – 4 libraries the grant amount would be \$10,000 and 5 or more libraries the grant amount would be \$15,000. Each library group would have to have one library in the group assigned as the fiscal library contact. The group would have to decide if the fiscal library would receive additional funding due to taking on the role of fiscal coordinator. Even though a library could get \$5,000 as a single award, participating with a group that would get less than \$5,000 each in the long run may be able to do more because of the partnership. This type grant would be for 18 months which gives them additional time to establish their grant goals. As a group they would have a greater pool to spread the costs around and be larger than a single library could take on by themselves. On the other hand it was discussed that would a fiscal library be able to cut the checks to the other partnering libraries in a timely manner since there would be library board approvals, city auditors, or other city departments to deal with. The fiscal library would have to have a good working relationship with their city officials, but it could still take as much as a month longer to get checks for the partnering libraries. Sharp stated that for a single library like hers, a \$5,000 partnership grant would not be possible as there would not be the funding to do that large amount. It may be possible for smaller amounts paid monthly for a partnership grant. If the grant were a true grant with the money awarded up front, the fiscal library would be able to disperse the money between the partnering libraries, etc. right away. The partnership could be set up and activated. Council members felt this was ok but that a contract should be required that was legally binding in that the libraries would need to do diligence in completing their grant as stated in their applications or face penalties such as repaying the grant to the State Library. Soucie felt that this may allow smaller libraries to do larger projects they otherwise could not do.
- b. Other Grants:** Some other requests received were for Collection Development Grants that included DVD's and eAudio books. Council members thought an expanded General

Collection Development Grant that included DVD's, eAudio books, ND related materials, or other materials would be a good idea. Computer grants are still requested as an option but Soucie wants to wait until after the partnership grants are completed. Redding felt that Makerspace grants are still a good idea and will continue to grow with libraries. Again, this type grant would be held off until the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in the biennium to present to libraries as an option. Holman was asked if could communicate to tribal libraries regarding these grants as we have had less response from them to date. The State Library has expanded the availability of grants to include academics and is looking into including tribal libraries.

- c. **Redding Thank You:** Redding is finished serving on the Council in her role as Citizen at Large ending June 30, 2019. The Council thanked her for her participation and wished her well. Joseph Camis will be the upcoming Citizen at Large beginning July 1, 2019.

**Meeting adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.