School Library System Council & Communications Coordinator Meeting
March 5, 2019 (Rescheduled)
Costello Conference Room

Attendance: SLS Council: Tracy Mammone, Council Chair, Canastota CSD; Jaclyn Buzzard, VVS CSD; Nicole LeClair, Madison CSD; Kristin Strohmeyer, Hamilton College; Heather Urtz, Mid-York LS; Ellen Dupree, NYS School for the Deaf; Jackie Groves, Morrisville-Eaton; Sarah Keesler, Rome City SD; Sue LeBlanc, Madison-Oneida BOCES SLS Communications Coordinators: Jennine Bloomquist, Camden CSD; Nicole Chase-Iverson, Rome City SD; Amy Jerome, Hamilton CSD; Tina Laramie, VVS CSD; Linda Zuber, Oneida City SD; Cathi Brewer, CIS Madison-Oneida BOCES

S. LeBlanc welcomed everyone and T. Mammone, Council Chair, called the meeting to order. Motion was made by J. Bloomquist and seconded by J. Groves. Motion carried.

The minutes from the SLS Council meeting held on December 18, 2018 were presented. A motion was made by E. Dupree to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by N. LeClair. Motion carried.

S. LeBlanc reported on the following per the School Library System Plan of Service (2017-2022)

Resource Sharing
The accuracy of the Union Catalog is dependent upon the accuracy of records at the local/school library level. Any book records entered into each school’s local catalog are pulled up to the CIDER Union Catalog. There is a large amount of bib repetition which makes it difficult when searching the Union Catalog for a book. Oneida Herkimer SLS, Jeff-Lewis SLS and M-O SLS are working together to correct erroneous input. Lisa Addison from Library Automation will present immediately following this meeting on best practices for cataloguing, holds, etc. She will also reach out to each school to give instructions and assistance, including for “no ISBN” records.

The demand for databases and supplemental (“CCD”) units prove to be steady in recent years. If anyone would like a free trial of a particular database, please contact Sue and she will help to set it up. C. Brewer reported on some problems when using Scholastic. They seem to be having an authentication problem. Sue reported that Cathi is working on a single sign-in procedure for all.

The new Overdrive shelf is working well and has been set up in most districts. The original agreement with the company included setup for 6th graders. The media librarian will be reaching out to K-6 buildings to make arrangements for account set up for those students. A. Jerome and L. Zuber asked about statistics and if there was a breakdown by title for all districts. H. Urtz responded that you can retrieve statistics by looking online at your main shelf and hitting “Stats Reports”. It is possible to also share these stats with other schools. C. Brewer will provide the latest statistics information to M-O 6-12 school librarians.
Collaborations
The date for this year’s Leatherstocking Conference has been set, through co-planning with OHM BOCES SLS. It will be held on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at the Holiday Inn in Utica, NY. The Central NY fall conference will be held the day after, which will make it easier for vendors and allow cost-sharing for the keynote presenter. Ellen Oh will be the keynote speaker and will present a program on diversity in children’s and YA literature. She will also provide some breakout sessions.

Mini-Grants
Sue reported that six “Expand our Students’ World” mini-grants have been awarded and one additional application is undergoing review.

The SLS has also awarded 6 mini-grants for NYLA- SSL Conference attendance. Additionally, the attendance of 3 participants in the mentor/mentee program will be supported, as per program guidelines. The conference will be held in Syracuse at the end of May and will feature Donalyn Miller, Allison Zmuda, and Matt De La Pena.

A school librarian from our region recently requested to apply for the program mini-grant for meeting for a summer virtual book club with her students. Sue solicited Council’s input on her request. Council members were in agreement that this could be an appropriate use of funds and encouraged the application for the mini-grant, with the recommendation that the librarian consider ways to provide equity of access to the proposed program.

Sue requested Council’s input regarding the continuation of the New Initiatives grant priorities via the Program Mini-Grant. There were 12 school librarians who took part in the New Initiatives grant last summer, partnering with their local public libraries to collaborate on programming for students. The New Initiatives grant funds were a one-time allocation from CLRC, however, the grant objectives seem to match well with those of the Program Mini-Grant. The Council agreed. Sue will re-write the Program Mini-Grant and share with Council for their review.

J. Bloomquist reports great success from the New Initiatives grant. Because of it, contact with the Camden Public librarians has increased, with a few joining the school’s book club. The grant is providing for great collaboration between school and public libraries.

Sue reported that in totality, approximately half of the budgetary funds allocated for mini-grants have been encumbered to date for the 18-19 school year.

Technology Integration
C. Brewer reported that she will be continuing with her summer PD workshops including STEM, Google Expeditions and StoryTelling, Coding, Micro Bits, Sphero Sprks & Sphero BOLTS, and AR Expedition kits with 3D visuals, such as volcanoes. Also, workshops on geographic reasoning with our giant maps and video streaming will be provided. If anyone has any other ideas, please contact Cathi.

H. Urtz discussed HOOPLA and how it works. It is a digital streaming service available to all Mid-York patrons, and users can access 3 downloads/streams per month. It includes popular ebooks, TV shows, and audio.
PD/Continuing Education
Sue reported that the March 12th event that the SLS is co-sponsoring, Civic Online Reasoning at OCM BOCES, is full and therefore registration is closed.
Sue will send a reminder about the April 10th workshop with Kathleen Odean at MVCC Rome Campus. This event is filling up fast from our districts.

The Administrative Breakfast is set for May 22nd. Save the Date reminders were sent out to Administrators with instructions on how they can nominate a Librarian of the Year. The speaker for this year’s event will be joining us virtually. Superintendent Warren Drake of East Baton Rouge Parish School System in Louisiana will share his views on the value of strong librarians in schools and his reasons for reinstating certified school librarians to many of his buildings. J. Buzzard, T. Laramie and S. LeBlanc will work together on planning the afternoon sharing/PLC portion of the day’s events.

The Pernille Ripp event is slated for Thursday, August 22nd. In addition to the dinner and “Love of Reading” event that is being planned, Sue is conversing with the director of Staff & Curriculum Development about having Ms. Ripp provide a 45 minute keynote at the principals’ conference that morning. Pernille is a very moving speaker on reading. Amy Jerome and Kristin Strohmeyer will ask Colgate University to see if they might be able to provide us a venue for this presentation.

It was discussed whether to offer a school librarian PLC next year, with the Communication Coordinators’ updates included therein.

Friday, Sept. 27th is the first Communication Coordinator meeting of ‘19-’20.

The Leatherstocking Conference is slated for Oct. 29th at the Holiday Inn in Utica, NY.

Mr. Schu Reads (John Schumaker) will provide an elementary level “Best New Books” workshop on November 21, 2019.

Awareness & Advocacy

This year’s State budget is less predictable that previously, with the significant change in our legislators and legislative bodies, and the strength of downstate democrats. It is difficult to predict the extent to which library priorities will be supported and funded. The governor’s initial budget included a reduction in library aid from last year.

Volunteers for the Of The Year Awards Committees: J. Groves & K. Strohmeyer

Next Council meeting date is Monday, April 8, 2019, 1:30 – 3:30 @ Costello Conference Room

A motion was made at 3:32 by J. Groves to adjourn, and seconded by N. LeClair. Motioned was carried and meeting adjourned.