

**FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Public Meeting**

February 12, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Karen Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at Three Creeks Community Library.

2. PRESENT

Chair Karen Peterson presiding. Other Board members: Jack Burkman, Jerry King, Bonnie Reynolds, Rose Smith and Bill Yee. Staff attending included: Bruce Ziegman, Executive Director; Patty Duitman, Operations Director; Mary Devlin, Community Libraries Director; Doreen Turpen, Access and Programs Director; Sue Vanlaanen, Communications Director; Melinda Chesbro, Content Management Director; Karin Ford, Vancouver Community Librarian and Becky Pettigrew, recording.

Other staff and citizens attending: Holly Blosser, Brenda Cameron, Anna Cross, Pier Dimico, Megan Dugan, Mike Githens, Jane Higgins, Dennis Johnson, Karen Johnson, Rita Levesque, Judy Mason, Avril Massey, Gwen Scott-Miller, Pat Sjolander, Mike Smith and Rick Smithrud.

3. AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the Jan. 8, 2007 meeting were approved as emailed.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peterson thanked Friends of Three Creeks Community Library for the fabulous dinner they generously provided prior to the meeting.

Ziegman introduced Rita Levesque, the district's new building projects manager.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

7. BUSINESS

A. Expenditure Approval

Peterson reported that she reviewed the bills and everything was in order.

MOTION: Jerry King moved and Jack Burkman seconded approval of the accounts payable, payroll and payroll payables as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Three Creeks Library Capital Facility Area Expenditure Approval

Peterson noted that there are no Three Creeks LCFA expenditures this month. Funds remaining in the LCFA account are being held for several planned capital projects for the Three Creeks library.

C. Board Committee Assignments

Peterson explained that the board has established a number of committees and each member serves on several. The main committees include:

- Budget
- Personnel
- Policy Review

Additionally, there are three facilities planning committees (one each for Vancouver, Clark/Cowlitz and Skamania/Klickitat). The board also has an assignment for FVRL Foundation liaison. Appointments to these committees are reviewed by the board each year. Peterson noted that Merle Koplan, who was unable to attend the meeting, had sent a message that she found the proposed appointments to be acceptable.

MOTION: Karen Peterson moved and Jack Burkman seconded approval of the 2007 board committee assignments as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

8. REPORTS**A. Special Report: Circulation Services**

Circulation Services Coordinator Brenda Cameron provided the first circulation statistics report that the board has received since the district's migration to a new automated system in late 2005. She informed the board about changes staff has made in the way circulation statistics are counted. Cameron said the reports no longer include circulation for library-related use (staff checkouts to support programming or for collection maintenance purposes). They also no longer include Interlibrary Loan transactions to other institutions. These transactions do not meet state and public library reporting guidelines for circulation and Sirsi, the new system, allows staff to exclude them. Overall, 2006 district-wide circulation statistics show a drop of 9.58% from the previous year, but most of this drop can be attributed to these changes. With 2006, staff has a new baseline from which to measure future statistics.

Cameron also noted that some library closures due to inclement weather in January 2007 caused a reduction in circulation for that month. She also explained that the district now counts the books it mails to patrons differently. These checkouts used to be attributed to the branch that they were shipped from. With the new system, the transactions are grouped together in a general "mail" category. This caused some reduction in the branch figures.

Circulation in the FVRL district has not dropped as much as some libraries across the nation, Cameron reported. Burkman asked if there was any reduction in the previous two years (2004 to 2005) and Cameron said the circulation has been more or less flat

for the last couple of years. She noted that 2005 was when staff stopped including Interlibrary Loans to other institutions.

Ziegman said about 3-4% appears to be a real reduction in circulation. He speculated that it could be the switch to a new automated system creating a learning curve for patrons. Now that staff has established a new baseline, Ziegman said he plans to monitor this to see if any trends develop. Burkman asked about the significant change in Bookmobile statistics and Cameron explained that this was due to problems that occurred with the satellite connection. Some transactions were counted more than once due to connection difficulties. This has been corrected going forward. Burkman agreed that the overall decrease in annual circulation does appear to be minimal and is just something to watch as we go forward.

King said while he was surprised at how volatile these statistics tend to be and their pattern for increasing and decreasing, someone had commented to him that it's a natural pattern. Cameron agreed it is typical. She also noted that libraries have different definitions for what they are counting and so it's difficult to have direct comparison between different library districts. She said circulation statistics are just one measure of a library district's services.

B. About the District: Computer Services

Duitman introduced Computer Services Manager Mike Smith and two other department staff who were present, Judy Mason and Pier Dimico.

Smith shared a PowerPoint presentation, which is attached. Following the presentation, Duitman provided board members and Computer Services staff with two tokens of appreciation: computer cookies and humorous buttons they can affix to their computer keyboards.

Peterson thanked Duitman for these items and also expressed appreciation to Computer Services staff for their services.

C. Community Libraries Report

Devlin's written report is attached. Devlin introduced Three Creeks Community Librarian Gwen Scott-Miller.

Scott-Miller introduced Three Creeks Circulation Services Manager Megan Dugan. She then welcomed everyone to the Three Creeks. Scott-Miller reported on the success of their children's programs, which include seven weekly events. Their baby program is so popular that they've had to divide it into two sessions to accommodate the number of attendees. Scott-Miller also shared a heartwarming story about her reference interaction with an 8-year-old girl who wanted to find a book about earrings. The girl wasn't finding anything in the Catalog. Scott-Miller suggested looking under Jewelry. They found a very large, thick book about silver jewelry from the Southwest. The girl threw her arms around Scott-Miller and said it was exactly what she wanted.

Ziegman asked how many babies are present at the programs. Scott-Miller said that there are regularly 25-30 babies plus their parents at each program.

Peterson thanked Devlin and Scott-Miller for their reports.

D. Update on Library Building Projects

Ziegman shared progress on the Vancouver Library Capital Facility Area (VLCFA) building projects:

- Opsis Architecture has been selected for the eastside library and we are currently in contract negotiations. This is the firm that designed the Firstenburg Community Center where the library will be located adjacent. Opsis has partnered with Johnson Architects of Seattle, which provides them with extensive library experience.
- In addition to hiring a Project Manager, workspace has been created in an area of the main library's basement where we used to have compact shelving. Duitman noted that the carpet that was installed in this area was donated by the carpet company (some carpeting that they had on hand), so we just had to pay for the installation.
- We now have a formal agreement with the anonymous donor that is providing \$5 million toward the main library project, which helped to reduce the bond amount.
- The amended interlocal agreement has been finalized and signed by FVRL and the VLCFA board.
- An RFP has been issued for Commissioning Agent. While the Three Creeks building was very successful, there were some things at the end that if we had a commissioning agent would have gone much better. This person makes sure everything is installed correctly and works together and that you have proper documentation and training. King asked if this is becoming a standard idea and Ziegman responded that it is and we believe it's a wise investment.

Ziegman said he would continue to email regular updates to the board.

E. FVRL Foundation Update

Smithrud introduced Foundation board members Avril Massey and Jane Higgins who were present, and also Anna Cross who is a member of Friends of Battle Ground Community Library. Smithrud reported on several Foundation activities, including the successful Ben Franklin Dinner that was recently held to raise money for the Battle Ground building project and several grant opportunities for the Battle Ground library project. Other details that Smithrud mentioned are included in his written report, which is attached.

Peterson congratulated Smithrud for the great news he shared. She asked if a speaker had been confirmed for the next Authors and Illustrators dinner. Smithrud said Rick Steves has agreed to be the speaker and they hope to have a date set soon.

F. Other

Vanlaanen provided an update on the district's recent customer satisfaction survey. The purpose of the survey was to measure objectives for use in Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan, but also it helps us to determine a practical way of obtaining feedback. We used a professional firm to help us set up a template, which we will be able to use ourselves going forward. The survey results show that of those patrons that had face-to-face interactions with staff, 97% said they were very satisfied and rated the staff as courteous. Vanlaanen clarified that this was just patrons that had interactions with staff in November. Vanlaanen noted several other statistics from the survey findings:

- 58% visited multiple libraries
- 58% used the library web site
- 42% used a computer in the library
- 37% browsed during their visit
- 11% used library databases during their visit

Vanlaanen said staff considered doing a computer-based survey, which would have been nice for tallying; however, the logistics of it are just not possible yet. Future surveys will be shorter as some patrons remarked on the number of questions.

In the future, Vanlaanen said she hopes to reach some harder groups. This first survey was fairly easy since it was with patrons who are using our services. More difficult groups to reach include people who come into the library but don't interact with staff or check anything out and people in our community who don't use the library at all. There are also patrons who only use the library Web site.

Peterson thanked Vanlaanen for a very good report.

9. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ziegman said he participated in a site visit of the Battle Ground library as part of a Meyer Memorial Trust grant process. Battle Ground librarian Jackie Spurlock had the library looking as clean and tidy as possible, yet Ziegman said it was very clear how overcrowded the space is and that there is a significant need for a larger building. He said he hopes that the grant is successful.

On January 9, library staff and architect David Wark met with the Battle Ground community to discuss the new library. The meeting went very well and there have been subsequent meetings of the project team to work on the library program.

Ziegman said he was pleased with the way the architect selection for the eastside library was conducted. The architect review team included several citizen advisors, a number of staff, two board members and an architect advisor. A smaller portion of this group read the proposals and narrowed the selection down to the top four. Those four firms then gave presentations to the larger group and the selection was narrowed to two. Staff visited a number of buildings in Seattle that were designed by those two architectural firms prior to making a final decision during a subsequent meeting with the larger group. The tour of libraries in Seattle also served to provide ideas for the new Vancouver and Battle Ground libraries.

Ziegman and several other staff attended the American Library Association mid-winter meeting that was held in Seattle. While there, they visited the booths of vendors that purvey materials handling systems. They noted that there is a difference between systems in how noisy or quietly they operate.

Reynolds and Ziegman attended a full-day Future Search workshop with the Washington State Library. There were 65 participants in this Southwest Washington workshop and other sessions are being held across the state. Several others from our library district also attended. Ziegman said the purpose was to gather ideas on future library services to advise the State Library on what to include in their 5-year Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal fund. FVRL has received money in past years from this fund for projects.

Board members were provided with the district's recent audit report. The auditors did not have any recommendations, advice or findings, which means we are doing very well. Peterson congratulated staff on their good work. King noted he was present for the final exit interview with the auditors. He said he was impressed when the auditors remarked on how wonderful the staff was to work with and what a good job they're doing.

Ziegman mentioned several upcoming events, including the February 21 Marshall Lecture featuring General Peter Pace and Library Legislative Day on March 8. He encouraged board members to attend if they are interested.

The Washington Library Association annual conference is April 19-21. The agenda includes programs for trustees as well as library staff. Ziegman encouraged board members to notify Pettigrew if they are interested in attending. Yee said he would like to attend.

10. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

11. BOARD COMMENTS

King expressed appreciation for Cameron's report on circulation statistics. He mentioned an article that appeared in the Oregonian not too long ago regarding theft of materials at the Multnomah County Library. The librarian didn't know how many books were missing and estimated a range between one-half and two million. Ziegman said the story is somewhat misleading. One problem libraries face is their inability to do an inventory. FVRL has close to one million items. To do a physical inventory would be difficult. Ziegman said FVRL will almost certainly invest in radio frequency identification (RFID), which will allow us to scan an entire shelf quickly. In the meantime, the only way to know if a book is missing and not checked out is if someone looks for it and cannot find it. It's very difficult for libraries without the newer technologies.

Devlin also shared some input regarding the news article. She was talking with some of Multnomah County Library's staff shortly after this article came out. Multnomah County Library initiated a study related to lost books. They then proactively contacted the Oregonian to share the results. The reporter turned it into something that sounded like a big expose and put a different slant on it.

Yee said he had called Ziegman after this article came out and asked about doing an inventory, which is when he learned about the difficulties. How do you know if a book is truly lost or just misplaced? Dugan said they have 15 staff that each spend time regularly shelf reading a section. Also, they have a list of missing books that they look for weekly. Devlin said RFID will make this much easier and quicker. Ziegman also noted that at Multnomah County Library, the number of missing books represented the number lost over many years.

Ziegman said one measure FVRL has taken is to begin using a collection agency. Cameron said this has resulted in many more books being returned and payments made for lost books. Over \$105,000 worth of debt has been returned since Nov. 1, 2006. Dugan said the language on the overdue notice includes the mention of the collection agency, which causes people to respond more quickly.

Burkman remarked on the Ben Franklin dinner. He said it was a great event with lots of energy and good auction items. Burkman asked about the status of the chairs that were being auctioned. Higgins said they have 5 left. She noted that businesses paid \$50 each to display them. At the Battle Ground Chamber's upcoming casino night, they have offered to include the remaining chairs at their fundraising event.

12. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next library board meeting was set for Monday, March 12, 2007 at Woodland Grange.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

These minutes were approved at the March 12, 2007 meeting

Community Libraries Report For January 2007

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- Three Creeks celebrated its 5th Anniversary on January 13th. Super Saturday programming included Storyteller Anne Rutherford, Sophie the Otter (Megan Dugan) and Celtic Muse, harpists who provided music in the magazine area. The Friends served cake in the lobby throughout the afternoon.
- The Bookmark Contest has begun! Library staff members visited schools to promote participation and library use. Entries are coming in; judging is in February.
- Steve Stampfli, a local Environmental Scientist, presented “Condit Dam: A History” at White Salmon. The Condit Dam (and its scheduled decommission and removal in 2008) has been the topic of much discussion and contention in recent years. The presentation drew a full house. Stampfli provided a slide show with historic pictures of the White Salmon River before and after the dam was built. He also covered the building of the dam and how the water was diverted. The wooden water line built of Douglas fir from the Olympic Peninsula is rumored to be the longest wooden waterline in the U.S.
- The Big Shift at Vancouver Mall is complete. Staff shifted the entire non-fiction collection so that they could interfile reference books with the circulating collection. Several staff members have remarked that they weren’t aware of a particular reference book, underscoring the importance of interfiling. The large print books were also moved to make way for patron pick-up of holds. In addition, staff moved the 400’s and foreign language to a more prominent spot. The foreign language materials are now flying off the shelves, especially the Spanish books.
- Jackie Spurlock (Battle Ground) led the Ariel book discussion on *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi. The lively, well-informed, and well-traveled group members made for an enjoyable discussion and learning experience for all, including Jackie.
- Washougal’s Thomas the Tank Engine program proved a big success. The program included crafts, games, cake and punch, and a storytime component. Attendees had a great time! After the program a little boy approached Sean McGill and asked how he could find out about the next Thomas program.
- Anni Cothorn and Thia Levesque (Vancouver) managed a wonderful Bonkers for Books Saturday program with a Middle Ages theme. Sixty-seven people attended and three teen volunteers helped out. Many parents commented on the quality of the program.
- With the large numbers of toddlers attending White Salmon’s Wednesday storytime, they are now repeating the program on Thursdays in an effort to improve the experience by having smaller groups. Twenty-two people attended the first new session--quite a change from Wednesday's turnout of nearly 100. The kids, ages 1-4, enjoyed stories, songs, puppets, and even parachute games. Many parents said that they liked the smaller, quieter group.

- Teresa Torres (Cascade Park) reports that the new eastside library building program continues to move forward. Each week the excitement grows as the building committee meets to discuss various aspects of the new library. A big milestone reached in January was the selection of the architect for the project. Teresa reports that every day patrons ask “where are we in the process of building the new library?” It is very encouraging to be able to tell them that we have passed our first major landmark in the process.
- Chris Hughey (Stevenson / North Bonneville) presented a program for the Parent-Teacher-Student Special Education Association in Vancouver. The PTSSEA is the only special education PTA in the state and has members from all over SW Washington. The program highlighted books that parents could enjoy with their children (mostly autistic teens). Since it’s hard for the parents to take their children to busy places like libraries, they were especially interested in learning how to access the catalog and research databases from home.
- In spite of the snow, a few hearty members of Woodland’s Book Discussion Group made it to the library to talk about William Faulkner’s *The Sound and the Fury* (which, previously unfamiliar with Faulkner’s style, they didn’t like).
- Ridgefield staff has been getting a lot of exercise shifting materials in the last few weeks and have done an excellent job throughout. They have interfiled the majority of their reference collection with the non-fiction. The whole process of shifting has revealed the great number of gems available in the collection.
- The first round of sign-ups for Michelle Taylor’s Waddlers storytime at Vancouver Mall went well. The available slots filled quickly and there are several families on the waiting list. Attendance has been good and families have been very courteous, letting Michele know when they can’t attend so that another family can fill the spot. Michele says that the storytimes are more manageable, enjoyable, comfortable and productive.
- Abbie Anderson (Woodland) reports that Jackie Spurlock joined the Yale Book Discussion Group for an informal presentation on Iran to highlight their discussion of Azar Nafisi’s *Reading Lolita in Tehran*. This was another lively evening, with much appreciation of Jackie’s personal knowledge of the country and its people, as well as her collection of photographs and Persian children’s books. Abbie says they’re looking forward to doing more programming in Yale.
- Tina Smith has almost completed her initial round of visits to all of the branches to talk about Information Services and to hear about branch reference support needs. Sam Wallin has also begun branch visits to assist staff with learning to use instant messaging and to teach public computer classes.
- The North Bonneville library is featuring a spotlight on “Great Listening for all Ages” with a display of adult, young adult, juvenile and easy titles on cassette and CD. The branch has a growing number of students who spend after-school time at the branch, especially on Wednesdays when the schools have early release.

- Stevenson is the second branch to feature wi-fi, thanks to the hard work of staff from computer services, graphics, and facilities. Patrons can access the service from anywhere in the public area on the main floor. The branch has eye-catching signs and information sheets designed by Graphics and several patrons have used the service and are enthusiastic about it.

YOUNG ADULTS

- A large group of eighth-graders from Homelink School and their parents visited the Battle Ground library for a tour and presentation of research techniques and electronic resources. The students researched their individual topics and heard about the YAAB and other teen library activities.
- Everyone had fun at White Salmon's "Teen DDR (Dance Dance Revolution) Lockdown." Teens danced the night away - quite literally. As Heidi Henning's wee morning e-mail stated, "It's almost 3:00 a.m. and the teens are still dancing!" In addition to dancing, the teens enjoyed board games, pizza, and movies (thanks to the Friends recent purchase of a 'Public Performance Site License'). A few teens even managed to sleep – a little bit. Heidi did a wonderful job planning and coordinating this very popular event.
- Local artist Janet Essley attended the January White Salmon YAAB meeting to discuss the design of a mural to be painted on a shed behind the library. Space is being donated by library neighbor, Bill Werst. The design will include silhouettes of teens reading. The teens enjoyed posing in various positions in front of an overhead projector while Janet and Jennifer Hull took pictures of their shadows. Janet plans to attend the next YAAB meeting with a sketch of her plan. The Friends of the Library are funding the project.
- Goldendale has started a weekly "Friday Club" of activities for teens, including chess, writing, and crafts. In cooperation with the local middle school, the Police Athletic League, and the 4-H, the branch will provide different featured activities or speakers throughout the spring semester of the school year.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- Ryan Ellis (Cascade Park) is working hard to keep a strong connection to the Firstenburg Center. He reports that the center now advertises his story times on the door of the daycare room. Ryan also met with the coordinator of the teen room to find out how that space is working, and to glean ideas for the new eastside library.
- Woodland Community librarian Abbie Anderson's interview for *The Daily News' South-Cowlitz County Edition* appeared in the January 24th issue. The front page article included a nearly life-size photo of Abbie and a headline reading "I belong here." Some good photos of the library in action were also included in the story.
- Naomi Fisher (Goldendale) participated as an adult facilitator in the Middle School's "Challenge Day." This is a workshop day involving about 100 students, who go through six hours of activities and discussions designed to break down stereotypes and barriers and forge bonds of understanding across vastly different social groups. This powerful

event proved to be a valuable experience for the adults as well as the children. In addition to the value of the workshop itself, Naomi made several connections with teachers and other adults who may volunteer for library activities or help with cooperative programming.

- Genevieve Brown hosted a table highlighting the Battle Ground Community Library at Hockinson Primary School's Highlights Night. Genevieve spoke with approximately 1,000 Hockinson students and their parents about the library during the course of the evening. This traditional event is one of the most successful connections between the library and the Hockinson community.
- Ruth Shafer (Vancouver) was featured at the Harney Elementary school K-2nd grade family literacy night. She spoke to about 75 parents and children about the importance of reading.
- Building Blocks programming is now taking place at the East County Family Center. The Washougal library is providing literacy activities (and play) along with the Children's Home Society who operates the center.
- An article welcoming Abbie Anderson to Woodland was published in the south Cowlitz County edition of Longview's *The Daily News*. It included photos of Abbie and of the library

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

- Substitute Sandra Morris displayed her remarkable collection of cookie molds in White Salmon's front case. The fascinating display highlighted a wide variety of incredibly intricate cookie molds. Many patrons of all ages enjoyed the exhibit and staff received many positive comments.

FACILITIES

- Installation of the new phone system at Goldendale began, with the first step of replacing cell phones to use as back-up and on the bookmobile.
- Weather issues led to a few library closures, some late openings, and some program cancellations in January.

STAFF

- Several members of the FVRL staff attended the Crisis Prevention Institute's Prepare Training hosted by the Timberland Regional Library. This team of trainees will now become the trainers for the rest of the district.
- Staff across the district are getting used to using IM (Instant Messaging). A major application is sending requests for reference help to IS via IM.
- Several staff went to Seattle to attend ALA Midwinter. Most went especially to visit the vendor exhibits.

- Lee-Anne Flandreau and Karin Ford (Vancouver) attended the annual OCLC Western Members Meeting in Portland.
- John Beaudoin, Assistant II in Information Services and long-time FVRL employee, passed away suddenly in January.
- Barbra Meisenheimer (Vancouver Mall) attended the “Behind the Genealogy” pre-conference at ALA. It proved very valuable. She met with representatives from ProQuest about their genealogy databases, informing them that a lot of users fumble around in the databases, but don’t really know how to use them or what kind of data is actually available. They indicated that they would be willing to provide a hands-on training in our training lab..

BOOKMOBILES

- The retirement center at North Bonneville continues to be a popular bookmobile stop. When the bookmobile was unable to go out in the snow for one week, veteran driver Marie Moser called patrons on the various routes, renewed their books by phone, and placed holds on materials.
- The weekly bookmobile stop at Garrison Square in Vancouver has been dropped due to low use. A replacement Sunday stop at the YWCA in East Vancouver is starting out well. (Fifteen people used it on Jan. 21.)

FRIENDS

- Battle Ground Friends and other community members attended a forum to solicit input about the new library. Approximately thirty-five people attended and participated in a lively discussion of priorities and vision for the community library, resulting in a list of items that they would like included in the new building.
- The Vancouver Mall Friends held a very successful booksale in January, the best they have ever had.
- The display case purchased by the Ridgefield Friends is at work inviting younger patrons and their parents to the upcoming Dolly Dessert program. The Friends have been very active in this program for many years and Friends member Nancy McQuillen will be telling a story at the program.
- The Friends of the Washougal Library cosponsored a concert by Captain Bogg and Salty at Washougal High School. The program was a huge success! Members of the PAC working for successful passage of the bond for a new Civic Center attended the event. The band did an excellent job promoting the library and the upcoming vote.
- Approximately 142 people attended Battle Ground’s gala event, the second annual Benjamin Franklin Birthday Bash that raised about \$15,000 for the new library. A highlight of the evening was the auctioning of 15 decorated chairs, dubbed the

“Chair-ity Project.” The chairs were discarded from the Battle Ground library and purchased at an FVRL surplus sale by the Friends, who then worked with the Battle Ground Art Alliance to distribute them to local artists for decorating. Pat LaCroix coordinated the project. Proceeds from the sale of the chairs at auction totaled \$3,400. Jackie Spurlock bought the Seiko Udoku chair created by Battle Ground library staff, and it now sits in the library office, as a “guest chair!”

- The Three Creeks Friends hosted their most successful booksale ever in January.

DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS

- The new Battle Ground library received several generous donations at the Ben Franklin dinner, including \$5,000 for young adult books from PacifiCorp Foundation; \$2,500 from the Battle Ground Chapter of General Federation of Women’s Clubs; and an installment on Altrusa Club’s pledge of \$10,000.
- Naomi Fisher (Goldendale) and Jacquelyn Keith have been working together to determine the most efficient way to spend the Fred Meyer children’s book grant received by Goldendale. \$2500 worth of children’s books in both fiction and non-fiction will be ordered by next November.
- Sally Yee of the Meyer Memorial Trust did a site visit in Battle Ground that included both the current library and the proposed new location. We have a grant request for \$250,000 in to the Trust.

TIDBITS

- A student in the BRIDGES program at Hathaway Elementary told Sean McGill (Washougal) that she really liked the way he told stories to the group because it made the books come to life.

Board Report
December 2006 and January 2007
Access and Programs Division

Projects

Jessie is the lead for implementation of Director's Station. This is the Sirsi module that enables us to pull reports from our automated system. Brenda, Melinda, and Yvonne established initial reports that branches can use for management activities. We are starting to pull reports for district analysis. Jessie and Holly created an initial training document for use with branch staff. They have two volunteers who are testing the documentation.

Jacquelyn coordinates the bi-annual Bookmark Contest. This year's entries will be judged at Branch Day on February 15.

Get a Clue at Your Library is the theme for the children's 2007 Summer Reading Program. Planning is already well underway. It will be a challenge to improve on last year's participation rates. The 2006 program was up 4.5% from 2005; with just over 17,000 children signed up.

"YNK" (You Never Know) is the theme for the Teen Summer Reading program. Maria is coordinating the program. The theme is a take-off on mystery programs and will explore mysteries of the library.

We have several annual reports to complete. Jessie is taking the lead this year on the Washington State statistical report and the Public Library Association annual report. Those reports have not actually been received, but we are doing clean-up of the data that is typically required so we will be ready to input when we receive the reports.

Jacquelyn embarked on a project to visit every branch early in the year. During her visits she meets with staff to discuss collections and programming and any other issues they raise related to providing services to children.

Community Involvement

Kiwanis made a contribution for another Discovery Kit. This is the third year they have made a donation for a kit.

Southwest Washington Medical Center has agreed to become a distribution point for the Hello, Baby! bags. They intend to distribute bags at orientation and at their "Mother-Share" program. This partnership will allow us to reach more families close to the time their children are born.

Jacquelyn and Heather presented Every Child Ready to Read training for ESD 112 staff.

Jacquelyn and I continue to be involved in the SELF collaborative, Clark County's early learning group. SELF is in the process of reorganizing the committees and governance structure and will be making application for grants in coming months. Jacquelyn is also involved with an emerging group that links to both Skamania and Klickitat Counties.

Amy is working with the Latino Network to organize a Latino Resource Fair in March.

Professional Involvement

I finalized a task force report on early learning for the public library directors and made a presentation at their meeting on February 2. The task force was composed of staff from the Washington State Library and several children's coordinators and children's librarians from public libraries, including Jacquelyn. The directors had asked for recommendations on actions that would enable public libraries to work more effectively within the early learning community.

Amy was interviewed by Lexicon Training Services on our success in the use of the *Ingles sin Barrera* sets in outreaching to our Latino users. The interview was written as an article, "Success doesn't need to come in big packages", published in their Jan/Feb. 2007 newsletter. (see attached)

Buildings

The Eastside Building Team (also known as "Cheers") began work in November. Early meetings were spent on information gathering and site visits. In January the team began to document details for the Building Program. Another group worked on a building program for Battle Ground.

In each of these cases the work includes projections on collection size and distribution of the collection within different categories, such as children's fiction, picture books, large type collection, adult non-fiction, etc. Melinda has taken the lead on collection issues and she and Dennis used Libris Design software for the Battle Ground library to generate initial calculations of the space that each collection would require.

Amy prepared two reports with recommendations for public access computers; one for Battle Ground and one for the new Eastside library. Jessie prepared demographic packets for each library and statistical reports on current use of each branch

The Battle Ground group began work with architect David Wark to develop pre-design drawings to show possible layout configurations for a 13,000 SF building. A presentation and opportunity for comment was held at the January 9 meeting of the Battle Ground Friends.

Shelf Life

Vol. 3, No. 1

The Inglés sin Barreras Library Newsletter

January/February 2007

SUCCESS MAY NOT ALWAYS COME IN BIG PACKAGES

“We may never know the full impact of the Inglés sin Barreras (ISB) sets on our library users,” according to Amy Lee, Access and Electronic Services Coordinator for the Fort Vancouver (WA) Regional Library District. “The successes our patrons experience are in bits and pieces, sometimes they may not be in big packages,” Lee explains.


“One of the best decisions our library made was to invest in four sets of ISB with funds from the Serving Cultural Diversity Grant in 2003,” she explains. The library district obtained the grant to establish English Conversation

Circles for ESL learners and also to purchase the ISB courses. The library district serves three counties in Southwest Washington state.


Lee, an immigrant from Hong Kong, explains, “Being an immigrant myself, I know how hard it is to overcome many of the barriers that other immigrants are facing.” “I also know,” she adds, “that with perseverance, hard work and taking advantage of opportunities, one can improve their well-being and reach whatever goals they set out to achieve.”

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Library News

 The Delaware Division of Libraries is offering a series of nine workshops to train librarians throughout the state how to better reach out to and serve the Spanish-speaking community. The workshops in the Spanish Language Outreach Program, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and held in 41 other states, feature a panel of Hispanic community leaders helping library staff members understand what Spanish speakers are looking for. After the training, libraries will put together implementation plans, potentially expanding the Spanish-language book, video, music, and periodical selection.

Source: *The News Journal (Delaware)*, 01/07/07

 In the past year, the Hispanic student population in Campbell County, Montana has risen 22% while the overall student population has grown only 3%. That growth has greatly enhanced the diversity within local schools, but it has also stretched local resources thin, according to the *BillingsGazette.com*. “We need more people who understand the needs of the children,” said English as a Second Language teacher Margaret Nunn, who works at Meadowlark Elementary School.

While the ESL population has increased by 48 students over the past year - bringing the total number to 129 - there are still only 2.2 full-time ESL teacher positions to work with those students, according to the article. When kids who speak a language other than English come into the district, they take the Wyoming English Language Learners Assessment.

Source: *BillingsGazette.com*, 01/14/2007

JUST THE STATS: HISPANICS IN EDUCATION, ARE THEY ACHIEVING?

Source: Olivia Majesky-Pullmann, *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*: 2006

Nowhere has the impact of the rapid growth of America’s Hispanic population been more apparent than in our elementary and high schools. The number of Hispanic K-12 students increased by almost 6% between 1993 and 2003, with Hispanics now accounting for 19% of public school students. Blacks make up 17.2% of the population while Whites posted a decrease, from 66% to 58%.

A report from The National Council of La Raza called “Hispanic Education in the United States” provides a more detailed account of how Hispanics compared to their peers in all levels of education.

The jump in the number of Hispanic K-12 students was most significant in the Western United States, where they rose from 15% in 1972 to 39% in 2003, surpassing Whites in the process. More than half of all immigrant youth are Hispanic

(58%), with a larger portion in upper grades than lower grades.

Compared to other groups, dropout rates among Hispanics remains high and educational achievement relatively low. Barriers such as English language acquisition, immigration, insufficient financial aid and inadequate access to educational resources can explain the gaps between Hispanics and other students, say La Raza researchers.

The first issue to address is that of poverty. Roughly 49% of Hispanic and 48% of Black 4th-graders attend the public schools with the highest levels of poverty. Only 5% of White and 16% of Asian students are enrolled in similar schools. There are large state funding gaps between low- and high-poverty districts as well, especially in states with large

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We'll See You There...

The Lexicon team is on the move, stop by the Lexicon booth at one of the shows listed below to check out show specials and to see the wide variety of ESL products offered by Lexicon Training Services.

-  **NAWB-Workforce Development Show**
2/25/07 - 28/2007; Washington D.C
-  **2nd National Head Start Hispanic Institute**
2/25/07 - 3/2/2007; Denver, CO
-  **Public Library Association**
3/21/07 - 25/2007; Boston, MA
-  **CWA-California Workforce Assn.**
3/21/07 - 31/2007; San Diego, CA
-  **FLA (Florida Library Association)**
4/18/07 - 21/2007; Orlando, FL
-  **TLA (Texas Library Association)**
4/25/07 - 28/2007; Houston, TX

What you are saying...

"The ISB program, which many library patrons see on TV, continues to be very popular with our library patrons as they learn English."

Esmirma Esparza
Hispanic Outreach Supervisor Forsyth
County Public Library (N.C.)
Shelf Life Library Newsletter

Shelf Life

Mariana Small

Manager, Government &
Education Sales
(323) 782-7593

Please contact us with your
comments, story ideas or questions.

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SUCCESS MAY NOT ALWAYS COME IN BIG PACKAGES

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One library patron, Jeanette, an immigrant from Mexico, had trouble learning English. However, according to Lee, "the videocassettes and CDs that come with Inglés sin Barreras removed some of her barriers. What captivated her most were the songs taught through the ISB program. Jeanette was able to hear the song in Spanish and English, and that helped her to understand the lyrics and meaning. Through Inglés sin Barreras, Jeanette was able to increase her English vocabulary."

"We are thrilled that ISB is helping us to bridge the gap to reach out to our Latino community," Lee says. In the past three years, the ISB sets have circulated more than 700 times. "Even through we carry other English learning materials," according to Lee, "many of our library patrons prefer the Inglés sin Barreras program. The presence of ISB makes Spanish-dominant library patrons feel welcomed in our libraries."

"Whenever I have a chance to help

Spanish-speaking library patrons, especially those looking for materials to improve their English, I tell them that ISB is available for checkout," Lee says. She adds, "Often, their faces light up, showing immediate interest and sometimes, pleasant surprise that we have ISB."

The library has found that word of mouth is the best advertisement for services, such as ISB, which are offered by the library. "ISB is so well known in the Latino community that whenever someone learns that the library offers ISB, they tell their family and friends. We also take at least one representative volume of ISB to each library outreach event, which targets the Hispanic community," according to Lee.

"Success doesn't need to come in big packages; a simple thank you, anecdotes and the popularity of the ISB set lets us know that the materials are being well used, and are well liked by our library patrons," Lee adds. 

JUST THE STATS: HISPANICS IN EDUCATION, ARE THEY ACHIEVING?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

minority populations, including California, Illinois and New York.


In 2004, Hispanics represented approximately 17% of all public high school students but graduated at a rate below the national average. Almost three-fourths of all Whites completed high school, compared to 53.2% of Hispanic students and only 50.2% of Blacks.

In 2004, more than a third of all foreign-born Hispanics dropped out of high school between the ages of 16-24. By comparison, 14.7% of first-generation and 13.7% of second-generation Hispanics have dropped out.

A total of 11% of Hispanics who dropped out of high school in 2004 had repeated a grade at some point. For Hispanic students who graduated, that rate was only 4.3%.

Roughly 45% of Hispanic and minor-

ity-serving high schools offer advanced courses. Only 32.4% of graduated Blacks and 31.1% of Hispanics took an advanced math course, while 47.4% of Whites did. Approximately 60.8% of Blacks and 56.2% of Hispanics completed advanced science courses, compared to 63.7% White.

In 2004, roughly 41.7% of Whites between the ages of 18 and 24 were enrolled in higher education institutions, compared to 31.8% of Blacks and 24.7% of Hispanics. In 2002, Hispanics made up an even smaller portion of undergraduate students representing only 10.4%. White students that year made up 69% of the population and Blacks comprised 12.4%. Hispanics and Blacks are the majority at two-year institutions, at 38% and 36%, respectively. 

Foundation Director's Report

Prepared by Rick Smithrud

February 12, 2007

2007 Benjamin Franklin "For the Common Good" Dinner

The Friends of Battle Ground Community Library held their 2nd annual Benjamin Franklin Dinner on Saturday, January 20, 2007. The event was held at The Cedars on Salmon Creek and was "sold out" with 142 attendees. The evening ran very smoothly and included special presentations, entertainment, a silent auction, and a cash appeal. The dinner generated over \$20,000 in gross revenue for the Battle Ground Library Campaign. Foundation staff attended the event and provided logistical support.

Every Child Has A Dream Mailer

The Foundation has printed and mailed its latest direct mail piece. The purpose of this mailer is to increase public awareness of FVRL Foundation, generate unrestricted donations, and associate positive images of children reading with FVRL Libraries. Although returns are just beginning to come in, approximately half of the donations received so far are first-time contributors to the Foundation.

Community Giving Fund

The Foundation has received notice that it has been awarded a \$7,500 grant from the Community Giving Fund at the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington. The grant will help purchase reading incentive prizes for FVRL District's 2007 Summer Reading program.

Meyer Memorial Trust Site Visit

On January 29th, Sally Yee, program officer for the Meyer Memorial Trust conducted a site visit as part of MMT's grant evaluation process. Ms. Yee toured the current Battle Ground Library building and then visited the Battle Ground Village site described in the project proposal. In its application, FVRL Foundation is requesting \$250,000 in funding for the Battle Ground Library Project. Because the proposal now meets all of MMT's threshold requirements MMT Trustees will review the grant application at their March board meeting.

PacifiCorp Foundation for Learning

The Foundation has received a grant award of \$5,000 from the PacifiCorp Foundation for Learning. This award will be used to purchase books for the young adult collection at the Battle Ground Community Library.

Friends of the Library Investment Accounts

As of December 31, 2006, the 12-month total return on most Friends of the Library Investment accounts held by the Foundation was 22.04%.