

June 10, 2013

Stef Morrill, Director
WILS
728 State Street, Room 464
Madison, Wi 53706

Dear Stef,

On behalf of the Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS) Board of Trustees, I am writing this letter to you in your role as facilitator for the SRLAAW subcommittee process on Creating More Effective Library Systems.

We appreciate the work of the SRLAAW subcommittee. We know that all involved have put in many hours of considered reflection and we applaud all of you in your efforts. We support much of what has been proposed.

However, we would like to formally express our opposition regarding two of the preliminary recommendations found in the SRLAAW Subcommittee draft of April 29, 2013 – Progress Report and Preliminary Recommendations.

The first preliminary recommendation we oppose is

#6 – Replace the existing population standards for public library systems (s 43.15) with the following demographic and organizational standards:

Counties

- The library system has a minimum of three (3) participating counties.

The MCFLS Board (and its member libraries) feel that MCFLS should be exempted from any requirement for expanding beyond our current one county system. There are many reasons for this, including :

1). Service population. Milwaukee County already serves a population of 955, 205 (2012 est.) out of statewide population of 5,726,398 (2012 est.). This is 16.7% of the state population. One of every six residents of Wisconsin resides in Milwaukee County. There are 17 systems in the State. Some selective, justified mergers of existing systems can be accomplished without requiring Milwaukee County to do the same.

2) Efficiencies. We are already an excellent example of “economy of scale” services at its smartest and most efficient. Our already large service scale has resulted in great benefits in sharing, purchasing and collaborating. We are concerned that expanding MCFLS to an even larger size will make us too big and erode our quality of service.

3) Integrated Library System (ILS). We have developed an integrated library system that serves our members well. We do not have the same ILS as contiguous counties. We do not see where a likely required forced change in ILS vendors would benefit either MCFLS or any of the systems found in contiguous counties.

4) Delivery. We feel that delivery is already maximized in our system for efficiency. Further geographic expansion would cause additional complexities with no clear benefit.

The second preliminary recommendation we oppose is

#1 – Eliminate the statutory requirement for resource libraries. (s. 43.16).

It is our understanding that the results from the retreat in February pointed toward a “modernization” of the resource library statutory language rather than the elimination of the statutory requirement itself. We therefore recommend a careful and thorough examination of the specific language involved with the current resource library requirement. We feel it would be more appropriate to offer recommendations for modernizing the role of the resource library role than recommending its statutory elimination.

We appreciate this opportunity to express our opinion regarding the SRLAAW process on Creating More Effective Library Systems. We look forward to further dialogue as the process moves forward.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Paul M. Ziehler, President
Milwaukee County Federated Library System Board of Trustees

Cc: Kurt Kiefer, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Libraries and Technology,
Department of Public Instruction
Cc : John Thompson, Chair, SRLAAW
Cc : Board Presidents, MCFLS Member Libraries



South Milwaukee Public Library

1907 10th Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI 53172

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Robert M. Pfeiffer, Director

June 19, 2013

Stef Morrill, Director
WILS
728 State Street, Room 464
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Ms. Morrill:

The South Milwaukee Public Library Board has reviewed the SRLAAW subcommittee's report. We wish to go on record opposing **#6 Replacing the existing population standards for public library systems.**

As part of the Milwaukee County Federated Library System, our service population is more than 955,205 people. Our city budget has been reduced by \$42,361 over the last two years and we did not get an increase in 2013. Our materials budget has not increased in three years. Adding additional counties whose populations we will be required to serve will have a serious impact on the service we can provide to South Milwaukee residents. We are, therefore, opposed to adding any additional counties that we would be required to serve.

The Board also discussed **#1 Eliminate the statutory requirement for resource libraries.** With the availability of online databases, we seldom refer people to the Central Library. The Resource Library concept should be examined carefully and their role defined in light of the availability of the databases.

The South Milwaukee Public Library Board appreciates this opportunity to comment on the SRLAAW report. We hope that we have an opportunity to comment as the process moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Bordak". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Patricia Bordak, President

South Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees

PROUD PAST.....PROMISING FUTURE

NORTH SHORE LIBRARY

6800 North Port Washington Road • Glendale, WI 53217 • (414) 351-3461

Stef Morrill, Director
WILS
728 State Street, Room 464
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

July 18, 2013

Dear Ms. Morrill:

At their regular monthly meeting this morning, the North Shore Library Board of Trustees discussed the SRLAAW Creating More Effective Library Systems subcommittee's Progress Report and Preliminary Recommendations.

While the North Shore Library Board certainly commends the group for making this proactive effort at keeping system-provided library services as up-to-date and effective as possible, we do wish to go on record as opposed to two of the report's recommendations, namely #1 – Eliminate the statutory requirements for resource libraries and #6 – Replace the existing population standards for public library systems - specifically as it calls for each system to have a minimum of three participating counties.

Regarding #1, the North Shore Library Board is in agreement with the MCFLS Board that modernization of the resource library statutory language rather than the complete elimination of the statutory requirement is the appropriate approach to pursue.

In regard to #6, the North Shore Library Board feels that our current single county system is doing a great job at providing efficient, cost-effective service to our large urban and suburban population, and that adding additional counties to this already considerable service population (over one-sixth of the entire state) is unwarranted at best and possibly counter-productive at worst in our case.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our opinion in this important matter. We look forward to further dialog as the review process continues.

Sincerely,



Mardee Gruen, President
North Shore Library Board of Trustees

7/24/2013

Stef Morrill
WILS
728 State Street, Room 464
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Ms. Morrill,

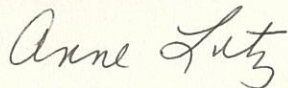
Please accept this letter of our support for the opinions expressed by the Milwaukee County Federated Library System's Board of Trustees in opposition to SRLAAW's Library Effectiveness recommendations #1, elimination of the statutory requirement for resource libraries, and #6, requiring library systems to have a minimum of 3 participating counties without considering population or demographic standards.

Specifically regarding recommendation #1, we are opposed to the possibilities that could emerge in an environment where resource libraries are not statutorily required. We do however support the SRLAAW retreat feedback that the requirement be modernized to offer more flexibility in how a resource library's services are configured.

Regarding recommendation #6, the Milwaukee County Federated Library System serves 16% of the state's population as a 1-county system. An expansion of our geographic and demographic size by the recommended amount (3 contiguous counties) we fear would reduce our system's currently high levels of efficiency.

Though most of the recommendations are timely and relevant, we hope that additional thought will be given to how the opposed recommendations will impact users of Milwaukee library services. We look forward to updates as the process moves forward.

Sincerely,



Anne Lutz, President
Brown Deer Library Board of Directors

Cc: Paul M. Ziehler, President, MCFLS Board of Trustees
Cc: Jim Gingery, System Director, MCFLS



July 15, 2013

Stef Morrill, Director
WILS
728 State Street, Room 464
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Ms. Morrill,

On behalf of the St. Francis Public Library Board, I am writing this letter to state our position on two items that are being considered by SRLAAW in their proposal to create more effective library systems. The two items that we oppose are #6 and #1.

Milwaukee County Federated Library System, of which St. Francis is a member, should be exempt from the requirements in #6 because of the size of the area, their efficiency at sharing, purchasing and collaborating, the cost effective delivery of these services. If we had to merge with other counties, we could lose the excellent service we currently receive from Milwaukee County Federated Library System.

We are also opposed to the elimination of the statutory requirement for resource libraries (Item #1). The language regarding the resource library should be modernized but the recommendation for elimination of resource libraries is premature.

Thank you for taking the time to read our concerns.

Sincerely,

Joanne C. Richards, President
St. Francis Library Board