

MARIGOLD REPORT



To Councils and Special Areas Board

HIGHLIGHTS OF MARIGOLD BOARD MEETING August 20, 2016

Marigold Library System Board met Saturday, August 20 at the Canmore Public Library.

Board Chair, Lynda Lyster, recognized new Board member Janice Hoover - Village of Delia. Lyster also welcomed guests Jen Anderson and Katrina Borowski (PLSB), Judy Tidlund (Chestermere Library Board), Mae Fisher (Sheep River Library Board), Mary Zazelenchuk (High River Library Director) and Rose Reid (Bighorn Library).

MARIGOLD FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Marigold unaudited Financial Statements to July 31, 2016 were accepted for information. Marigold Library System is in a positive financial position.

- Materials and staffing expenditures are on target
- Marigold received more provincial operating grants than expected because 2015 population was factored into the per capita grant formula
- Marigold received a grant of \$89,647 for public library service for on-reserve populations

RISE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Unaudited RISE Financial Statements to July 31, 2016 were accepted for information. Negotiations for next generation videoconference infrastructure have been completed. The RISE Network has been busy this summer providing topics with a focus on health & wellness, and children's programming.

- Digestive *Health from a Naturopathic*

Perspective had eight libraries registered across the province

- The Benefits of Raw Chocolate* presented by Dr. Rob Clarke at the Bighorn Library, had six libraries registered

Overwhelmingly positive feedback was received on both topics and presenters.

Upcoming sessions in 2016 include *Arctic Wolves* with the Alaska Zoo, *Grossology* with St Louis Zoo and *Puffy Faces* with Space Houston.

2017 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Budget Estimates for 2017 were accepted. The \$5,048,609 Budget Estimate is 6% above last year's budget because of population adjustment and also because the provincial grant formula caught up with the current population.

Expenditures that are calculated on a per capita basis with current service population include subscription fees for online resources, TAL and other organizational memberships, and the TRAC levy.

Salaries and benefits: A 10% increase covers salary grid steps, benefit costs, 1% COLA, salary grid review and two added positions to respond to System growth pressures and service diversification.

Materials, processing, delivery: An 8% increase is projected. The largest portion of this is for eBook and digital purchases, which are increasing in cost along with the per capita factor. Delivery costs are expected to increase because of increased mileage, larger vehicles and more frequent trips to high volume libraries.

Admin, Board, building, supplies, vendor services and contracts: The 7% projected increase accounts for bank charges because of foreign exchange rates for content and services provided by US vendors; rising contract costs for local services; maintenance fees for aging

infrastructure; furniture replacement; insurance and shipping costs.

Key initiatives included in 2017 Budget Estimates

- eContent and downloadable media
- Management skills training for board members and staff
- Internet capacity increase
- Website redesign for Marigold HQ and member libraries

Capital and project expenditures under consideration for 2017 include:

- Delivery van replacement
- New website platform

Available funds for capital and project expenditures are decreasing year to year as budgets get tighter.

Marigold's goals and objectives for its Strategic Plan 2016 - 2018 are supported in this budget estimate. Final Budget goes to the Marigold Board for approval in January 2017.

Contact Michelle Toombs, CEO, for budget estimate concerns or questions: michelle@marigold.ab.ca

POLICY APPROVAL & DECISION

Policies / Bylaws / Schedules reviewed and approved by the Marigold Board:

- TRAC Card Operational Bylaw
- TRAC Card Schedule A: Cards issued from Headquarters

IMPORTANT DATES

Upcoming Board Meetings

Saturday, November 26, 2016

Irricana Community Centre, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 28, 2017

Videoconference, 9:30 a.m. 4 locations
Airdrie, Hanna, Strathmore and Turner Valley

INFORMATION

Schedule C and Council Presentations Michelle Toombs has been warmly received in her presentations to councils. Along with an overview of Marigold services, Toombs has been focusing on Schedule C. Schedule C is the amendment to the Marigold Agreement that outlines Marigold's levy rates for municipalities and library boards. Detailed information was sent to Mayors, CAOs and library board chairs in May. So far, it's looking promising with signatures received from over 60% of Marigold member libraries.

Marigold Headquarters Feasibility Study Update Lynne Thorimbert made a brief presentation about the progress of the Feasibility Study Steering Committee. BRZ Partnership

Architecture Inc. was chosen to complete a Feasibility Study for a new or expanded Headquarters building. The focus has been on 3 options:

- retrofit an existing building located in Strathmore
- relocate to a different site in Strathmore and construct a new building
- expand and renovate the existing building on the current site

The committee is also exploring suitable land parcels in Strathmore. BRZ Architectural Partners is scheduled to present the results of the Feasibility Study at Marigold's November 2016 Board meeting.

Grant from Municipal Affairs to support expanding public library services to on-reserve and on-settlement Albertans

Marigold's goal is to eliminate access barriers for new patrons and to reach out to establish relationships with on-reserve First Nations people. Board members participated in a group discussion about how Marigold can build relationships with First Nations populations. After the discussion Rose Reid, Library Manager at Bighorn Library, shared her experiences. She is a champion at delivering public library services and programs and has developed lasting relationships with First Nations individuals.

Group Discussion: How can we build relationships with on-reserve populations in Marigold

- important to ask: How do you see this working? Include off reserve populations in discussions
- connecting with youth, elders and other stakeholders is key for success
- start with something small that is achievable
- be sensitive to differences in experiences, build trust, especially with elders
- ask to be invited to on-reserve events
- inquire about holding meetings on reserves at venues such as Blackfoot Crossing or Stoney Nakota Lodge
- invite First Nations representatives to participate in Marigold Board Meetings
- don't generalize—individuals vary, no 'us' vs 'them'

- one-on-one meetings (leadership to leadership)
- collaborate with aboriginal specialists (leverage our reach through others)
- speaker at Marigold Board meeting to learn about culture
- encourage First Nations library patrons to be ambassadors

Library Services to Indigenous Populations: Rose Reid, Library Manager—Bighorn Library

Rose spoke about the importance of slowly developing lasting and meaningful relationships and how patrons enhance the library by enriching its culture and providing diversity. There is a digital divide when it comes to on-reserve internet connectivity, so communication using regular mail rather than relying on email and cell phones is preferred in some cases. Training sessions on how to make the best use of the library and its resources might also be appreciated. Libraries could promote adult literacy by taking programs out to the reserve. Getting feedback from the First Nations about what types of materials patrons would like to see available in library collections is imperative. Reid noted that: "It's important to support library staff and patrons to overcome prejudices." Bighorn Library is exploring the development of a 'Books for Babies' program that would also include a gift basket for First Nation parents and children. The library has Bonnybooks program, which has given First Nations populations, including Morley and Eden Valley, over 70,000 children's books since 2005.

In the press ... [EXTENDING SYSTEM SERVICES TO FIRST NATIONS](#)

June 16: Headquarters staff Jane Fisher, Caleigh Haworth and Janae Cumberland were invited to the Siksika Outreach School on Siksika Nation to connect with the community, promote Marigold Library System and issue library cards to students and families. In total, 36 people signed up for cards which included students, staff and family members. The students were enthusiastic and welcoming and Marigold had a wonderful experience.



Some students were immediately downloading songs from Freegal and searching TRACpac. Plans are underway to connect with other schools on both Siksika and the Stoney Nations.