



# DEI Committee

## Meeting Minutes

**February 1, 2024, 2:00 pm**

Meeting called to order at 2:03 pm by chair

Present: Robert James, Chair (Nash CC); Elizabeth Baker, Secretary (Carteret CC); Barbara Bera (Central Carolina CC); Don Michael (Central Piedmont CC); Colleen Kehoe-Robinson (James Sprunt CC); Touger Vang (Montgomery CC); Liza Palmer (library advocate); Nathan Stancil (Johnston CC).

Absent: BJ Thompson (Central Carolina CC).

### **Agenda:**

- Call to order and welcome
- Review/approval of minutes November 30, 2023
- Belk Survey Report
- NC Parents Bill of Rights
- Meeting with ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom
- New business
- Next meeting

### **Discussion Items:**

- **Call to order and welcome**
  - Robert called the meeting to order.
- **Minutes** from November 30, 2023
  - Colleen motioned to accept the minutes.
  - Barbara seconded the motion.
  - Minutes were approved.
- **Belk Survey Report**
  - Robert will send the survey results, which will be discussed in the next meeting in March.
  - The timeline for the surveys
    - January—Develop survey #2
    - February—Send survey #2 to the committee for review
    - March—Send survey #2 out for responses
    - April—Develop survey #3
    - May—Send survey #3 to the committee for review
    - June—Send survey #3 out for responses
    - July—Analyze results
    - August—Final report for all 3 surveys
  - Robert will schedule a session at this year's NCCCLA Annual Conference to share survey results.
- **NC Parents' Bill of Rights**
  - Robert asked the committee members if their libraries had received any requests from parents of minor children for a copy of their children's borrowing history. There were no responses.

- He asked what libraries were doing in response to the new bill (Parents' Bill of Rights). A member explained that their college was revisiting their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the public-school system, which treats high school students like college students. When on campus, high school students abide by college rules and procedures. They are allowed access to the library like any other student.
- Another member said that their campus was looking at the MOU, too. Particularly, the college wants to add language that makes clear that the library is a college library. Students will be treated like college students. Library staff are college staff, not school staff.
- A third member explained the term "local educational agency," or LEA. High school students are visiting the college. The college treats them like they belong to the college, but the high school is their primary agency.
- A fourth member shared that their campus has decided to comply with FERPA in response to any requests for the borrowing history of minor library patrons.
- Robert asked if anyone would like to share their thoughts on January's Library Community Meeting, hosted by the System Office, about collecting the borrowing histories of library patrons in the SirsiDynix system. A member explained that the Director of Library Services at the System Office asked SirsiDynix to turn on the feature that collects the borrowing history. This feature was turned on in December without consulting the library directors. The Director of Library Services and System Office Legal Counsel explained that the feature was turned on to comply with the North Carolina Parents' Bill of Rights. It was also explained that individual libraries could request to turn this feature off. The library directors were advised to seek approval from their college president first.
- During this January meeting, it was discussed that the bill had many conflicts, particularly with other state law and with federal law. Revisions to the bill would not be unexpected.
- The North Carolina Community College Presidents as a group voted in favor of turning off the borrowing history feature.
- Robert shared that he asked representatives from the System Office about privacy issues surrounding non-print resources, such as ebooks, audiobooks, articles, and other digital learning resources, since the North Carolina Parents' Bill of Rights focuses on print books. The response from the System Office was that granting access to a minor student's use of these materials would be a local decision for the individual colleges to make. With the vast number of vendors involved, it would be difficult to obtain this information.
- A committee member voiced concerns about overdue notices and bills in SirsiDynix WorkFlows. The individual stated that once a library patron receives a notice or bill for lost, damaged, or overdue library item(s) that patron is connected to that item forever. This action raises privacy issues. It was questioned whether just a barcode for identification purposes would be enough for library staff to use, redacting or eliminating the rest of the patron's information for their protection.
- Many libraries have left the Community College in North Carolina (CCLINC) consortium (which uses SirsiDynix) to join the North Carolina Community College Evergreen (NCCCE) group (which uses Evergreen). In the January meeting, a representative from the NCCCE group discussed how the patron borrowing history works in Evergreen. The library patron can elect to turn on the borrowing history in their account. The library staff cannot see this history, only the patron can. If a formal request is made, there is an Evergreen report that library administration can run that captures a patron's borrowing history. The NCCCE representative said that borrowing history is always retrievable until a patron record is "obliterated" (the word used by the NCCCE representative).
- The discussion ended with a word of caution that this law outweighs the MOU's that many colleges are (or will be) rewriting. The colleges might not be protected by an MOU. In addition, the law itself could change.

- **Meeting with ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom**

- Robert stated that he wants to reach out to the American Library Association (ALA) Office of Intellectual Freedom to ask about the Parents' Bill of Rights. He would ask what they are doing (or could be doing) to support North Carolina libraries and librarians seeking to protect the freedom to read and the right to reading privacy.
- Many committee members thought this action was a good idea.

- **New Business**

- Don shared that he has been selected to participate on the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) Action Council, which is a part of ALA.
- The committee members congratulated him on this appointment.

- Barbara suggested that the committee could create a list of DEI resources/events/activities that could be shared with students and employees. A list could be created for all libraries in North Carolina.

- **Next Meeting**

- Robert will schedule a meeting in March.
- He noted that Thursday afternoons still seem to work for most people serving on the committee.

**Action items:**

- Robert will send the Zoom link for the next meeting in March.
- Elizabeth will share the meeting minutes for February 1, 2024.

**Next meeting:** Robert will poll committee members for a March meeting date.

Meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm by chair.

Notes recorded by: Elizabeth.