

SRLAAW Unifying Vision Meetings

Purpose of meetings: obtain input from public library staff and trustees about how, for the next 10-20 years, the state should be involved in providing services to public libraries, and what the nature of those services should be.

Suggested process:

Each system holds one or more meetings, inviting library staff and trustees. The system has a recorder who writes down comments and ideas given in response to specific questions.

Guiding Principles

Seven were suggested initially. At the meeting people will be asked to comment on them as well as identify others.

For each of the 7 principles,

1. Define the principle, so that there is common understanding of what it means.
2. What is the extent to which it is being satisfactorily addressed today?
3. What are the practical problems related to achieving this?

After all 7 have been discussed, ask if there are other guiding principles. Get a consensus from the group on each new principle (thumbs up/down) as to whether there is widespread support (clear majority). If there is, then go through questions # 1-3 for each new principle.

Next, have the group go through each theme. Be sure there is some common understanding of what each theme means. For instance, regarding minimum standards, the intent is not to use the existing public library standards document, but to specify a few core basic standards which every library should meet.

For each theme, identify

1. The pros and cons.
2. The implications.

Discuss each model, stressing the fact that these are just three possibilities. They are purposely not detailed and participants will have many questions. Record the questions and then ask how the group would like to see the model designed to respond to that question. Then ask if anyone, or the group as a whole, wants to suggest additional models. Record them.

At the end of this discussion, give each library a form. On the form they will be asked to identify their library and to rank the principles and then the themes in their order of importance to that library. They will also be asked a few other questions.

Return the forms to Karen Krueger, Hedberg Public Library, for compilation by the Unifying Vision Committee.