

POLICY ON MEETINGS via ELECTRONIC MEANS (PA 94-1058)

Resolution Regarding Meetings and Conferencing via Electronic Means

Whereas, the Metropolitan Library System Board of Directors believes it is in the best interest of its members that the fullest participation and attendance in all Board meetings be achieved whenever possible; and

Whereas, the use of electronic conferencing for meeting attendance and voting requirements, at least in some governmental meetings, is permissible so long as the meeting is conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act; and

Whereas, the Open Meetings Act has been amended to allow attendance to public body meetings through audio-conference, video-conference, or by any other electronic conferencing without physical attendance; and

Whereas, the Board in all of its regular, special, and committee meetings complies and intends to comply with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Library System Board of Directors, having considered the aforesaid matters hereby adopts this policy, when needed, the capabilities for conferencing by electronic means or any other type of conferencing for its meetings as more specifically set out in this Resolution:

1. All pertinent provisions of the Open Meetings Act must be complied with, including specifically the proper notice of any regular or special meeting, the proper record keeping or minutes of each meeting, the appropriate agenda preparation for each meeting, which in addition shall be posted along with the notice of the meeting; and any use of closed sessions shall be in compliance with the provisions of the Act.

2. That sufficient security and identification procedures be employed, either at the outset of any meeting or at any time during the meeting as appropriate, to ensure that any and all members attending for quorum or voting purposes are in fact an authorized member with the right to speak and vote.

3. Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, a quorum of members of the Board MUST be physically present at the location of the meeting. Only additional members, i.e., those members not part of the required physically present quorum, may attend by video and/or audio conferencing or by other electronic means.

4. All Board members attending meetings by electronic conferencing shall be entitled to vote as if they were personally and physically present at the meeting site so long as a physical quorum is present.

5. A Board member who attends a meeting by video or audio conference must provide notice to the recording secretary or clerk of the Board at least 24 hours prior to the meeting unless such advanced notice is impracticable.

6. A Board member may only attend a meeting through electronic conferencing if it is due to i) personal illness or disability; ii) employment purposes or the business of the Board; or (iii) a family or other emergency.

7. As soon as it becomes apparent to the Board that a meeting will include electronic conferencing, all subsequent notices of the meeting shall indicate that one or more Board members will or may be attending by electronic means. In the event that the notice of the meeting has already been disseminated and posted, a follow-up notice indicating the above shall be placed as soon as possible. In the event any news media have filed the annual request for notice of meetings, they shall receive an updated notice in the same manner as given to all members of the Board.

8. The meeting minutes shall include, but need not be limited to; i) the date, time and place of the meeting; ii) the members of the Board who were either present or absent from the meeting and whether those members in attendance were physically present or present by audio conference, video conference or by other electronic means; and iii) a summary of discussion on all matters proposed, deliberated, or decided, and a record of any votes taken.

9. This policy shall not be construed to mean that conferencing by electronic means shall be regularly used or used at every meeting of the Board but shall be used only as necessary to allow the participation of Board members who are unable to attend in person due to such circumstances listed in Provision 6 of this policy.

10. The location of the meeting included on the notice shall be equipped with a suitable transmission system (e.g. a speakerphone) in order that the public audience, the members in attendance and any staff will be able to hear any input, vote or discussion of the conference and that the member attending by electronic means shall have a similar capability of hearing such input, vote or discussion.

PASSED BY THE METROPOLITAN LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF DIRECTORS, _____ COUNTY, ILLINOIS, IN PUBLIC SESSION ASSEMBLED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 20__.

Metropolitan Library System Board of Directors

Board approved 11/20/06