

August 28, 2018

Dear [PLSR Steering Committee and interested legislators],

Thank you for your commitment to the Public Library System Redesign project. The Manitowoc Public Library Board understands and appreciates the time and effort this process has required for you. We appreciate your dedication to ensuring the best outcome possible for all library systems in Wisconsin.

The Manitowoc Public Library Board has been following the PLSR process with interest. We encourage you to take into consideration the following concerns regarding the outcome of this process:

- The financial impact on resource libraries should the statutory requirement be removed along with a portion of our funding.
- When considering systems to merge, take into account the communities each library serves and ease of merging those together.
- Include funding in the budget to assist and enable library systems to merge thoughtfully without impact to library services locally.
- Avoid removing the flexibility and voice of smaller libraries in the state by grouping them together with very large libraries. One strength of statewide library services in Wisconsin is the flexibility of local libraries to meet the individual needs of their community.
- Adopt a model which still enables local control on access to materials, collection development and services provided to our communities so local libraries can remain relevant to their communities.
- Consider the true cost to libraries when revising library system standards; for example, one very beneficial resource Manitowoc-Calumet Library System (MCLS) provides to its member libraries is covering the cost of our integrated library system (ILS), an annual savings of \$40,000+ for its member libraries.
- We recommend a transition period be accounted for in carrying out the changes recommended.

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We also hope this process will bring about the following improvements throughout the state:

- We hope PLSR will reduce duplication of services statewide and allow for better collaboration in providing the following services among library systems:
 - continuing education for librarians
 - delivery services for patrons

- discovery layer to enable the public to search any library catalog statewide
 - digitization of materials and online accessibility of archives for the public
 - equitable access to technology services for all libraries and its patrons
- We also hope this process will enable library systems to become even better fiscal agents of state funding
- We hope governance is created to hold library systems accountable for an equitable standard of services provided to their member libraries statewide

We ask you contact State Superintendent Dr. Tony Evers to urge him to consider models which benefit libraries and their patrons when revising library systems to provide equity, without sacrificing each individual library's ability to provide access to literacy for our communities. Please ensure your library remains successful in providing these literacy services to your communities.

Thank you for your careful attention to the Manitowoc Public Library's Board's viewpoints and concerns.

Sincerely,

Todd Holschbach, Board President
Manitowoc Public Library Board of Trustees

CC: State Superintendent Dr. Tony Evers

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