

Minutes of Bellevue Library Board Meeting
September 20, 2011

Board Present: Judy Bailey, Alice Tow, Andrew Peabody, Loretta Lopez, Robin Rothschild, Peter Maxim

Board Absent: Chiho Lai

Staff Present: Wendy Pender

Guest: Jo Cavinta, Diversity Program Coordinator

Meeting was called to order at 5:09 pm. Previous minutes were approved.

Diversity Program Coordinator position was created 2 years ago at KCLS. The position oversees diversity initiatives and manages the Talk Time and ESL programs.

There are three focus areas:

1. Communication to a diverse population
 - a. Language line – over the phone interpretation service for 175 languages.
 - b. Bright Ideas - Ideas from employees to narrow the language gap
2. Outreach to different service areas – Involved with various community programs such as Latino Safety Fair and Dia de los Ninos.
3. Workforce Diversity: 2 year page program for those who are interested in working in libraries for a career path.

80 volunteers work on Talk Time, citizenship, and ESL classes. The Guide to Naturalization is printed in multiple languages. Also, there is an annual citizenship fair where immigration attorneys answer questions and mock interviews are available.

Peter brought up the topic of gender selection for the translators since some cultures are more sensitive to a male translator for a female patron. Jo will check on the availability of that option.

Next meeting will be at the Bellevue downtown library, October 18th at 5pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm.