

Dear MCPL Library System Task Force and MCPL Board of Trustees:

My name is Kay Heiting. For the past 6 years, I have served as the public library director and library media specialist for the Granton Community Library in Clark County. It is one of a handful of co-located public and school libraries in Wisconsin. We are small, but we try to meet the needs of our local patrons, as well as contributing to the larger V-Cat consortium collection.

I have been following the discussion regarding MCPL wishing to join South Central Library System since the beginning. I am having trouble understanding the reason behind the move, and the sudden urgency to make a decision. I am not sure that I can personally speak to any of the remaining questions Task Force members may have, but wish to share the benefits that my library and my community have gained by being part of the Wisconsin Valley Library Service

I cannot even begin to describe how the WVLS leadership has helped me professionally, as well as my library and my community. Six years ago, my public library and my school decided to move the public library into the school and become a joint library. WVLS helped me find a library accreditation program that would benefit the school and the public library. If they could not answer my questions, they connected me with the correct person at DPI. During the transition process various members of the leadership team checked in with me to see how things were going and how they could help.

At that time the public library had no automated catalog or checkout system. So not only were we moving spaces and hiring a new director, but also figuring out how to blend both collections into the V-Cat Sierra system. WVLS played an integral role in making all of those things happen.

As we joined the two entities, we were also trying to blend two sets of technology systems. The WVLS tech department has successfully partnered with my school district technology coordinator to make sure all of the moving parts worked together in compliance with school computer use policies while also providing accessibility to WVLS software for students and the community.

WVLS promotes my small library. The PR, training opportunities and one-to-one support I receive from WVLS has helped make the Granton Community Library successful. Over the years, WVLS has offered many trainings and webinars that benefit my library, patrons and dual service communities. They are always exploring new topics and recruiting nationally known speakers. Topics have included, marketing, technology, maker space and general library management just to name a few. I know that if I have any sort of question, the WVLS staff will be available to help me find the answers.

I would ask you to table this discussion until more of the questions can be answered. This is a big decision that will affect MCPL, and all WVLS the libraries in addition to those within our two collaborating systems in Northwest Wisconsin. It will have a financial impact on all of us as well. I do appreciate all of the expertise and resources that MCPL brings to the WVLS library system. Your services and resources are an important contribution to the successful operation of my library. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Kay Heiting, Granton Community Library Director