

Director's Report

January 13 – February 9, 2026

HVAC Renovation Project

FS-10 forms have been completed and submitted to NLS for reviews and then sent to the New York State Education Department to receive 90% of the Construction Aid applied for.

Once the Change Orders have been approved and work completed by Lane Associates and Palace Electric the **FS-10-F** forms will be completed and sent to NLS for review and forwarded to the NYS Education Department for the final 10% of Construction Aid.

New Library Building

- Library Attorney Tom Volz opined that the Library would not have to relinquish ownership of the library building in order to have the school district put out a bond issue. Tom is aware of situations in which school district ownership of the building allowed State Education Department Office of Facilities planning to take jurisdiction of the project, rather than the local building department. That came about because the Office of Facilities Planning stopped taking jurisdiction of library buildings owned by the library even when that library was a school district public library.
- As for zoning and/or parking lot restrictions, Tom would expect the architect the library retains to be aware of those issues based upon the applicable building code (in the case of a library owned by the library, the town code), and to develop plans and specs in conformance with any such restrictions. Tom can certainly work with us to consider those issues in conjunction with our architect.
- Town of Hempstead – I have contacted TOH Councilman Chris Schneider's Office Parking, height restrictions, other issues.

Plant and Facilities

Back Office: The coordinated work by Kropp Associates and R&D Carpet, Inc. for the Back Office furniture move and carpet installation has been postponed from Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026 till another date, possibly on Good Friday, April 3, 2026.

Upstairs Office: Roland Electric will provide a quote for the electrical work needed. The point person I was working with at Roland has moved onto another company & I will be meeting with the new manager next week.

Other:

- I was in touch with TOH Council member Chris Schneider's office to ask that snow plowing not impact the Handicapped Parking spots. The TOH did relocate the snow to make those spots accessible. Also, the crosswalk on Jackson Avenue will be repainted once the weather conditions allow.

- Bob Lahey worked on a window area in the Children’s Department (immediately behind the Staff desk) on February 2, 2026 to mitigate the cold air blowing onto the staff.

Minimum Standards

The New York State Board of Regents is considering amending Regulation 90.2 (minimum standards) at their March meeting to make specific policies required:

- (i) external policies related to:
 - (a) the selection of library materials and reconsideration of such selection;
 - (b) public usage of library space and meeting rooms;
 - (c) codes of conduct; and
 - (d) confidentiality of library records; and
- (ii) internal library policies related to:
 - (a) personnel policies that ensure consistent staff management and fair employment practices;
 - (b) disaster preparedness; and
 - (c) financial control policies that fulfill the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of the governing body and promote fiscal oversight, accountability, and sustainable management.

Should the Regents adopt the amendments, libraries will need to have these board-approved policies by January 1, 2027.

Seaford Library 2026-2027 Budgets

Business Manager Amy Law and Assistant Director Ida Zaharopoulos have been working with me on the 2026-2027 Operating and Personnel Budgets.

New York State 2026-2027 Budget

Governor Hochul’s Executive Budget proposal was released Jan 20, 2026:

- Operating Aid \$104.7 million (cut from \$106.325 million)
- Construction Aid \$34 million (cut from \$44 million)
- NOVELny \$3 million (flat)
- Office of Cultural Ed Fund \$12 million (NEW)

Meetings with our legislators are being planned by the MLD Funding Advocacy Committee for early and mid-March.

Advocacy Day

I attended Pre-advocacy workshops and Advocacy Days appointments with legislators in Albany on Feb. 2 & 3rd, 2026. The meetings attended were with State Senator Steven Rhoads, Senator Siela Bynoe (Senate Library Committee Chair) and Assemblyman John Mikulin. Assemblyman David McDonough was unavailable. The Rally in the Well was extremely well attended. NYLA and LILRC coordinated the events and scheduling of appointments.

Catherine A. Cincotta

Long-time staff member – Cathy Cincotta, recently retired Head of Circulation Services, passed away on Feb. 1, 2026. Cathy was a beloved and dedicated member of the staff and is dearly missed by staff, Board and the whole Seaford community.

Meetings & Events

- Book Discussion “1775” by Kevin Philips – January 13, 2026
- MLD Continuing Education Program – “Leadership During Difficult Times” by David Hymowitz, NLS January 14, 2026
- MLD General Meeting – January 21, 2026
- “ Executive Board Meeting – February 4, 2026
- NCLA IFC Meeting (virtual) January 27, 2026
- Advocacy Prep Session – January 28, 2026
- Pre- & Advocacy Days – Albany, Feb. 2 & 3, 2026

Respectfully submitted by Frank McKenna, Director