

SJVLS Electronic Resources Committee Meeting

November 18, 2021

Minutes

Members Present: Nathan Boyer, Chair (SJVLS), Nathan Vosburg (Coalinga-Huron Library District), Heather Eddy (Kern County Library), Ashley Nuhfer (Kings County Library), Jose Ruiz-Garcia (Tulare County Library), Mollie Roache (Tulare Public Library)

Absent: Alyssa Furin (Fresno County Public Library), Mary Jo Lawrence (Madera County Library), Rebecca Adams (Mariposa County Library), Smruti Deshpande (Merced County Library)

- I. Nathan Boyer called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
- II. Introductions were made via roll call.
- III. The agenda was adopted as written.
- IV. Public Comments: None
- V. The minutes from the October 20, 2021 meeting were approved as written.
Motion: Eddy (Kern) Second: Ruiz-Garcia (Tulare County)
- VI. Projects for Discussion and Action
 - A. Action: Resolution 2021-01: Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings
 - Boyer introduced the resolution, identifying key components, including the committee's unique makeup of members from varied and distinct communities across seven counties; the committee's responsibility to adhere to Brown Act requirements; various modifications to the Brown Act as allowed by executive order during the COVID-19 pandemic; the passage of AB 361; and the public health considerations, supported by state and local recommendations, for the committee to meet virtually, under the provisions of AB 361.
 - Boyer summarized ongoing state and local recommendations in support of social distancing, remote work, teleconferencing, and/or mask usage. Fresno County, Kern County, and the City of Tulare have detailed COVID-19 prevention plans available on their respective websites. Kings County, Madera County, and Tulare County have made available formal protocols, workplace recommendations, and teleconferencing guidelines via their

respective websites. The City of Coalinga website continues to encourage the community to practice good hygiene and social distancing. Mariposa County, Merced County, Tulare County, and the City of Porterville have recommended following guidance from the State of California, specifically from the Department of Public Health and Cal/OSHA. The California Department of Public Health requires unvaccinated people to wear masks in indoor public settings and recommends that fully vaccinated people also wear masks indoors. Current Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards state that a combination of physical distancing, use of face coverings, and other efforts are effective in decreasing the spread of COVID-19. Collectively, these recommendations from numerous state and local entities suggest an ongoing need to continue utilizing teleconferences and virtual meetings.

- Vosburg expressed reservations about continued use of teleconferences and virtual meetings, citing examples of people commonly being out in public for social gatherings, city council meetings and school board meetings are being held in person. Because the state has specific rules in place for when masks are required, Vosburg suggested that the committee should follow those rules and metrics determined by qualified parties, rather than the committee setting its own rules. Vosburg expressed that teleconferencing should not be a default method of meeting, even if it is the easiest method. Finally, Vosburg shared an interest in getting back to normal with committee meetings.
- Eddy reported the Kern County Library is still encouraging use of masks and the library's public events are still masked. Continuing to utilize virtual meetings will allow her to participate in ways that she would not be able to otherwise.
- Roache reported that Tulare Public is still using masks. The state has provided clear guidance about who should wear masks (vaccinated vs. unvaccinated), this committee is not tasked with verifying member's vaccination status. Roache contrasted public gatherings by choice (attending concerts) with those required for work (committee meetings) and

expressed support for avoiding in person gatherings at work. Avoiding public gatherings when possible is still encouraged. Given that recommendations for distancing, masks, etc. are still in place across the diverse communities in the SJVLS service area, following the guidance of the majority of those communities supports continued use of virtual meetings.

- A separate issue was raised by Vosburg during discussion. Vosburg prefers to see people in person during meetings and stressed the importance of nonverbal communication. This has been a challenge during virtual meetings because not everyone has uses a camera. Eddy reported that in cameras are required to be on for Kern County virtual meetings. Roache expressed a willingness to use a camera during future meetings. Ruiz-Garcia reported that he moves between branches and may not always have a camera available but will try to do so if needed. Boyer indicated supply problems had been an issue in securing a camera. As this issue is not central to the resolution under consideration, Boyer stated the committee will return to it at a later meeting.
- Motion to approve Resolution 2021-01 was made by Roache (Tulare Public). Eddy (Kern) seconded.
- Vote was taken by roll call.
Ayes: Eddy (Kern), Nuhfer (Kings), Ruiz-Garcia (Tulare County), Roache (Tulare Public)
Noes: Vosburg (Coalinga-Huron)
Absent: Furin (Fresno), Lawrence (Madera), Adams (Mariposa), Deshpande (Merced)
The resolution was passed by majority vote.
- The matter will be reconsidered by committee no later than December 18, 2021.

VII. Due to AB 361 requirement that committees meet every 30 days to reconsider the need for continued teleconferencing, upcoming meeting dates might conflict with the SJVLS Automation Committee. Boyer will send a survey regarding member availability and a new regular meeting schedule will be defined according to the

results of the survey. The date of the next Electronic Resources Committee meeting will be announced at that time.

VIII. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.