

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Winnefox Library System

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

WINNEFOX TECHNOLOGY PLAN

The system technology plan included as Exhibit A. is required by the state. Drafts of the plan were discussed by the Winnefox Technology Executive Council (WTEC), by attendees at an All-WALS meeting, and by county Librarian Advisory Committees (LACs). Discussion. **Action Requested:** approve plan as detailed in Exhibit A.

LSTA GRANT – JOB SEARCH SUPPORT

The state's Division for Libraries, Technology and Community Learning (DLTCL) created a non-competitive system grant category for 2009, designed to support library programs and services that aid the job search and training efforts of unemployed citizens. The summary page from Winnefox's grant application is included as Exhibit B. Winnefox proposes to use the grant funds in two ways: 1) to hold a workshop to teach member library staff techniques for helping persons who are unemployed or looking for jobs; and 2) to enable each member library to hold at least one program focused on job search skills. The grant amount is \$11,497. We also propose committing up to \$5,000 in previously unbudgeted funds to help cover the costs of the library job skills programs. Discussion. **Action Requested:** 1) approve grant proposal; and 2) approve use of up to \$5,000 to support job skills programming in Winnefox member libraries.

VISTA IN MARQUETTE COUNTY

The Marquette County Libraries, working through Winnefox, applied for and received one VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) placement. VISTAs are paid and supported by a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. In Marquette County, the VISTA will coordinate efforts among libraries and other agencies to plan and offer programs on job search skills, personal finance, and career counseling. As detailed in a memo included as Exhibit C., Winnefox proposes to support this grant by providing supervision of the VISTA, a laptop, cell phone, mileage, and some training funds. The estimated cost is \$5,000. Discussion. **Action requested:** approve use of \$5,000 to support work of the VISTA in Marquette County.

WINNEFOX 2009 SYSTEM AIDS

Exhibit D. contains a letter from Rick Grobschmidt notifying us of the transmittal of our second System Aids payment for 2009. This payment of \$247,588 brings our 2009 total System Aids to \$990,351 – an increase of 4.0% over 2008 System Aids. Despite this increase, the amount of System Aids hovers at 8% of the amount spent by local government on library service in Wisconsin – significantly below the 13% statutory benchmark set out for DPI budget requests. Discussion. **Action Requested:** none.

WALS FEE REFUND –

Exhibit E. in this month's board packet contains a memo and spreadsheet table sent out last month to libraries whose 2009 WALS fees were set too high due to an error made during last summer's budget creation process. The budgeted amount for the contract between WALS and Oshkosh Public Library for cataloging and database maintenance services was higher than it should have been due to an error. I calculated the total amount of overpayment as \$15,805 and we allocated refunds to those libraries whose fees were above the \$6,800 base amount. Discussion. **Action requested:** none.

2008 SYSTEM EFFECTIVENESS

Exhibit F. contains a memo from me, informing the board that two of Winnefox's thirty member library boards chose to indicate on their annual reports that the library system did not "provide effective leadership and adequately meet the needs of the library" in 2008. Exhibit F. also contains the letters sent by those boards to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, explaining their opinions on library system effectiveness. Consideration. **Action requested:** none.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS -

- Exhibit G. contains Assistant Director Mark Arend's report on system activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Gilderson-Duwe
Executive Director