



Library Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, July 21, 2022

ZOOM: 983 3133 2641 | Passcode: 821018

12:00 pm

Allen
Rosenthal
Pearson

Murphy
Tempestini
Knuth

Boam
Conway
Aoh

AGENDA

1. ***Call to Order***
2. ***Approval of Minutes – June 16, 2022***
3. ***Library Reports***
 - a. Library Staff reports
 - b. Report of Director
 - c. Review of Financial Report
 - d. Statistical and Other Reports
 - e. Report of District Consultant
4. ***Board and Committee Reports***
 - a. Report of County Council Liaison
 - b. Report of Friends and ERLF
5. ***Unfinished Business***
6. ***New Business***
7. ***Adjournment***
8. ***Appendix***
 - a. Announcements
 - b. News Articles

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – June 16, 2022
3. Library Reports

a. Library Staff reports- NONE

Youth Services- Shane Donaldson- Youth Services & Summer Reading update.

b. Report of Director

c. Review of Financial Report

See attachment

d. Statistical and Other Reports

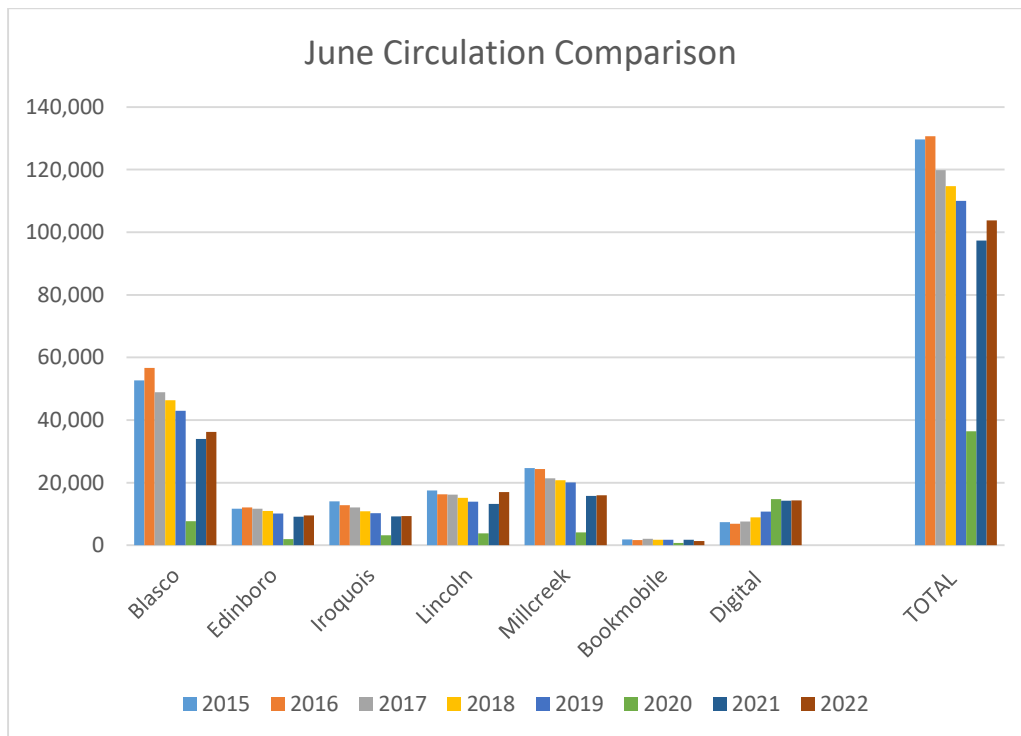


June 2022 Statistics

Numbers Snapshot

- **33,313** patrons visiting, up 7,607 over June 2021
 - On average, locations are up 29% from 2021 to 2022, with Iroquois up 77%
 - On average locations are down 33% compared to 2019, however Iroquois is only -5%
- **548** new card registrations, including **127** children and teen cards
- **4,803** WiFi sessions, up 2,407 over June 2021

Circulation



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Blasco	52,633	56,648	48,880	46,287	43,014	7,686	34,000	36,239
Edinboro	11,660	12,059	11,677	10,963	10,132	2,012	9,082	9,507
Iroquois	13,991	12,816	12,105	10,902	10,307	3,220	9,264	9,317
Lincoln	17,472	16,276	16,136	15,165	13,983	3,772	13,177	16,994
Millcreek	24,684	24,338	21,348	20,769	20,040	4,172	15,815	15,992
Bookmobile	1,864	1,641	2,108	1,743	1,733	785	1,745	1,391
Digital	7,362	6,915	7,615	8,918	10,754	14,748	14,234	14,316
TOTAL	129,666	130,693	119,869	114,747	109,963	36,395	97,317	103,756

e. [Report of District Consultant](#)

District Services Report as of July 18, 2022

State Aid Increase for 2022-2023

Governor Wolf signed the 2022-2023 budget, which includes an \$11 million increase in the public library subsidy. While this is very exciting news for all state-aided libraries, the legislature has not yet released the language on how this approximately 18.5% increase will be distributed.

Keep in mind: In February, the Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL) requested enough funding to increase a handful of districts in the state to the minimum \$200,000 allocation, as directed by the Library Code, plus compensation for years of being underpaid. (Our district is not one of them, as our current annual budget is \$303,087.) OCL also requested funding to cover staffing positions to restructure their funding usage.

It’s also important to note that while local libraries, library systems, county coordination aid, and library districts can anticipate an increase in state aid, we also do not know how sustainable this will be and if it can be expected in future years, as the state had some remaining federal stimulus funds to disperse. While an increase is very exciting news, do not anticipate the full 18.5% and wait for more information.

Grant Requirements and Expectations

The Office of Commonwealth Libraries opened applications recently for supplies to help libraries return to in-person programs. This grant required library applicants to possess a series of policies and accounts which we foresee libraries needing for state and federal monetary and non-monetary (books, storytime materials, etc.). While ECPL has these in place, this is just a mention that fellow district member libraries will be working on setting up these accounts and policies.

Library Standards and Waivers

At the beginning of 2022, OCL told libraries to strive for standards and plan on returning to meeting library standards. While they have not released a timeline of their expectations, it is important to know what standards and expectations libraries should be meeting in order to receive state aid. ECPL has been working hard in ensure that standards are met or implementing plans to reach standards.

Across the district, I’ll be working with the library on standards and Library Code education and helping them with plans to meet standards or apply for waivers.

SNOEball Advocacy

It’s a new year for state library districts (2022-2023). The SNOE Region (Seneca, New Castle, Oil Creek, and Erie/Crawford Districts) has revamped the advocacy newsletter to now included legislation and news relevant to libraries. If you’re interested in being on the email list to receive advocacy updates, feel free to

email me with your email address. Click [HERE](#) to view the most recent edition talking about minimum wage, broadband, and more.

Board Meetings & Strategic Check-Ins

In the DAC agreement, the district consultant now meets with each library board annually for a full, regular meeting between July 2022 - June 2023. We, as a district, have also set a goal that the district consultant meets with each board's officers and director, separate from the regular meeting, to discuss the library's goals, challenges, upcoming projects, and strategic plans. These are conversations that allow the district consultant to get to know your libraries better and find trends to consider when approaching district initiatives. We'll begin scheduling these soon.

Training Opportunity

ASK HR: Q&A Session for Library Leadership

Thursday, July 28 @ 3 p.m. via Zoom | [Registration Link](#)

Audience: Supervisory positions (Directors, Managers, Trustees)

Continuing Education: Certificate for 1 CE Hour following the successful completion of quiz and survey questions.

Anonymously submit any Human Resources (HR) questions at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WZCY7NJ>

This session is an opportunity for leaders to submit Human Resources questions regarding employee relations, recruiting and onboarding, employee development, coaching and counseling, performance management, terminations and more.

*Can't make the session? Submit your HR questions anyway and watch the recording at a later date

4. Board and Committee Reports

- a. Report of County Council Liaison
- b. Report of Friends and ERLF

5. Unfinished Business

6. New Business

7. Adjournment




8. Appendix

- a. Announcements

Council approved Martha Knuth to a 2nd term to the Library Advisory Board. Her term expires 12/31/24.


Reminder: Board members invited to participate in Outreach Advisory Committee. Committee will meet at conclusion of regular board meeting.

b. News Articles





Join the Erie County Public Library for a virtual visit from Joy Harjo, poet and author of An American Sunrise as the ending celebration of the NEA Big Read Erie. Visit the library website for more details.
Register at events.erielibrary.org.

Space is limited. Attendees will be registered to win copies of Harjo's book and other books read through the series.



June 20th, 2022
Virtual program via Zoom
6:00 PM



The NEA Big Read is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

Teen Pride Video Event 6/12/22

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCTxZtfvLg>

MAKING IT WORK

Idea Lab at Blasco Library comes alive with machinery and creative projects



Blasco Library Idea Lab technician Mohamed Almorsy, 37, top, and assistant librarian Abby Fetzner, 29, practice using a CNC machine in Erie on June 2. Fetzner, primary educator for the Idea Lab, coordinates all classes offered there including 3-D printing, laser cutting and engraving, sewing and photography. She says, "I love it when I sit down with a new person, who knows nothing about a technique, and then they come back with creative ideas. I get to see the entire creative journey." Almorsy conducts all maintenance on the technologically advanced machines, even making the wooden CNC enclosure, left, and helping train staff. All information for the lab can be found at erielibrary.org.

GREG WOHLFORD/ERIE TIMES-NEWS

Erie Times News. June 11, 2022

Karen Pierce named executive director of Erie County Public Library

A.J. Rao

Erie Times-News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Karen Pierce has been named the new executive director of the Erie County Public Library.

Pierce, who's served as interim assistant director of the Erie County Public Library since April and who previously managed the library's Iroquois branch, will be the first permanent executive director of the library system since Blane Dessy stepped down in May 2021.

Pierce said she was honored by the selection.

"I am very excited to be a part of this incredible team," she told the Erie Times-News. "We're at a perfect time, coming out of the pandemic and putting our toe back into the real world. It's a great time to join the team. There's a lot of possibilities for library services in the county."

Pierce, who officially started her new job on June 13, said she is looking forward to advancing the new Millcreek branch library project, as well as enhancing parking and access to the Blasco Memorial Library.

A New Jersey native, Pierce has spent more than 20 years in the book industry, including as an independent consultant for Usborne Books at Home, a division of Educational Development Corporation, a publishing company that specializes in children's books.

Pierce also spent 13 years as director of operations of the Slippery Rock



Pierce

Community Library.

"Slippery Rock had a library that was only 283 square feet," she said.

"Over the course of my tenure, we bought property and built a 2,500 square foot standalone building and we went from being open for 12 hours a week to being open close to 40 hours a week. There was also one part-time staff person and we graduated to two full-time and two part-time staff members and an army of volunteers. So, it was an incredible period of growth, both personally and for the Slippery Rock Community Library."

In a news release Wednesday, Erie County Executive Brenton Davis called Pierce a seasoned director who was "passionate about advancing the education of technology and connecting people to information."

"We are thrilled to have Karen as a member of the team," Davis said in the release.

"Her vast knowledge, experience and passion for the library is above what we could have ever asked for in an executive director. I'm looking forward to working alongside her to take our library and our resources for the community to the next level."

Sheryl Thomas, who had been serving as acting director and assistant director will now serve as full-time assistant director.

A.J. Rao can be reached at arao@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter @ETNRao.

Turn the page: Erie's Great American Book Sale returns with thousands of titles

July 12, 2022 | Erie Times-News: Web Edition Articles (PA)

Author/Byline: Greg Wohlford, Erie Times-News | Section: News

360 Words | Readability: Lexile: 1330, grade level(s): >12

Read News DocumentFocus

Julie Johnston, 33, carried an armload of books that reached almost to her chin as she looked for additional titles to add to her stack while attending the Great American Book

Sale Monday.

"This is what I do," she laughed. "I don't own a TV, and I love to read."

She joined hundreds of book lovers on day two of the six-day sale, held for the first time inside the Flo Fabrizio Ice Center at the Erie Zoo.

Many shoppers brought extra empty bags, anticipating book bargains to be found among the fiction, nonfiction, history and mystery books. There are also children's books, audiobooks, DVDs, CDs, puzzles and other items. And the popular Collector's Corner returns with vintage and specialty books.

The sale benefits the Friends of the Erie County Public **Library**, a group of volunteers that support the **library**'s mission with classes and programs including book clubs, poetry readings and lectures, among other events.

The Friends collect used books throughout the year. For this year's sale, they have more than 75,000 titles looking for new homes. Volunteer Becky Okel, 61, paced the aisles on Monday, reminding shoppers that prices would be reduced in half on Wednesday and Thursday, down from the already-low price of two dollars for a hardback. She said crowds were as large as any had seen on past Mondays of the annual book sale.

Edinboro resident Pam McIntire, 47, with her two sons Wesley, 11, and Iain, 5, looked to add to their stack of books stored under a nearby table. The boys both said they like military history and use some of the titles in their homeschool classes. The family does not own a television, preferring instead to spend their free time reading.

"I like to read for at least an hour before bed. Sometimes more," Wesley McIntire said.

If you go

* What: Great American Book Sale to benefit the Friends of the Erie County **Library**

* Where: Flo Fabrizio Ice Center, 527 W. 38th St., Erie

* When: Through Thursday from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Friday from 10 - 6.

* For info: erielibraryfriends.org/great-american-book-sale

* Interested in volunteering with the Friends? info@erielibraryfriends.org

Greg Wohlford can be reached at gwohlford@timesnews.com or on Twitter at [@ETNWohlford](https://twitter.com/ETNWohlford).

June 3, 2022

Library manager speaks to seniors



Maryann Mook/West County News-Journal

Millie Wainer, left, who provides sunshine (laughter) to the Edinboro Senior Citizens, welcomes Matthew Yaw, manager of the Edinboro Branch Library, to the senior citizens lunch meeting on Friday, May 27. Yaw spoke about the history of the library and the departments, programs and role of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) at the Edinboro Branch Library. Wainer made the senior citizens laugh when she told a joke relating to libraries and reading.