**Virginia Library Association**

**VLA Council**

**Libbie Mill Branch Library**

**Richmond, VA**

**Friday, June 7, 2019**

**Attendees**:

Executive Committee – Todd Elliott, Kayla Payne, Jessica Scalph, Samantha Thomason, Lisa Varga, Adrian Whicker

VLA Council – Alisha Barnes, Katelyn Burton, Cindy Church, Easter DiGangi, Bill Edwards-Bodmer, Barbara Ferrara, Gregg Grunow, Amy Harrison, Katie Kalil, Cammy Koch, Kelly Miller, Lisa Nickel, Anne Rappe-Epperson, Jessica Robertson, Jeanne Scott, Tom Shepley, Haley Tompkins

Guests – Phil Abraham, Lisa Broughman, Maryśka Connolly-Brown, Joslyn Dixon, Angela Harvey, Matt Todd

**Absent**:

Executive Committee – Cori Biddle, Jennifer Resor-Whicker,

VLA Council – Melissa Davis, Michael Hibben, Shaunna Hunter, Kristi Jerome, Paula Kiser, Rebecca Lamb, Karen Nelson, Ginny Pannabecker, Sophie Rondeau, Salena Sullivan, Erica Testani

**Call to Order** **& Introductions**

Jessica Scalph called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Everyone introduced themselves. Lisa Varga discussed the Acronym Fine Jar (AFJ), and how it will be used this year. If you use an acronym and do not define it you will be required to tithe to the AFJ. Once the acronym has been used and defined at a meeting, it does not need to be defined again. At the end of the year the proceeds collected will be used to fund a [food] treat for Council at the September meeting.

**Secretary’s Report**

Kayla Payne emailed the minutes of the Council meeting held in April prior to this meeting. The April minutes may be viewed here: <https://www.vla.org/assets/VLACouncilApr19.docx> All documents pertaining to today’s meeting will be on the calendar entry for today’s date.

Cindy Church moved the minutes be approved. Jeanne Scott seconded, and the motion carried. Kayla passed around a roster for attendance.

**Guest Presentation**

Matt Todd and Lisa Broughman, past presidents of VLA, came to announce the Alex Varga Memorial Scholarship. The goal was to raise money for one $2,500 scholarship, and there has been a tremendous response, with $4,115 raised. Alex was a huge supporter of VLA, helping Lisa behind the scenes. This scholarship will be a way to pay it forward to future librarians.

We will announce the final fundraising push to the membership with the goal of funding two $2,500 scholarships and work out logistics with the scholarship committee. We will cap the Alex Varga scholarship donations at $5,000 and encourage any excess fundraising to go to the general scholarship fund.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Lisa Varga gave the treasurer’s report. The report can be seen here: <https://www.vla.org/assets/Profit%20%20Loss%2006042019.pdf>

Since we are in June, we are half way through the budget year, and the association is in excellent shape. We have had really strong membership numbers and lower than expected administrative costs. At this point the association is running with a surplus of over $45,000. Some highlights from the budget include:

* Our Affiliate membership income is at $63,245, which is $13,000 over what we had budgeted for the year. Individual memberships are still strong with $17,205 in dues, almost to the $18,000 we had budget for.
* Jobline continues to be strong, with $6,800 already collected for the year, and there are still 12 invoices outstanding. We had budget $15,000 so we are in good shape for June.
* We are about $9,000 off from our budgeted $45,000 for the institutional dues.
* The vendor income from booths are in good shape for this time of year, we have almost 1/2 the booths sold and will likely increase steadily after ALA annual later in the month.
* The expenses from TILC and the Conference are starting to trickle in. TILC will be on Friday June 7th, so we will see the final numbers on that conference at the next meeting.
* Investment accounts

**Executive Director's Report**

Lisa gave the Executive Director’s Report. The report can be seen here: <https://www.vla.org/assets/Executive%20Directors%20Report%20June%202019.docx>

We have 271 individual members, 67 organizations encompassing 3,714 members, 40 life members, with a total of 4,035 active members as of 6/4/19. This will total 4,091 when two libraries that have signed up as affiliates pay in full.

**Executive Committee**

Jessica gave the Executive Committee Report. At our June 6 meeting we approved $1,000 funding for the Library of Virginia’s participation in the State Fair. We also approved changes to the manual in relation to the Continuing Education Committee’s Virginia Library Leadership Academy (VALLA). We also approved changes to the succession plan for Virginia Libraries Journal.

Jessica asked for a motion to approve the name change from Local History, Genealogy & Oral History Forum to Local & Family History Program. Jeanne Scott moved to accept the name change; Tom Shepley seconded. The motion carried.

The Executive Committee discussed ways to encourage Forum and Committee chairs and co-chairs to remain active within the Association.

**Legislative Update**

Phil Abraham reported. At the 2019 session, we asked for an increase in state aid of $2 million in the second-year budget cycle. The House gave us no additional funding and the Senate gave us $500,000 additional funding. Another big issue was a budget amendment requiring the expedited processing of all the governor’s documents, but this bill died. Two bills went in giving localities the authority to prohibit guns in public libraries. Governor Northam is planning to call a special session by the end of the summer in response to the shooting at Virginia Beach.

Primary elections are next week, with the control of the State Senate and House of Delegates up for grabs this November. Chairs and committees will change, including budget and appropriations.

Tom Shepley and Phil passed out drafts of the Legislative Program Goals for 2020.

1. *Fully Fund State Aid for Public Libraries to improve services in every community across the Commonwealth.*

**VLA proposes that the Commonwealth of Virginia fully fund its State Aid for Public Libraries program as called for in the Code of Virginia. Public libraries provide critical services to the disadvantaged and all Virginians every day.**

FY2021 $5.5 million (based on FY20 numbers)

FY2022 $11 million (based on FY20 numbers)

Virginians visit their public libraries every day, relying on their library to bridge the digital divide, assist their job search, and support early childhood literacy and education initiatives. But there is more that they would do if they had the additional resources called for in the Code of Virginia for supporting State Aid for Public Libraries. Based on local needs, public libraries will be able to improve and expand access to these services to improve the community.

State Aid to Public Libraries has been deeply cut over the past 15 years, declining by over $5 million in constant dollars to a level last seen in FY 1999. State Aid now falls nearly $11 million short of the calculated funding level set forth in section 42.1-48 of the Code of Virginia. This has happened despite the 2001 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study that found the State Aid program to be an effective investment that leverages local spending and achieves cost efficiencies and economies of scale.

1. *Support the Library of Virginia.*

**VLA supports the Library of Virginia’s legislative and budgetary priorities.**

Tom asked for a motion to approve the 2020 Legislative Program Goals. Barbara Ferrara moved; Easter DiGangi seconded. The motion passed.

**VLA Annual Conference**

Katie Kalil reported. The conference planning is going well. The committee chose all of the presenters for the conference at the end of April. Those presenters have been notified and have confirmed their participation and assigned schedule, so we will begin assembling and proofreading the preliminary conference program shortly. Registration should open by the beginning of July, but we will update everyone once that date has been finalized. We’re looking forward to several great events including dine-arounds, several free Wednesday activities including a bicycle tour and a tour of the new Jordan-Newby Anchor Branch library, early morning yoga and group walks, and of course the fantastic 70s social.

Last year conference registration was $180, and this year it will be bumped up to $190. This will help offset the cost of having microphones in all rooms, which is important for accessibility of all members.

**2020 VLA Election – Candidate Statements**

Todd Elliott announced the slate of candidates for the 2020 VLA Elections.

Vice-President/President-Elect

* Joslyn Bowling Dixon, Assistant Director, Prince William Public Library System
* Tom Shepley, Director, Pamunkey Regional Library

Second Vice-President

* Regina S. Carter, Teaching and Learning Librarian, University of Virginia
* Angela K. W. Harvey, Asst. Director for Public Services, UVA-Wise
* Candice Benjes-Small, Head of Research, William & Mary

Treasurer

* Bill Edwards-Bodmer, Suffolk Public Library, Emerging Technologies Librarian
* Diane Rebertus, Director of Library Services, Gloucester Public Library

Councilor

* Maryśka Connolly-Brown, Technical Services Librarian, Hampden-Sydney College
* Lucinda Rush Wittkower, MLIS, MME, Instruction Librarian, Old Dominion University Libraries

Joslyn Bowling Dixon and Tom Shepley gave statements for vice-president/president elect. Angela Harvey gave a statement for Second Vice-President. Bill Edwards-Bodmer gave a statement for Treasurer. Maryśka Connolly-Brown gave a statement for ALA Councilor.

All candidate statements will be available to review on the website. Todd thanked Keith Weimer, past VLA President for helping him put together the slate of candidates.

**Unit Reports**

ALA Councilor’s Report

Samantha Thomason gave the chapter councilor’s report. She attended EDI webinar for ALA Council: “Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion through a Social Justice Lens: The role of the ALA Council Session”.

Conversation focused on following questions:

* In what ways do members of the ALA council now demonstrate commitment to EDI principles and practices?
* What changes in behaviors and mindsets might be needed?
* What norms (standard of behavior) might we put in place for council?
* How can council members hold each other accountable to contributing to a culture of EDI?

Lisa stated that the Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and DC libraries will have a booth at ALA and she will be reaching out for volunteers to both staff the booth and make Virginia is for Library Lovers buttons.

Association of College Research Libraries (VLACRL) Forum (report submitted by Lisa Nickel)

Lisa Nickel reported. Upcoming Event on Wednesday July 17 at VCU: “Project Outcome for Academic Libraries: Data for Impact and Improvement”, 9:30-11:30.

Register Here: <https://forms.gle/CGHPZiZR3RMtc5ph7>

Limit of 50 registrants

Evaluations reported that participants were universally very satisfied that it is a great use of time and money, as well as excellent speakers for the VLACRL spring program in May:

“Libraries, Analytics and Student Privacy” We had 25 participants at Longwood University in Farmville, VA.

VLACRL Summer program announcement:

Please join us in Richmond for the free VLACRL Summer Program, Project Outcomes for Academic Libraries: Data for Impact and Improvement. Project Outcome for Academic Libraries is a free online toolkit designed to help academic libraries assess and communicate the impact of essential library programs and services. Based on the model developed by the Public Library Association (PLA), Project Outcome provides simple surveys and tools for measuring and analyzing outcomes, including interactive data dashboards. Users also have access to the resources and training support needed to use their results and confidently assert the value of their academic library.

No registration fee, 50 participant cap.

Location: 250 Multipurpose Room, James Branch Cabell Library, VCU Libraries

Date and Time: Wednesday, July 17, 9:30 – 11:30

Light refreshments provided courtesy of VCU Libraries

Lunch with the group afterward to carry on the discussion (pay your own way)

Parking: Broad Street Parking Deck (<https://maps.vcu.edu/monroepark/broadstdeck/>) and the Cary Street Parking Deck (<https://maps.vcu.edu/monroepark/carystdeck/index.html>). Each is about 3-4 blocks away.

Register Here: <https://forms.gle/CGHPZiZR3RMtc5ph7>

Awards and Recognition Committee (report submitted by Katelyn Burton)

Katelyn Burton reported. The Awards & Recognition Committee is delighted to announce the winners of the 2019 VLA & VLA PAF awards:

* Academic Innovator Award: Alyssa Archer, Susan Van Patten, and Charley Cosmato of Radford University and Liz Bellamy of William & Mary
* Donna G. Cote Librarian of the Year: Jennifer Brown of Suffolk Public Library
* Friends of the Library Award: Friends of the VCU Libraries
* George Mason Award: Brandy Stevens of MWR Library, Fort Story Public Library
* Innovator Award: Central Rappahannock Regional Library Youth Services
* Trustee Library Award: Dr. Samuel Smart of Central Rappahannock Regional Library
* Up & Comer Award: Alison McCue of Augusta County Library
* PAF Supporter of Professional Associates Award: Linda Schlekau of Fairfax Public Library
* PAF Outstanding Professional Associate: Joy O'Toole of Central Rappahannock Regional Library

All of our winners and nominators have been notified, and we are looking forward to announcing the winners with public press releases in the next few weeks. We know you are eager to congratulate the winners, but please wait until the public notifications have been released.

Many Council members submitted nominations this year, so THANK YOU on behalf of the committee. We were so impressed by our nominees, and we hope you will help us celebrate them on Wednesday evening, October 23, at Hilton Norfolk The Main. Ticket prices for the Awards Celebration include dinner and provide support for the awards, so we hope you will plan to get to Norfolk on Wednesday and kick off the conference in style!

Collection and Technical Services Forum (CaTS) (report submitted by Jessica Robertson)

Jessica Robertson reported. The CaTS group has hosted five successful Learning Lunches so far and we’ll have our 6th one today at Stella’s here in Richmond. We have had 64 catalogers come out to these lunches to network and learn from each other. It has been a delight hearing comments about how excited attendees are that we are doing this smaller, regional program. There have even been comments to each other at the lunches like when one neighboring cataloger said to another, “How do I not know you?” This is what we set out to do, to introduce peers within VLA regions. We consider these lunches a huge success!

We are also excited that our VLA proposal has been accepted, so we will have our Cataloging Forum Thursday, October 24th at 2:30. We hope to continue the conversations from the lunches and share what we’ve learned there too.

Our Collections Management Forum is still set for July 18th at Libbie Mill and we’re working on sending out the details very soon.

We are very informally beginning to think about Co-Chair replacements when Easter moves into the Chair position this fall at the VLA Conference. If you happen to know of willing people, please send their names along to Easter so that she can begin talking with them.

Continuing Education Committee (report submitted by Barbara Ferrara)

Alisha Barnes reported. The Continuing Education Committee continues to prepare for the mini-Presentation Academy. Conference proposal acceptance emails included information about the academy, with registration information. The academy consists of completion of an online module and independent reading, as well as an in-person practice session. So far, we have received seven registrations for two of the three locations we will be offering practice sessions. We hope to send another email promotion later this summer and to promote it not only to conference presenters, but to any member who makes presentations. The first academy will be on August 16th in Christiansburg at the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library. Next we will be at the South Norfolk Library of the Chesapeake Public Library on August 23rd, then on September 13th we will be at the Salem Church Library of Central Rappahannock Regional Library.

The committee’s conference program, Imagine All the People (Living a Literate Life), was accepted and will be presented by Vicki Sanborn of the Literacy Institute at VCU. The topic is adult literacy.

A committee subgroup is working to plan the Virginia Library Leadership Academy (VALLA) for Spring 2020. At the request of the Executive Committee, we created a proposed addition to VLA bylaws describing the purpose and structure of the Leadership Academy. We are also working on a review of other state and regional library leadership programs. We identified potential dates, locations and speakers and are waiting for preliminary cost estimates so we can create a budget. We’re hoping to have all parts of any application package ready to go by VLA conference in October.

Diversity and Inclusion Forum

No report.

Intellectual Freedom Committee (report submitted by Hayley Tompkins)

Hayley Tompkins reported. The Jefferson Madison Regional Library along with the Intellectual Freedom Committee will present “Racism in Children’s Literature: Diversity, Inclusion and Intellectual Freedom”, at VLA annual in the fall. The session will be Friday Oct. 25 at 2:15.

Last time Council met, the Hollins yearbook kerfuffle was breaking while I was away on vacation and I just wanted to thank Lisa and ALA for their statement and letter to Hollins University president for getting that together so quickly.

We welcomed a new member - Wendy Weldon of Prince William County Public Library.

Jefferson Cup Committee

No report.

Library of VA

Cindy Church reported. Cindy thanked VLA Executive Committee for supporting the Library of Virginia at the Virginia State Fair in the amount of $1,000. LVA will be soliciting volunteers to help staff the booth. The Fair runs from September 27 to October 6.

Local & Family History Forum (report submitted by Gregg Grunow)

Gregg Grunow reported.

* A successful Zoom Meeting of the Forum was held on 04/10/2019 with 30 members attending. Many good ideas for the future were shared.
* At the 04/10/2019 meeting it was decided to request from the VLA Executive Committee and Council a change in forum name to the Local and Family History Forum
* The forum is in the process of setting up a business meeting and tour at the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia in August 2019. The date is pending.
* There will be another forum Zoom meeting in July 2019, date to be determined

New Members Roundtable (report submitted by Bill Edwards-Bodmer)

Bill Edwards-Bodmer reported. Planning continues for NMRT Pub Crawl at the annual conference. Anne's panel proposal for annual conference was accepted and she is currently planning and coordinating for it. Mentor program continues to run smoothly.

Professional Associates Forum (report submitted by Jeanne Scott)

Jeanne Scott reported. The latest VLA PAF meeting took place via Zoom on 5/13/19.

Our overall goal is to be successful in our overhaul of the VLA Professional Associates Forum by increasing participation and by providing a successful, meaningful, and rewarding two-day

semi-annual conference starting in the late Spring of 2021.

In order to reach this goal, we realized that we have to approach planning in a different way than what we planned last fall. Realistically, we must slow things down and rework/rethink our proposed regional meeting schedule and carefully craft the way we approach our membership for the best results going forward.

With the new VLA institutional membership model, our potential pool of professional associates

exceeds 3000, which is triple amount of the previous pool, so the potential is there just waiting to be realized.

The consensus of the group is that we need to come up with a great new catchphrase and an

attention grabber to introduce a series of surveys which can be sent out to our members via email.

We do not want to inundate our potential participants with emails, so we settled on a plan to have an initial three question survey to be sent out in June followed by semi-monthly surveys consisting of only one or two questions. The less time consuming, the more responses - at least that’s what we hope.

All surveys will have specific themes and consist of both multiple choice and open-ended questions.

We also want to make sure we use the right terminology when introducing the surveys and

composing the questions since job names and titles for professional associates vary by library

system. The plan is to post the survey results and/or an overview of the results on the VLA PAF

webpage within a week of the survey close date.

We will use online surveys for the remainder of 2019 to gather information then schedule a series of regional focus group meetings to be held in early 2020. Utilizing the results of the surveys and the information gathered from our focus group sessions, we will be better prepared to plan and execute a comeback two-day conference in 2021. From that point forward, we anticipate presenting a two-day conference every other year.

It was also suggested that we make use of VLA Circles through the VLA website. The goal here

would be to encourage our membership to use them to connect with their peers across the

Commonwealth.

We have come up with an introductory text for the surveys that is short, but conveys our message:

Your voice matters! As a Professional Associate, we need your input to help us with

conference planning for the future. If you work in any support role at a public, academic, or special library, please fill out the following survey to help us understand your continuing educational needs. Thank you for your input.

We are still working on a catchphrase. Some suggestions we have so far include:

* Professional Associates: Supporting Library Support Staff
* Professional Associates - Heart of the Team
* VLAPAF- scholarship, training, advancement
* VLAPAF- learn, exchange, connect
* VLAPAF-Networking, Strength & Education
* VLAPAF-Supportive, Enriching & Farsighted
* Professional Associates - Pivotal, Astute, Flexible

Rebranding will also include utilizing whatever new VLA logo is decided upon tailored to VLA PAF.

Top 3 Questions – Use for 1st survey

1. Do you think there is value in connecting with professionals from other library systems?

\_\_ Yes

\_\_ No

Why?

2. What influences why you want to go to a conference?

3. What are the top THREE issues or challenges you are facing in your work that you think are most essential for us to consider at our next conference? (Choose exactly three)

\_\_ Building inclusive and welcoming institutions (e.g. equity, serving diverse populations)

\_\_ Community dialogues/community engagement

\_\_ Responding to patrons in crisis (e.g. homelessness, refugees)

\_\_ Staffing (e.g. hiring, training, management)

\_\_ Partnerships and collaboration

\_\_ Programming examples (e.g. media literacy, digital literacy, STEAM)

\_\_ Responding to popular trends

\_\_ Change management

\_\_ Core library functions (e.g. adult services, youth services, readers advisory)

\_\_ Removing barriers to access (e.g. fines and fees)

\_\_ Technology (e.g. infrastructure, digital content, user services)

\_\_ Facilities management (e.g. space planning, security)

\_\_ Advocacy (e.g. funding, policy, PR)

\_\_ Developing cultural competencies

\_\_ Evaluation and assessment

\_\_ Strategic planning

\_\_ Working with Friends and Foundations

Lisa asked if anyone had any feedback on the survey questions. Lisa Nickel provided input from a survey VLACRL sent out last year. Easter DiGangi brought up the Membership Committee, which was set aside this year with the changes to affiliate membership. Moving forward, Council can look for ways to engage the new affiliate members.

Scholarship Committee (report submitted by Michael Hibben)

Adrian Whicker read the report. The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce this year’s VLA Scholarship winners. The 2019 Clara Stanley Scholarship winner is Lori Rice, a Library Associate with the Culpeper County Library. The two VLA Scholarship winners are Tyesha Evans who works in Youth Services at the Richmond Public Library, and Emily Metrock who leads the Children’s Department at the Salem Public Library. The winners should be announced soon and all will be recognized at the VLA Conference Scholarship Dinner.

As the VLA Conference is a little over four months away, the Scholarship Committee would like to remind Council about our Scholarship Basket Raffle. We hope that all Committees will consider creating a basket to help raise money for the scholarship. We had many comments from attendees at last year’s VLA Conference that the baskets were of much higher quality than previous years. A number of our committees created fantastic baskets in 2018 and attendees took note. We’ll also be regularly sending out Scholarship Basket ideas throughout the summer over VLA’s social media, so if you need some inspiration for your basket, be on the lookout for those posts.

Virginia Association of Law Libraries (VALL)

Amy Harrison reported. Amy is taking over from Terry Long as liaison to VALL. This role is here to report any services that might apply to public and academic libraries. VALL had their spring meeting last month. They discussed Blockchain technologies and dealing with colleagues and patrons who are resistant to change, such as using a database for research. Amy will share programs that may be open to the rest of VLA as they arise.

Virginia Libraries Journal

Barbara Ferrara reported. The Virginia Libraries journal has undergone changes to include peer review of some article types, and an evolving online publication and distribution platform, as well as communication methods for publicity and author support. This level of publication requires training and experience to manage. Therefore, the Editor in Chief position would benefit from a succession plan structure where a new Editor in Chief is appointed each year and begins a gradually increasing level of responsibility through a 3-year term comprised of: 1 year as Assistant Editor, 1 year as Managing Editor, and 1 year as Editor in Chief. This plan includes the option for the Editor in Chief to continue their term for an additional term, or for 1 or more additional years.

Jessica Scalph has appointed Cori Biddle the incoming Editor in Chief.

VLA Liaison to VAASL Board of Directors (report submitted by Kelly Miller)

*Annual Conference*

2019 conference theme: Library Fusion

Dates: November 7 -9

Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center

Thursday General Session: Gina Seymour

Thursday Evening: Mr. Schu

Friday General Session: Dr. Chris Harris

Friday Awards Banquet: Candace Fleming

Saturday Breakfast: Rafael Lopez, Sandhya Menon and Allan Wolf

The conference is accepting proposals for concurrent sessions until July 1.

Additional information and proposal submissions are on the conference website: <https://www.vaasl.org/annual-conference>

Registration is now open at: <https://conferencesolutionsllc.com/meeting_participants/register?meeting_id=142>

*AASL Grant*

VAASL received the AASL Past-Presidents Planning Grant for National School Library Standards. The grant money will be used for summer professional development.

* Summer Standards Splash – Dive into the Deep End!
	+ July 9, 2019; 9 am -3 pm, William Byrd Middle School, Vinton, VA
* ODU Library Summer Institute – Focus on the Diversity and the AASL Standard Include
	+ July 16-17, 2019; 8;30am -4:30 pm

*National Conferences and Activities*

AASL

The AASL conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky November 14-16, 2019.

*Committees*

Membership

In effort to increase membership, VAASL has a new “I AM VAASL campaign”. This includes creation of a new logo for our membership campaign and using a video creation tool for members to respond to “how does “I AM VAASL” describe you. We will also create a new membership promo video.

The next VAASL Board Meeting is September 29, 2019.

Website Content Committee

No report.

Youth Services Forum

Cammy Koch reported. Erica and Cammy met last month with regional representatives and they agreed to start working on offering webinars to members across the state. More progress will happen after Summer Reading is finished.

**Other Business**

VALLA language for the manual

Continuing Education Committee updated the manual bylaws in regards to VALLA. The proposed resolution can be found here: <https://www.vla.org/assets/VALLA%20Resolution%20June%202019.docx>

Jessica Scalph asked for a motion to approve the VALLA Resolution document with the clarification wording struck. Tom Shepley moved; Jeanne Scott seconded.

**Adjournment**

Todd Elliott moved to adjourn, and Adrian Whicker seconded at 11:59 am.

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*Minutes prepared by Kayla Payne, VLA Secretary*