



**State Library Board  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** September 28, 2023  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m.  
**Location:** 1500 Senate St.

**Board Member Attendance:**

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Ms. Alanna Wildman, Chair	Present
Ms. Deborah Hyler, Member	Present
Ms. Anna Claire Dando, Member	Present
Ms. Loretta Green, Member	Present
Ms. Jennifer Cunningham, Member	Present
Ms. Andrea Kelly, Member	Present
Mr. Mark Herring, Member	Present

**Other Attendees:** Ms. Leesa Aiken, SCSL, Ms. Breanne Smith, SCSL, Laurel Sharp, APLA, Alexander Thompson, Post & Courier, Hannah McCain, SC Treasurer's Office

**I. Board Business and Approval of Minutes**

1. Alanna Wildman called the meeting to order.
2. Motion: Anna Claire Dando made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2023 board meeting. Loretta Green seconded the motion; all present approved the minutes.
3. Aiken discussed the Accountability Report, due in October, which highlights the work of the agency in the past year. The report is signed by the Board Chair.
4. Aiken discussed the State Library FY25 budget request. This form is signed by the Board Chair.
5. The State Library has created an email address for the board to streamline correspondence. Breanne Smith will monitor the email account. Board members can choose to respond directly with their personal email addresses, if preferred.

**II. Director Report**

Agency Administration

1. Aiken attended the Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference in Wichita, Kansas. Tiffany Hayes presented on functions of State Libraries with 3

other State Libraries. The conference is focused on small and rural libraries. Leah Cannon presented on an infographic created for legislators with specific county usage including population in the county and number of books checked out.

2. Aiken discussed her FY25 budget requests including \$200,000 recurring for digitization supplies and equipment. During the last session, the State Library received \$150,000 nonrecurring. The State Library has not increased operating funds in library resources and services in a very long time. The State Library collection is increasing every day, not only physical but also digital. Additionally, the collection is aging and requires preservation boxes. Aiken would like to purchase a Kasemake folding machine which creates preservation boxes and costs around \$79,000. The State Library needs equipment that digitizes old film. Aiken mentioned that the most expensive item in a digitization kit is a VCR (\$400). Aiken also requested \$971,000 in fringe and salary for 13 positions which are vacant at this time. Aiken's efforts to recruit people with highly technical library and archival skills requires additional salary dollars. Aiken met yesterday with DSHR to talk about positions. Her goal is to move salary from federal to state funds.
3. Aiken discussed the September 26 Governor's Budget meeting. She felt that her requests were well received.
4. Aiken explained that she will not be presenting APLA's budget request this year and will be asking the group to present their own budget. APLA has a \$3 per capita request which equates to approximately 3.5 million dollars. Aiken feels that this request will detract from the State Library's requests.
5. Aiken mentioned that there has been a 25% increase in Discus usage this year. There were over 24 million items accessed through Discus. Discus is still hiring for an additional Discus trainer. Both the new trainers were previous teachers. Lesson plans, quizzes, games. Aiken mentioned that the State Library partnership with DOE has been helpful with increasing usage.
6. Aiken attended a COSLA meeting in July which included just the Southern Council of 12 librarians. At the meeting COSLA discusses issues in public libraries. There was also a library development forum for Southeast and a speaker on leadership training. ALA sent a representative to the meeting to hear from southern librarians about concerns or issues. Aiken mentioned that she appreciated the representative and his attentiveness. Aiken clarified that the representative doesn't work for ALA, he is a liaison.
7. Aiken and Deputy Director, Chris Yates, attended the National Book Festival. It is estimated that over 200,000 people attended.
8. Aiken discussed the termination of the State Library's ALA institutional membership. The Board received copy of Aiken's letter to ALA and ALA's response. Aiken discussed concerns about ALA's lack of advice, guidance and information in other states. ALA has a responsibility as a professional organization to help all libraries. Aiken tried hard to express her views and impact change internally within ALA. Aiken mentioned that the State Library will

continue to use ALA resources, cataloging, workforce development, etc. Aiken mentioned that she has a meeting with ALA this afternoon.

9. Aiken discussed recent controversy between SCASL and DOE. DOE is responsible for what happens in school libraries, the State Library is not. DOE has severed relationship with SCASL. SCASL is a group of volunteer school librarians. SCASL sent a letter to school boards informing them of a censorship case in GA. SCASL received guidance from ALA that they should inform school districts of the perceived problem.
10. Aiken mentioned that there is a construction and facilities consultant at the State Library assisting many libraries with construction projects.
11. Aiken discussed Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program funds. There will be over \$185 million dollars coming to South Carolina. The funds can be received by anchor institutions and can be used for construction and renovation. This is the first federal construction money that has been available since the 1970's and it has no match requirement.

### Partnerships

12. Aiken mentioned that she has been attending meetings with Office of Regulatory Services regarding broadband.
13. Aiken is on the K-12 committee. The State Library recently received \$153,000 for a product for teachers, Mailbox Plus. The State Library also received an additional \$400,000 to fund other educational resources.
14. The State Library has partnered with the Department of Education on access to tutor.com. The DOE gave the State Library \$500,000 per year for a tutor.com subscription. 45% of tutor.com users are high school students. Math continues to be the most used subject. The State Library wants to continue increasing usage through various advertising efforts.
15. Aiken is involved with the First Steps Interagency Collaborative Committee. The Committee was appointed by the Governor and helped to launch the First Five SC platform which allows parents to fill out one application to see if they qualify for a variety of state services.

### Projects/Programs

16. The State Library has partnered with SCDNR to digitize SC Wildlife Magazine. The State Library is hosting a variety of programming to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of South Carolina Wildlife Magazine.
17. The State Library is working to expand the digitization area. A former computer lab in the basement has been repurposed to a digitization center. Chris Yates discussed the process for prioritizing items to be digitized.

### Personnel

18. Aiken mentioned that the State Library would be creating new positions focusing on digitization and metadata.

19. There are several open positions including: Discus Customer Support Specialist, Administrative Assistant, General Library Consultant, and Public Services Librarian.
20. Aiken mentioned that there have been several new and internal hires including:  
McCabe Rentz- Center for the Book Coordinator  
Breanne Smith, Director of Administration  
Bethany Harrell, Reader Advisor Assistant  
Kristen Rebolgar- Discus Trainer

#### Upcoming Events

21. Aiken discussed upcoming events. The Library Development department will be hosting a performer's showcase on October 6. This event highlights summer reading activities and performers used for summer reading.
22. SCLA will be held in Columbia October 17-19. Aiken mentioned that several State Library staff are presenting at the conference.
23. There will be a Speaker at the Center Author Event on October 12 featuring Arcane Carolinas.
24. Dawn Mullin will host a Grants Research: Finding a Funder for Your Nonprofit Organization class on October 20.

#### Public Libraries

25. Aiken mentioned that several libraries are undergoing construction or facility planning.

### **III. APLA Report**

Laurel Sharp spoke to Blair Hinson, President of APLA. APLA is seeking a \$3 per capita increase this legislative cycle in hopes of getting back to 2008 spending power.

### **IV. Financial Report**

Aiken discussed the financial report. The State Library has asked for a LSTA Grant Extension through the end of December because there were so many grants with ARPA and CARES funds. Supply and demand issues played a part in the need for an extension. Aiken also mentioned that there may be a federal government shut down.

### **V. Adjourn - Next Board Meeting: November 16, 2023. 2.**

Motion: Mark Herring made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alanna Wildman seconded the motion.

**Attachments:** SCSL letter to ALA, ALA letter, Board Minutes 05-25-23, SCSL Budget Report