

The Public Services Committee met on Tuesday, 5/14/19 @ 3:00pm. Tom Lowande and Kim Langworthy were present while Cindy Bland was unable to attend. John Rucker, Kimberly Feltner and Jessica Tefft were also in attendance.

The Committee received a detailed presentation from Jessica regarding an LSTA Grant she has been working on for some time. The grant is for early literacy and focuses on creating a “popup” library which would travel around the county and put a library card in every student’s hand.

There is a 25% chance of receiving this grant. Grant funds of \$50,000 would be used for staffing, promotional materials and equipment for the mobile branch. If the initial grant is received, there is then an 80% chance of it being renewed for the following two years. At the end of the third year, the fiscal responsibility to continue with this initiative would be on the library.

After reviewing Jessica’s information, including the options for BDL sustainability, both Tom and I felt that Jessica should complete application for the grant. We both support Option 1 (an approximate \$25,000 cost) of Jessica’s sustainability and appreciate her dedication and drive to this initiative.

LSTA GRANT 2019

Breaking Down Barriers in Branch County: Cultivating Literacy for a Better Tomorrow

Early literacy is a key component of later success in life. According to the Children's Reading Foundation, after third grade, reading is by far the primary conduit through which students are educated. The ability to read is essential for learning science, math, social studies, and every other subject. Every year that a child struggles to read and is unable to access written materials in school, they fall further and further behind. In addition, reading is a vital skill in the pursuit of employment, and it is essential for the informed citizens of a democracy. Early reading failure is a problem that compounds throughout an individual's life. Many of our fellow Branch County residents struggle with early literacy. The Branch District Library wants to give every member of our community the opportunity to be the best that they can be, for the sake of the children of our community, and for the sake of our future.

In the 2017-2018 school year, Branch County schools averaged a failure rate of over 55% on the M-STEP Reading Proficiency test, a measure of third graders' ability to read at an appropriate level. In addition, the Read by Grade Three Law, which goes into effect in the 2019-2020 school year, will require schools to hold back third graders not reading at-level. If this law were active this year, over half of Branch County third graders would not be progressing in school. This is clearly unsustainable. We must take action to help our students succeed.

To that end, Branch District Library intends to get outside the walls of our buildings and bring literacy to our community. With the funding of the Collaborative Library Services Grant, we will begin an initiative to break down the barriers holding back children who struggle with reading. The centerpiece of our program will be our new popup library, a satellite location that travels around the county. This mobile branch will require equipment such as a mobile internet hotspot, laptop, barcode scanner, and receipt printer. Additionally, we will be creating a school collection for the Pop-Up Library that will supplement our collection during the Summer Reading Program. Grant funds will also be used for staffing, promotional materials, and to get every Branch County student their own library card. In addition, to raise awareness of this issue and get parents involved in the solution, we will be implementing information nights hosted by area schools. During these sessions, we will provide data about the importance of early literacy as well as strategies for parents and guardians to use with their children.

All parts of this initiative will be focused on increasing the access of Branch County residents to materials and important they need for reading success. An investment in the early literacy of our children is an investment in the future of Branch County and Michigan.

LSTA Grant Year 1 Budget: \$49,955.60

2 visits/month

Wages: \$16,185.60 (2 employees 20/wk)

Containers for Books: \$1,025.00 (25 totes 19x26x14)

Advertising: \$9,500 (NCG Cinema, Radio, Billboard)

Mileage: \$1,575 (2 visits/month)

Parent Literacy Nights: \$7,000 (1x/month, rotation 3x/year)

Materials: \$14,670.00 (Broken down below)

Books: \$10,600.00

Tech: \$2770.00

- Laptop: HP ProBook 450 G3 (Windows laptops in use at BDL) \$521.99
- Barcode scanner: IDAutomation Scanner \$324.00
- Receipt printer: Epson TM-T88V \$315.00
- Mobile hotspot: \$99 (Verizon Jetpack) to \$200 (AT&T Mobile Hotspot MiFi Liberate)
- Mobile hotspot data: \$20 to \$80 (varies a lot with the amount of data required)
- Folding table: Alpine Mountain Gear Roll Top Kitchen Table \$85
- Power strip: \$20
- Library Cards: \$1300 (5000 ct)
- Other costs: receipt paper, removable tape (in case of returns that belong to other libraries)

BDL Sustainability

With sustaining we will rely on relationships built to keep us relevant to supplement the lack of paid advertisement. We will have less collection materials (books), and encourage patrons to visit their established library branch for services.

It is our hope that this will also bring about a collaboration among the Friends of the Library groups. It could be their first unified effort to financially support a Branch County wide initiative.

Option 1: \$24,380.15

Status Quo: Offering the same level of service: (2 visits/month) with zero advertising or storage needs. Two employees, 20 hours per week. 4 Parent Literacy Nights a year.

- Wages: \$16,905.15
- Mileage: \$1,575
- Parent Literacy Nights: \$4000
- Replacement Materials: \$900.00
- Reading Incentives: \$1,000

Option 2: \$19,380.15

Offering the same level of service: (2 visits/month) with zero advertising or storage needs. Two employees, 20 hours per week. No Parent Literacy Nights.

- Wages: \$16,905.15
- Mileage: \$1,575
- Replacement Materials: \$900.00

Option 3: \$13,826.70

Cutting services: (1 visit/month) with zero advertising or storage needs. Two employees, 15 hours per week. No Parent Literacy Nights.

- Wages: \$12,139.20

- Mileage: \$787.50
- Replacement Materials: \$900.00

Option 4: \$9,780.30

Cutting services: (1 visit/month) with zero advertising or storage needs. One employee, 20 hours per week. No Parent Literacy Nights.

- Wages: \$8,092.80
- Mileage: \$787.50
- Replacement Materials: \$900.00