



# Onondaga County Legislature

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## CONSENSUS REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE JUNE 8, 2017 KEVIN HOLMQUIST, CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Whorrall, Mr. Sgromo, <sup>1</sup>Ms. Boyle, <sup>2</sup>Mr. Kinne

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Ulatowski, Ms. Hudson

**ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Jordan, <sup>3</sup>Mr. Carnie

**ADVISORY MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Knapp

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Chairman McMahon; See attached list

Chairman Holmquist called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

### **1. Questions and Answers with Julie Cerio, Director – Onondaga County's Office of Economic Development**

Chairman Holmquist said that Ms. Cerio had 45 minutes which would include dialogue, questions, and banter. He asked Ms., Cerio for a quick overview and any comments on the consensus recommendations with regard to Economic Development.

Ms. Cerio:

- OCIDA and SIDA Boards biggest way to consolidate, perform exact same work under same jurisdiction of the State Comptroller's office, same reporting requirements, offer same benefits - 1 IDA would be ideal, out of town companies looking for location don't know if they want to be in or outside city limits, are puzzled by 2 IDA's within Onondaga County; no restriction on OCIDA doing projects in the city

<sup>1</sup>Ms. Boyle arrived at the meeting.

- 9 year period with only OCIDA - started in 1970, SIDA came in 1979
- SIDA 5 member board, OCIDA 7 members - OCIDA board appointed by Chairman of the Legislature and SIDA board appointed by the mayor; could be representation from city and county on one board
- OCIDA has done projects in the city, holds public hearings whenever giving out \$100,000 or more in benefits, SIDA has same restrictions and requirements; CFO of Syracuse City Schools prefers OCIDA handle city projects

<sup>2</sup>Mr. Kinne arrived at the meeting.

- OCIDA pilot payments go to the school district, doesn't happen through SIDA
- Same mission - stimulate economic growth; offer same incentives, mortgage recording, sales tax exemptions, pilots, both have uniform tax exemption policies (UTEP), board determines UTEP's under state guidance; able to do all the same projects
- OCIDA shown to be good steward of funds, self-funded, spent great deal of money in the city - purchased Roth Steel, spent over \$1 million getting site ready for development which will highlight the lake, purchased property at 435 North Salina Street, turned into restaurant training center in partnership with OCC; deciding what to do with property purchased at 437 North Salina Street, currently on the market, added new roof, area was in serious need of incentives, purchased property from Land Bank
- LDC under OCDC, city has similar LDC but hasn't done much – perform not-for-profit bonding and use funds from bonding for business training and grants; IDA no longer allowed to do granting, handled through LCD; majority of funds received from bonding have gone back into city initiatives and training workers, i.e. \$500,000 investment training city workers for current jobs

- 1 board, representative of all, can and does work, best way to go about this

Chairman Holmquist:

- Only area of the world with abundant high-quality, low priced water
- Why don't we have more water based businesses? Seems like tremendous opportunity, could it partially be because we're not speaking with one voice? Is there any collaboration with OCWA and the MWB newly merged organization on economic development?

Ms. Cerio:

- Yes – had meetings with those entities and Chairman McMahon on outreach
- Big move for those in CA to come across the country, their distribution chains are out west; most companies worked with have distribution in the east and want to be centrally located
- Have easy access to highways, don't have traffic and have affordable standard of living; reach directly out to companies looking to move, have frequent talks

<sup>3</sup>Mr. Carni arrived at the meeting.

- None panned out when moving across the country from drought stricken areas

Chairman Holmquist:

- What are the top obstacles for businesses wanting to locate here?

Ms. Cerio:

- Perception of high taxes causes business to pause
- Receive many calls – we get much negative publicity regarding corporate welfare

Mr. Jordan:

- We meaning the state?

Ms. Cerio:

- No - we are getting a lot of bad publicity about giving tax incentives to companies making millions of dollars.
- Cost a lot of money for a company to relocate, they expect discounts, know there are tax incentives wherever they go, in constant competition with other states; came close to losing Tessa Plastics and Hill-Rom to another state, incentive packages kept them here
- Companies can get better deals elsewhere and are being courted; currently working with another company that is looking at other states - business decision, have to work hard to get them to want to stay

Ms. Primo:

- Need Incentives but there are costs everywhere, i.e. taxes may be higher here but cost of wages and property may be higher out west, all things are taken into consideration
- Having a skilled workforce would make every community more attractive; Ms. Cerio has worked on this with our community colleges and school districts – coming up with novel ways to get local residents the skills to be attractive to companies wanting to come here quickly, goes hand-in-hand with growing the population, need people and skills
- Taxes aren't primary consideration; as for water, geography is the most important thing - can get water other places, may have to pay more, at this point in time our abundance of water is not the issue that will move people

Mr. Jordan:

- Heard much talk about White Pines over 11 years, number of people showed interest, still vacant land – unsure why they're having difficulty landing one of the companies that have shown interest

Ms. Cerio:

- Land has issues - much wetland, will need campus type setting, many want one gigantic building
- She started in 2014, company wanted to come, held 20 meetings working on details, company was dropped by Apple, went belly-up – nothing could be done
- Next CEA Fresh Farms wanted to land there, had multiple meetings with different representatives, couldn't get the financial backing; can't fund any project 100%, fell flat due to financial constraints
- Probably need to do something different, no one wanted it as it sits, have marketing material, send it out to people, talk to anyone that comes in, know the layout, have sewer design completed and ready to go, now have wetland issue, may need to make it one big piece – problem is Army Corps of Engineers won't do a wetland mitigation plan unless there is an end user and we can't get an end user without wetland mitigation
- Hired O'Brien & Gere, working on wetland mitigation, doing more studies to determine what could go there, 3 months into the project; drone flyover completed, can superimpose whatever is being considered onsite and view in real-time

- Sending team to different locations, i.e. CA; can't wait for people to come to us, need more outreach, went to SEMICON West last year, going this year, made ton of contacts, toured White Pines site when they came to town, went to France last year and French contingent came here and toured White Pines, market site to everyone who will listen – open to any ideas

Mr. Jordan:

- IDA merger would require approval by both the County Legislature and City Counsel, correct?

Ms. Berger:

- IDA's are creatures of state laws

Mr. Jordan:

- Wouldn't the state want resolutions from both entities saying this was what they wanted to do?

Ms. Berger:

- Not clear whether the state would require any resolution, like a Home Rule Message; will look into it

Mr. Jordan:

- Entities were co-located on W. Washington and it fell apart – not a favorable sign for merging

Ms. Cerio:

- Relationship worked, got along, were colocated forever - it was a matter of 2 LDC's, had agreement to pay the rent if we were the only LDC, city wanted to start their own, only fair to then split the rent that is paid from the proceeds of the bonds; board agreed, City Hall decided that was not going to happen and decided to leave

Ms. Primo:

- Mr. Jordan brings up a good point – perhaps because of politics and personalities the colocation broke down, one IDA would put aside politics and personalities and allow a system to run as one voice speaking for the community; if all can agree to form one IDA, would be immune from breaking apart on a whim

Mr. Jordan:

- Why did the separation of IDA's evolve?

Mr. Kochian:

- Around 1970 Onondaga County asked for special legislation in Albany, everyone didn't have an IDA, may have been the second in NYS; 10 years later the state passed general legislation enabling everybody to have an IDA
- OCIDA had long history and capacity of doing business throughout the entire county

Mr. Jordan:

- How did SIDA come about – why?

Mr. Kochian:

- Believe the mayor thought it was a good thing to have his own, with his own people – went to the legislature with a lot of other cities and got it created for everybody

Mr. Sgromo:

- Relative to the merging of the IDA and business development type arms, one recommendation in the consensus report is a countywide tax rate and sharing of the pain – any comments?

Ms. Cerio:

- As far as the IDA?

Mr. Sgromo:

- The revenue sharing - some towns benefit more than others or have a higher leverage because of the tax structure or the densities of the revenue producing ability

Ms. Cerio:

- Whatever the current sharing percentage is remains the same with the pilot payment; projects are done in every town and we did the same for the city
- Roth Steel investment will be considerably more as we go along - money being spent to support 2 IDA offices could be cost savings; 1 office could do the work
- IDA could buy property like that on North Salina, Roth Steel and other sites, i.e. old gas stations and brownfield sites, sell to responsible buyer, benefits the community – every community has properties they are sick of seeing sit there

Mr. Jordan:

- Make sense to have one IDA, what obstacles do you perceive as standing in the way?

Ms. Cerio:

- Don't see obstacles, other than the details - one law firm, one auditor, decide who will be appointing the members, general sense of fairness, could have equal appointments from both legislative and executive bodies; believes we would dissolve ourselves and start a new entity

Chairman McMahan:

- No reason to dissolve, OCIDA already chartered to do everything

Mr. Jordan:

- Should probably dissolve SIDA

Chairman McMahan:

- City concerns would be IDA fees from city profits should reimburse the city Economic Development department, if not having one Economic Development office would want some sort of agreement so that it doesn't hit their general fund
- Board members would have to be worked out, 66% of the population is in the towns, don't think it's realistic to think the city would have the same number of board picks - could have 9 person board with 4 members required to be city residents; are different ways to make people feel equitable
- To Mr. Sgromo's point, currently the county IDA pays pilot payments at the exact percentage that will be taxed to the municipalities i.e. city budget, school district and county get their percentages for city projects, whereas SIDA does not pay any money to the school district out of pilot payments

Mr. Fisher:

- Office has had some discussions with town supervisors about issues like preserving the rural character of the county, with regard to Mr. Sgromo's question, started to touch on how to incentivize one town to bring in business and not harm another town that doesn't share in the property taxes from that
- IDA can figure how to share payments during the pilot payment period but the real goal is to get private property on the tax rolls, for businesses to make investments and build up the tax base – if that happens it still doesn't help those rural areas not receiving the tax revenue or their school districts
- Consensus Commission has ideas as to how to incentivize sharing of the tax base growth, other communities have done so, i.e. development happens in a town, that town might get the lion's share but it is distributed on an equitable basis elsewhere in the county so that all are trying to bring business wherever it is best suited, without one town competing against another

Mr. Sgromo:

- May be part of it - talks about sharing the pain and benefit so that it becomes a countywide kind of benefit
- Tax structure in the city has an enormous amount of tax exempt property, doesn't benefit city residents proportionately to the rest of the county or those outside the county, yet the city is burdened with maintenance, whether fire, police, plowing roads, or fixing potholes
- Looks at this as good way for Fabius to remain Fabius and still benefit from the economic development elsewhere in Onondaga County; fails to see how this comes full circle with the other balancing acts of things like SU only paying a small amount and hospitals not paying anything; majority of employees and patients don't live in the city
- Don't see monetary analysis on how this would impact various towns, sounds like great idea but may not sound like a great idea to Fabius or Clay, don't know how this all balances out; picked those two towns as they are very different

Mr. Fisher:

- Pulling all tax information into a database to help the discussion, will be part of the Shared Services Plan, can see what people are taxing for in all the towns and villages, also pulling in published budgets for towns and villages, can see exactly how much each spends for each line item, all use the same chart of accounts; actual savings must be measured to get rebate from the state
- One recommendation is combining police forces; would want to touch this when there is more information, i.e. how much does it actually cost to provide police and fire services to SU, ESF, and Upstate; better data provides a better basis for those kinds of decisions, i.e. could setup patrol staffed by the Sheriff to provide service to non-profits, community we would absorb that countywide as all benefit and the city needs something

Mr. Jordan:

- Don't need to utilize a system where we are restricting how things are distributed, i.e. Boston hospitals and universities have pilot payments, aren't taxed entities but reimburse the city for the services they receive
- Don't have to go into this convoluted distribution system, can have pilots were hospitals, universities and colleges pay for services received from the city, county or wherever

Chairman McMahan:

- Mayor negotiated with SU and Crouse, a little bit of that does exist
- To Mr. Sgromo's point, the County doesn't have the ability to fully fix inequities for all these tax exempt properties – remember the current sales tax sharing formula is due to County's recognition that the City bears the burden of

these tax exempt properties that are the economic drivers of our community, only reason the City kept the same percentage when redistributed and they were allowed to receive the growth, previously had percentage but year-over-year growth was capped, City received tremendous benefit since agreement, substantial growth for a time period; doesn't fix the fact the SU has some of the most beautiful property in the state but doesn't pay taxes

Mr. Sgromo:

- Can't underestimate the positive economic impact SU and hospitals have
- As outsider looking in, looks at sales tax as a way to fix other inequities; if he ran his business this way it would not work well, sales taxes are going down and will continue until Amazon is taxed

Mr. Sgromo:

- Need long-term real structure, not saying this doesn't sound good just reading it
- When will numbers be ready to see what kind of impact these changes would actually have?

Mr. Fisher:

- Good part of the database will be ready by July 27, when County Executive puts her Shared Services Plan out; to the Legislature by August 1
- Paper budgets received from towns and villages, asking if some have electronic info

Mr. Sgromo:

- Monumental task; good part of it means 10%, 20%, or 50% of those numbers will be in place?

Mr. Fisher:

- Property tax side already there, can be broken down in terms of tax levy which is revenue
- Expenditure side - all adopted budgets are given to the comptroller a couple years later; trying to grab what they have and put it into a common format

Mr. Sgromo:

- Sounds like a lot of work

Chairman Holmquist said that the information will not be available for this committee. We are reporting out this month. I think everybody has said this whole process is way too fast. It is not possible, it's not the way to do it. Mr. Sgromo said that he was trying to see how much information was there. There is this committee, but the County Executive is also going to make recommendation and he wants to see how much information she will have. If this is going to be put to a public vote in November, how much will be available and how much time before, so that there is actually time to digest it. Chairman Holmquist said there won't be a vote this November, nor next November, there's not going to be a vote. That stuff has been decided. This stuff will be decided by existing wards.

Mr. Kinne:

- Majority of workers for those tax exempt places don't work in the City, Consensus Report points out large number travel from one municipality to another consistently
- Communities need each other, rather than separation and looking at what's good for a particular town, should look at what's good for all to move this community forward; what we are doing now is not working

Ms. Cerio:

- IDA properties remain taxed as they are currently, then are up 10% year 1 and continue to rise
- IDA benefit – get people to come here, expand here and/or grow their business here, put people to work and property on tax rolls

Ms. Boyle:

- 1 IDA is a commonsense decision; appreciates revenue sharing points going forward, devil will be in the details for representation and sharing
- To Chairman McMahon's point, the tax sharing revenue is not enough, 22,000 students live at SU and contribute to the sales tax base – How much money do they bring in?
- The impact they have to the infrastructure is more, i.e. flush dorm toilets, walks on sidewalks and drive on roads
- Agree, need to think about what is working for all of us; appreciate the way this conversation is going, moving in that direction
- Idea of City/County working in one building was never an issue, was always a political problem; getting over this will be beneficial to everybody

Mr. Sgromo:

- Thought it was more than just the rent, couldn't have been that much

Ms. Boyle:

- Rent was a lot, \$10,000 per month and we are trying to grow

Ms. Cerio:

- Money comes from bonds

Mr. Sgromo:

- Still real money

Ms. Cerio:

- Yes, it's money that you make to run your office

Mr. Sgromo:

- Want real hard numbers to see how this can all balance; knows pilots, uses them all the time
- Biggest issue with consolidation is equitable share, people will come to the table if a way is found
- Details are scary - how it all plays together with a mutual respect for each community; easy to put into words you want to do, how to do it and get everyone to agree is the issue

Chairman McMahan:

- Great concept, every area is a little different, i.e. many southern areas grow our food, need those communities, City does specific things that everybody needs - problem is there is not enough economic activity to generate the revenue to solve all these issues in the near future
- Only one thing could help solve this right away – NYS paying the Medicaid bill, would provide \$99 million dollars for the community to figure out how to address these issues; figuring a formula and how this could work is nice, just not enough economic activity to fund the formula within County operations and activities

Chairman Holmquist:

- Do we have anyone locally with a good relationship with the governor that could help lobby?

Chairman McMahan:

- There are a lot of us

Mr. Fisher:

- When we lobby on that point, can you explain what we do when the state takes the sales tax?

Chairman McMahan:

- Let's be genuine about this point – the governor is not a king, he cannot decide he wants to take it back, would have to get through the assembly and senate with politicians that represent us

Mr. Fisher:

- Famous economist once said, "There is no such thing as a free lunch".

Chairman McMahan:

- The state has had it for a while

Chairman Holmquist:

- They are eating our lunch

Mr. Jordan:

- That is the 2,000 pound gorilla - all talking about how to improve locally when 90% of the problem is in Albany; just trying to minimize the damage Albany does

Chairman Holmquist said that we are on the libraries time.

Mr. Kinne:

- In reference to IDA rent - \$10,000 is real money, should go where the best deal is

Chairman Holmquist said that Mr. Kochian wants to comment on Mr. Kinne's point. We should try to wrap it up, we are on the libraries time.

Mr. Kochian:

- Oversaw Economic Development, focused on net wealth generating companies; attracting businesses where the product is sold elsewhere grows the economy
- Major companies gave their employment by zip code, i.e. Bristol, Carrier, Anheuser-Busch, Tessa Plastics, had no boundaries, employed people from the city and towns alike
- If a town can generate those kinds of jobs, that personal income will grow the economy; won't worry about the tax base as much, focused on property taxes out of necessity

Ms. Cerio:

- Ready willing and able to discuss easy way to get IDA's to merge; office space held open on purpose, have county office that could go there, hope all can come back together in January
- All do the same thing, attend the same conferences; optimistic things may turn back around

Mr. Jordan:

- Talked about 1 IDA but separate Economic Development offices, should be merging to one office

Chairman McMahon:

- Would be ideal, would take a little bit more political courage with the executives

Mr. Fisher:

- Was one of the recommendations of the Consensus Report, misunderstanding, everyone says Recommendation 50 is merge everything – kind of is, but there are 23 sub recommendations that don't require merger of everything i.e. one Economic Development, Finance, and Budget office, one Park's department; don't have to merge entire City and County to pick up things that might make sense

Ms. Boyle:

- Maybe move other county offices in to pick up the \$10,000 per month rent and move the IDA to a different spot

Ms. Cerio:

- Challenges go along with that – need a place that is easy to get to, park in front of, and can have a lot of people; looked at other spaces

Mr. Carni:

- Interned in Economic Development when they moved to Washington Street, understood the reason for the move was the need for a professional office building to attract businesses, rather than a government building

Ms. Cerio:

- Want to impress people when they come in

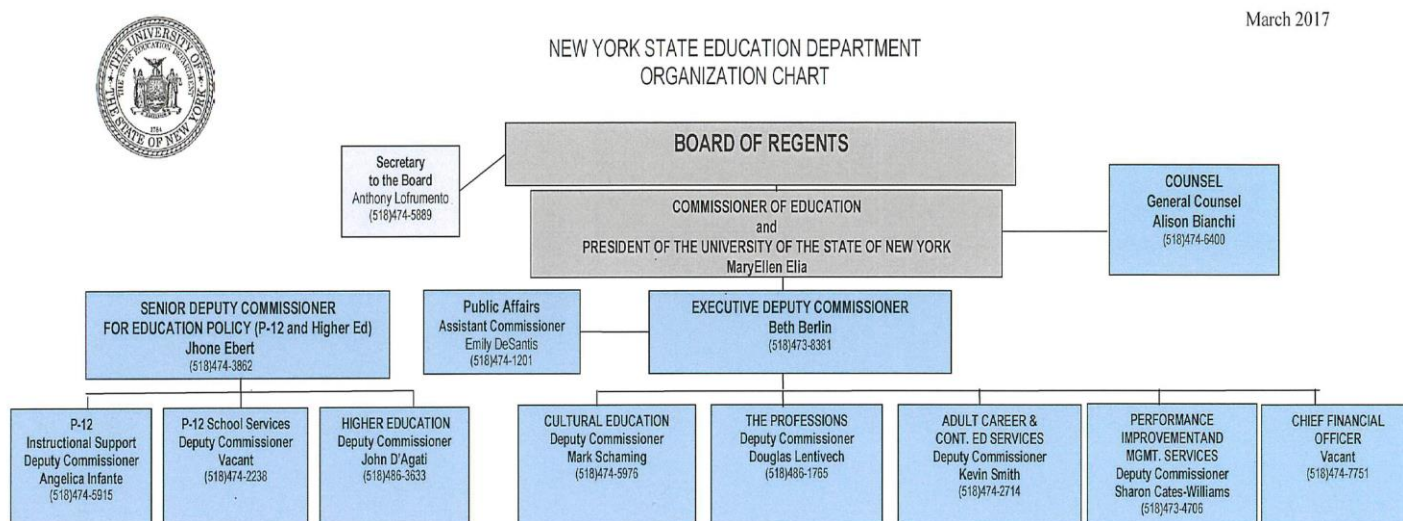
Mr. Sgromo:

- Move the Carnegie Library, impressive building

Chairman Holmquist thanked Ms. Cerio for her time.

**2. Questions and Answers with Susan Mitchell, Executive Director – Onondaga County Public Libraries**

Ms. Mitchell thanked the committee for having her and distributed an information packet (on file with Clerk):



- Met with Consensus, talked about merging libraries, are actually setup the way one would like to setup police departments, fire departments, and such, governing structure supports cooperation and collaboration across the state
- Reviewed org chart (see above) – Cultural Education splits off into Department of Library Development and Arts and Cultural which is also NYS museums

**Facts About  
PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS**

- Serve over 19 million people statewide
- Serve 755 public libraries with over 1,100 outlets, including over 300 neighborhood branches, 7 bookmobiles, 60 reading centers and other community outlets extending services to people in correctional facilities, nursing homes, urban and rural areas
- Facilitate over 16 million interlibrary loan requests annually
- Provide access to e-books, NOVELNY and other electronic resources
- Provide professional development and training opportunities for library staff and trustees
- Operate multi-county computer networks and automated catalogs of resources
- Connect with the New York State Library, school library systems, reference and research library resources councils, and school, academic and special libraries for access to specialized resources
- Serve as a liaison to the New York State Library and the New York State Education Department

**THREE TYPES OF  
PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS**

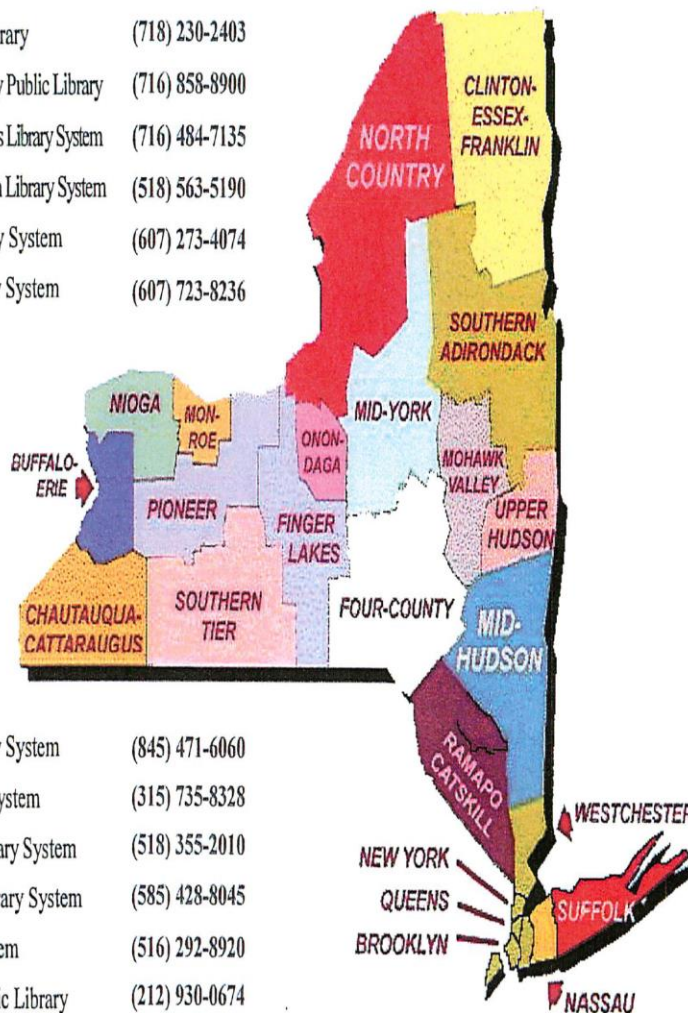
**CONSOLIDATED:** (3) Chartered as a single entity under a board of trustees (Brooklyn, The New York Public Library, and Queens Borough Public Library).

**FEDERATED:** (4) Created by action of the board or boards of supervisors or legislature of the county or counties involved while member libraries retain their own charters (Buffalo & Erie, Clinton-Essex-Franklin, Monroe, and Onondaga).

**COOPERATIVE:** (16) An association created by agreement of boards of chartered member libraries, which retain their autonomy.

**NEW YORK STATE'S PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS**

- Brooklyn Public Library (718) 230-2403
- Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (716) 858-8900
- Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System (716) 484-7135
- Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System (518) 563-5190
- Finger Lakes Library System (607) 273-4074
- Four County Library System (607) 723-8236



- Mid-Hudson Library System (845) 471-6060
- Mid-York Library System (315) 735-8328
- Mohawk Valley Library System (518) 355-2010
- Monroe County Library System (585) 428-8045
- Nassau Library System (516) 292-8920
- The New York Public Library (212) 930-0674
- Nioaga Library System (716) 434-6167
- North Country Library System (315) 782-5540
- Onondaga County Public Library (315) 435-1900

- Pioneer Library System (585) 394-8260
- Queens Borough Public Library (718) 990-0700
- Ramapo Catskill Library System (845) 243-3747
- Southern Adirondack Library System (518) 584-7300
- Southern Tier Library System (607) 962-3141
- Suffolk Cooperative Library System (631) 286-1600
- Upper Hudson Library System (518) 437-9880
- Westchester Library System (914) 674-3600

Find your public library at:  
[www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libspublibs](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/libspublibs)

- 23 public library systems in NYS and 9 3R's Councils, public systems belong to the next system size up which include academic school libraries and BOCES
- Buying shared resources with academics, school libraries, and public libraries across the state and have organized governance structure for public library systems; meet frequently, decide how we can collaborate across the state, purchase at state level and make sure our interests are always taken into account



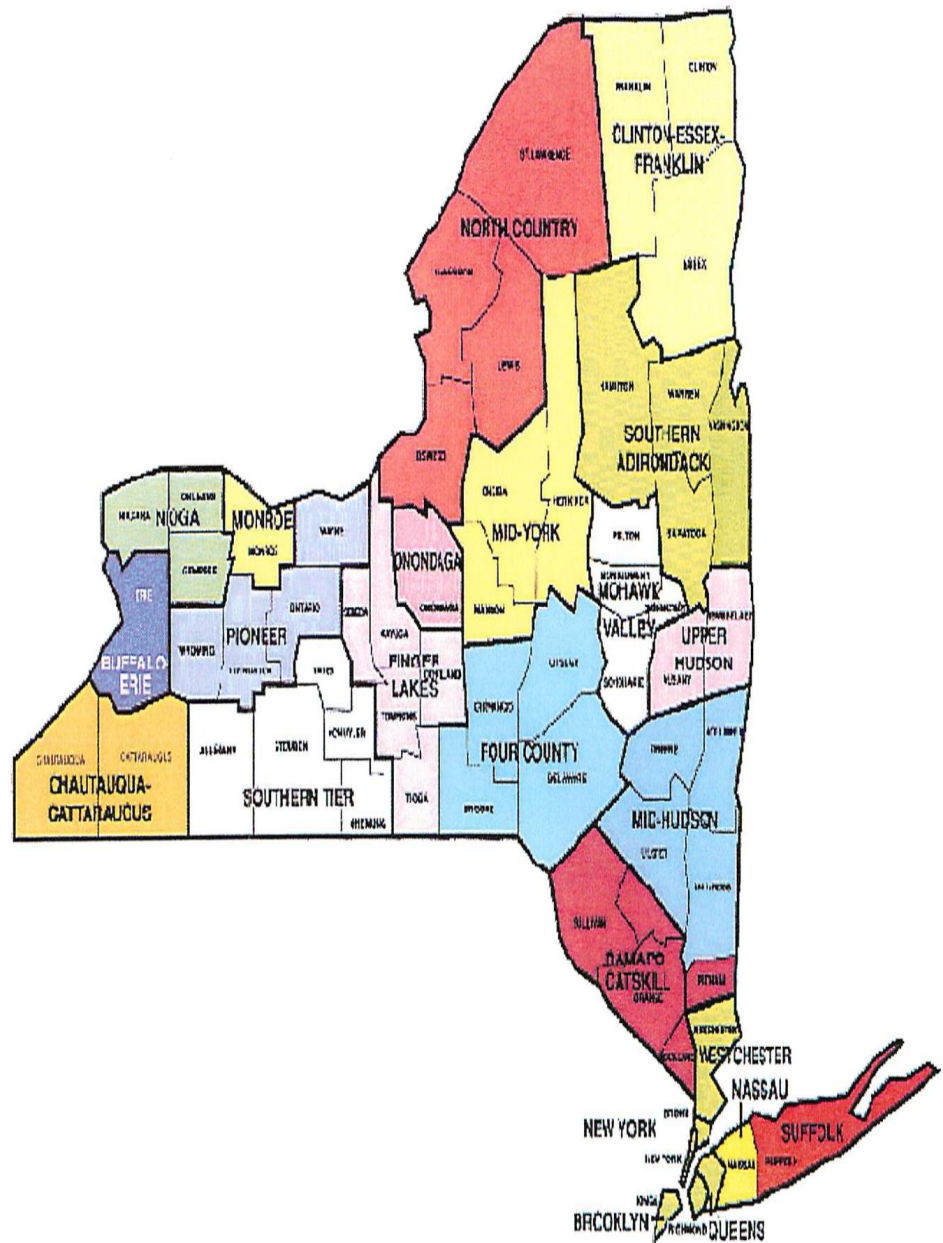


## Types of Library Systems - A Comparison

|                                 | Public Library Systems (23)  |  |   | 3R's Systems (9)  | School Library Systems (41)   |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|
|                                 | Consolidated (3)   | Federated (4)  | Cooperative (16)  |   |   |
| <b>How Established</b>          | Chartered as a single entity with one Board of Trustees. All libraries are branches.   | Created by action of the board or boards of supervisors of the county or counties involved. Member libraries are autonomous and have their own Boards.                                       | An association created by agreement of the boards of members, chartered libraries which maintain their autonomy.  | An association created by a group of non-profit and for-profit institutions providing library services.   | By approval of the Commissioner.  |
| <b>Charter</b>                  | Regents incorporate by charter.  | Regents incorporate by charter.  | Regents incorporate by charter.   | Regents incorporate by charter.   | No charter. Functions as unit of a BOCES or Big 5 cities school district.   |
| <b>Standards for Service</b>    | Education Department registers and requires a plan of service. Must meet minimum public library standards in order to receive public funds. Must have an approved plan to receive State funds. | Those systems which are libraries as well as library systems are registered and must meet minimum public library standards. Also must have an approved plan in order to receive State funds. | Education Department approves a plan of service. Must have an approved plan to receive any public funds.          | Education Department approves a plan of service. Must have an approved plan to receive any public funds.  | Must have plan of service and meet Commissioner's Regulations 90.18 & Ed. Law 282, 283, 284.  |
| <b>Public Financial Support</b> | Budget approved by City of New York. Primarily local funds with limited state aid.   | Budget approved by county. Some local funds for some of these systems, the balance is state aid.   | State aid. Budget approved by Education Department.   | Primarily state aid though dues are charged to members and some services have fees. Budget approved by Education Department.  | Primarily state aid approved by SED. Some costs may be underwritten or shared by BOCES or Big 5 City School Districts. Budget approved by Education Department. |
| <b>Governance</b>               | Trustees named by City Council.  | Parent governmental units appoint the board.   | Board members of member libraries elect the system board members.   | Members designate member library representatives to elect the board members.  | The BOCES or board of the Big 5 City school district is the governing board of the school library system. An advisory council is required.                      |
| <b>Membership</b>               | No "members"; outlets are branches and run by systemwide policies.   | Member libraries are autonomous public and association libraries and join the system by choice. No dues or fees.   | Member libraries are autonomous public and association libraries and join the system by choice. No dues or fees.  | Academic, hospital, business, law & other special libraries as well as public library systems, school library systems and selected individual public libraries that meet criteria set in law and by the Education Department. | All school districts and nonpublic schools within a BOCES that meet eligibility criteria. All school libraries within a Big 5 City School District.             |
| <b>Area Served</b>              | Ranges from a single county to three counties.   | Ranges from a single county to three counties.   | Ranges from a single county to five counties. Only one county (Ulster) is divided between public library systems. | Ranges from 2 counties to 14 counties. Coterminal with 2 to 4 public library systems.   | Coterminal with the BOCES or city school district they were established to serve.   |
| <b>Civil Service</b>            | No   | Yes, some  | No  | No  | Support staff usually Civil Service. Librarians vary.   |
| <b>Retirement</b>               | Yes  | Yes  | Yes   | Have own plan   | Yes   |

|  | Consolidated   | Federated  | Cooperative  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  | Brooklyn (Kings County); New York (Bronx, New York, Richmond counties); Queens | Buffalo-Erie; Clinton-Essex-Franklin; Monroe; Onondaga | Chautauqua-Cattaraugus; Finger Lakes (Cayuga, Cortland, Seneca, Tioga, Tompkins counties); Four County (Broome, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego counties); Mid-Hudson (Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam, Ulster [part] counties); Mid York (Herkimer, Madison, Oneida counties); Mohawk Valley (Fulton, Montgomery, Schoenectady, Schoharie counties); Nassau; Nioga (Genesee, Niagara, Orleans counties); North Country (Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, St. Lawrence counties); Pioneer (Livingston, Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming counties); Ramapo Catskill (Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster [part] counties); Southern Adirondack (Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren, Washington counties); Southern Tier (Allegany, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Yates counties); Suffolk; Upper Hudson (Albany, Rensselaer counties); Westchester |

## Public Library Systems



- Public library systems chartered in different ways; Onondaga County a Federated System, 1 of 4, each system setup differently and are separate legal entities, state chartered educational institutions under State Ed
- Most public library systems are not federated, other 19 are independent groups; Mid-York runs out of Utica and covers 3 counties, doesn't run a central library or branches

- All a little different but mostly work the same way, have same standards handed down from State Ed and the Department of Library Development
- OCPL has 23 member libraries, includes Central Library, branch libraries and 21 suburban libraries; do group purchasing on behalf of member libraries, individual libraries don't have to purchase every book
- Deliver over 1,000,000 books per year between systems, share entire collection within the system and outside with the academics – Empire State Delivery brings books in from public and school libraries and ships them out, a statewide collaborative effort
- Consensus Commission determined we could benefit from statewide catalog, i.e. in Old Forge for the weekend, OCPL library card won't work to take out books, or look up books outside their system
- Working to raise funds for shared catalog across the state, allows for consolidation of things like delivery – each system is running its own delivery system, would collaborate across systems; OCPL deliveries run out of the Galleries, closer to some Mid-York libraries than Mid-York is; have worked together so long, everyone is on board - could take out book in Old Forge, travel to Buffalo and return book there

Mr. Jordan:

- Wouldn't that require state action?

Ms. Mitchell:

- No, not at all

Mr. Jordan:

- Would it just be a cooperative system?

Ms. Mitchell:

- Right – would look at how to purchase that system through the Department of Library Development; under the Board of Regents, bring about \$500,000 to Onondaga County each year through Local Library Construction Grants, all those grants move through DASNY

Ms. Boyle:

- How would that affect collections in the City and getting current additions?

Ms. Mitchell:

- Would have more access, libraries typically setup for bestsellers and place local hold for up to six months, books can't be checked out and shipped to anyone else
- May say DVD's shipped outside the system is onerous, track all of that, persons in shared systems may be a net-lender, i.e. Liverpool sometimes ships out more than they bring in; try to even things up among libraries, change how the system requests books, ask OCPL first, then Liverpool

Ms. Boyle:

- Concerned, as we get bigger the smaller libraries would have less selection in stock

Ms. Mitchell:

- Would actually have better collections; talking about how to do this on a local level, i.e. Petit collection nothing like Mundy, what circulates in one community is not what circulates in another, software package tells us what circulates best where, move books to libraries where they will go out
- Small libraries have oldest collections and largest amount of dead stock, about half of the books have never gone out, would increase the amount of good stuff
- Those are things libraries have been doing for a long time, always want to keep it fair and even, why Consensus called them out as a good example; member libraries aren't concerned, always try to keep things even; each community is taxing in different ways, some are school district libraries, some are special district - raising funds in a variety of ways, know that they are accountable to their local taxpayers
- Much complexity in the chartering process, i.e. if bringing all libraries together, who owns the properties

Ms. Boyle:

- Would we have access to additional state funding for our library systems?

Ms. Mitchell:

- No, may even have a little less
- Biggest concern is decrease in funding over last several years, Central Library in particular, rely on this infrastructure, also happening at the system level - end up doing a lot of the coordination and buying using statewide dollars from the Department of Library Development
- 3R's Council deal with BOCES, public library systems and higher ed institutions, are spending federal dollars and afraid they are going to lose a lot of those dollars as well; trickle down from the state less each year, and losing money from the bottom up

Ms. Boyle:

- You think we would lose state funds because of what is going on in the federal government?

Ms. Mitchell:

- No – more independent systems get a little bit more money; the state requires a certain amount of money from the local government too, now looking to make sure we have enough local funds to match the aid given from the state

### 3 year comparison of spending per capita for OCPL libraries

| Library                         | Charter pop. | 2013      | 2014      | 2015      |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Baldwinsville Public Library    | 35,258       | \$ 40.95  | \$ 41.64  | \$ 42.08  |
| DeWitt Community Library        | 16,580       | \$ 58.56  | \$ 62.47  | \$ 64.11  |
| East Syracuse Free Library      | 3,084        | \$ 86.00  | \$ 82.16  | \$ 94.51  |
| Elbridge Free Library           | 1,058        | \$ 76.19  | \$ 63.61  | \$ 79.21  |
| Fairmount Community Library     | 5,491        | \$ 52.35  | \$ 48.45  | \$ 48.17  |
| Fayetteville Free Library       | 10,314       | \$ 144.07 | \$ 155.48 | \$ 155.80 |
| Jordan Bramley Library          | 1,368        | \$ 66.03  | \$ 66.61  | \$ 68.41  |
| LaFayette Public Library        | 4,952        | \$ 30.57  | \$ 34.69  | \$ 34.79  |
| Liverpool Public Library        | 50,947       | \$ 74.11  | \$ 70.24  | \$ 72.88  |
| Manlius Library                 | 11,226       | \$ 93.50  | \$ 100.11 | \$ 100.66 |
| Marcellus Free Library          | 6,210        | \$ 70.72  | \$ 72.68  | \$ 74.70  |
| Maxwell Memorial Library        | 19,456       | \$ 14.36  | \$ 15.80  | \$ 17.28  |
| Minoa Library                   | 3,449        | \$ 44.70  | \$ 48.54  | \$ 49.37  |
| Nothern Onondaga Public Library | 56,167       | \$ 36.95  | \$ 39.72  | \$ 39.31  |
| Onondaga Free Library           | 28,306       | \$ 18.69  | \$ 20.28  | \$ 21.22  |
| Salina Library                  | 11,636       | \$ 39.55  | \$ 40.35  | \$ 41.08  |
| Skaneateles Library             | 7,209        | \$ 32.13  | \$ 33.03  | \$ 32.84  |
| Solvay Public Library           | 6,584        | \$ 53.68  | \$ 47.20  | \$ 44.82  |
| Tully Free Library              | 5,984        | \$ 37.16  | \$ 45.39  | \$ 45.79  |
| Onondaga County Public Library  | 467,026      | \$ 32.68  | \$ 30.45  | \$ 25.73  |

*These figures are pulled from the State Annual Reports. They are based on Q16.10 Total Operating Expenditures. This includes total operating expenditures on staff, total expenditures on collections, and other operating expenditures (operation and maintenance of buildings, miscellaneous expenses, contracts with other public libraries and/or public library systems, budget loans and short-term loans). Each library inputs their own data into the annual report. **Note:** Per capita is based on the total unduplicated population of legal service areas. The determination of the unduplicated figure is the responsibility of the state library agency and should be based on the most recent state population figures for jurisdictions in the state. These calculations may not be a true representation of the community they serve. Maxwell and Fairmount Libraries are a good example. Realistically, they both serve the town of Camillus but Fairmount's charter area is only the census track of Fairmount. Maxwell's charter area is the town of Camillus minus Fairmount.*

- OCPL largest charter to serve population, budget consistently gone down while all other libraries have increased over the last 3 years; libraries concerned if we will be able to maintain the foundation
- Think it will be a concern for other units as well, if all come together, how do we insure the structure created to support the whole continues to support the whole

Mr. Jordan:

- Not sure where you are on the whole consolidation recommendation, sounds like you are saying not to consolidate as the current system is working extremely well

Ms. Mitchell:

- It is, would probably get more benefit from the statewide library card over time; nothing we could do would give immediate benefit because our whole system is built on a strong infrastructure
- Statewide library card means all are in the same purchasing system too; Ohio first state to do this, has seen a lot of benefit, other states followed, including Alaska
- While at University of Wisconsin was asked if they would benefit from consolidating libraries across the University of Wisconsin system, worked so well cooperatively that there would not be enough benefit from consolidation; instead further invested in infrastructure that allowed the libraries to work in the way that they do

Mr. Jordan:

- Statewide library card would be put in place through cooperative agreements

Ms. Mitchell:

- Would get libraries to agree one-by-one, talking about millions of records, gigantic database

Mr. Sgromo:

- That has nothing to do with consolidation

Ms. Mitchell:

- Would allow consolidation of some services over time, one recommendation of the consensus report

Chairman Holmquist:

- Do you have a position on no book fines for minors?

Ms. Mitchell:

- More than half of the kids in the city could not checkout materials because they had overdue fines, stories aren't typical, i.e. dad found out where we live, had to move in the middle of the night, didn't get to take any of our stuff; our job is to help make a more literate community
- Half the kids in the city are reading well below grade level, not allowing them to check out books is not the best way to move forward with our mission and build a more literate community

Mr. Kinne:

- Firm believer in consequence to help hold people accountable, aghast when first hearing about not charging fines, looking further into it, really not the child's fault

Mr. Sgromo:

- Agreed with Mr. Kinne, fault they weren't teaching the proper responsibility – having worked in some of these communities and with some of these kids, it is not that easy

Ms. Mitchell:

- These kids are learning lessons you would never want your children to learn
- Before Fines Free Children's Cards, would hear parents say, "Don't touch those books. We can't afford to take them out", kids start to think books are an expense they don't have access to
- Forward facing bookracks increased circulation 150%; job is to make a more literate community, very focused on that

Mr. Sgromo:

- Can they pay the fines back by restocking books or something?

Ms. Mitchell:

- In this union and civil service environment? If you say so.
- Have a great group of teens and young people, no issues since moving into new space, many great role models
- Never brought in a lot of money, much on the books but never going to get it; through system error some children sent to collections
- Great to see circulation go up and kids reading; partnering with Imagination Library and the Literacy Coalition to move that forward, proud of the work being done
- State cut funding for summer reading program when shifting focus to early literacy; always have to raise funds for work performed across the county and to cover resources no longer able to purchase

Ms. Boyle:

- County had plan in place to read away your fees

Ms. Mitchell:

- Some libraries do that, works well in some communities, not as well in others

### **3. Set Agenda for June 22, 2017 meeting**

Chairman Holmquist said that tentatively, we're going to have a draft report, from this committee, for our next meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Based upon all the conversations we have heard, each member should send any ideas, comments or recommendations on any topic, in or out of the consensus report, to Sue Stanczyk. All the information will be compiled for recommendations to discuss on the twenty-second. All speakers and departments on our list have been included. If there is anyone else, or any other areas, we can talk about it on the twenty-second. Short of that we will talk about our draft report. If we can't come to a resolution on that day, we can meet again on June 29<sup>th</sup>. If not, we could vote on the twenty-second and have the final report out of this committee.

Mr. Sgromo asked when he would like their comments. Chairman Holmquist said that to respect the staff, the earlier the better.

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KATHERINE M. FRENCH  
Deputy Clerk, Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **CONSENSUS REVIEW ADVISORY**

DATE: **JUNE 8, 2017**

| NAME                | DEPARTMENT/AGENCY |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>PLEASE PRINT</b> |                   |
| Arthur Kerpashev    | OCDWEP            |
| Susan Mitchell      | OCP.              |
| Darcie Lesmak       | Leg               |
| Kelly Berger        |                   |
| Ed Kochian          |                   |
| Mary Beth Pruno     |                   |
| Bill Fisher         |                   |
| Joe Cerni           |                   |