

MSR Visioning Report

Following our strategic decision to develop our master vision for the library in phases, I formed a small committee to work through the next steps with MSR. Committee members are: Nancy Newport, Peter Konshak, Christy Walker, Dan Kramer, Jane Herndon, Liz Hamilton, and me. This committee initially met via web conference with MSR on December 15, 2017. We reviewed our major project goals and estimated the space requirements to address the most pressing facility needs. We asked MSR to give us a menu of options of how to address these needs. We asked for associated costs (an estimated price range) with these options. MSR agreed to work towards these goals.

This committee met again via web conference on January 15. We began discussing a master vision with five related phases for completion. "Phase one" will be of primary concern in 2018. We are now at the point that it would be a good idea for the board to get together and review how we arrived at this point, what steps were taken to get us to this point, and our strategy going forward. I have emailed the board with some proposed times to get together and review this project.

We have confirmed the final completion date for the project, which will include a public forum component: Tuesday, February 20.

Exam Cram

Finals exams for Carmel Clay High School were held December 20 through 22. Our Young Adult Manager Jamie Beckman developed a plan to handle the inevitable early influx of students waiting to take their exams. Students generally begin filing in the library after 7:00 a.m. The Program Room was set up as a designated hang-out area with tables, games, and snacks. The Storytime Room was used as a quiet study zone. The café also opened for business early on these days to accommodate the students. Due to high demand, we auctioned study rooms, which was the most fair and equitable way to distribute the much in-demand spaces. Mary Bennett also brought Fritz the therapy dog to visit the kids. Overall, our Exam Cram strategy was a success, providing a manageable and better experience for students and visiting patrons.

Young Hoosier Book Award Program

Last year we had plenty of evidence that illustrated the top tier talent and excellence among our staff. We shall waste no time continuing to prove that to be true this year. Accompanying my report is a letter from Lucinda Nord, Executive Director of ILF commending the volunteer service of Karen Steinberger as Chair of the Middle Grade Book Committee for the Young Hoosier Book Award Program. I saw how much care and dedication Karen put into this task and am very pleased to see that it did not go unnoticed by ILF as well. I'm looking forward to seeing great things from our staff in 2018!