

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: PEEL Advisory Committee (by Sue Jackson)
Date: February 6, 2006
Re: Recommendation for PEEL Library Stipend Program

The 2003 Professional Education and Employment for Librarians (PEEL) grant includes the PEEL Library Stipend Program. This program has two \$30,000 stipends available for public, public school, or tribal libraries through a competitive application process to be used to fund a new professional level librarian position for two years. Libraries receiving stipends must contribute one-half of the salary for the initial two years and make every effort to sustain the position following the grant period. Application deadline for the stipends was December 15, 2005.

The PEEL Advisory Committee received three applications for the two stipends:

Bitterroot Public Library (Hamilton) for a children/youth librarian
Eureka Elementary School for a full-time K-8 librarian
Helena School District for a full-time K-5 librarian for Jim Darcy School

The Committee met by telephone on January 19, 2006, to consider the three applications. During the review and discussion of the proposals, the Committee was interested in details about the need for the position, what additional services it would make possible, how the match amount would be met, the level of support the proposal received from the library's administrators/funders, and the plans for continuing the position after the initial two years. At the conclusion of the discussion of each proposal, the Committee voted to take the following actions:

1. To remove the Eureka Elementary School application from further consideration; and
2. To request additional information/documentation on funding sources and sustainability plans from both the Bitterroot Public Library and Helena School District.

Gloria Langstaff (Hamilton) and Suzi Watne (Helena) were contacted by phone on January 23 and asked to respond to the Committee's request for additional information. This information was received on January 30 and presented to the Committee by email on January 31. Through email discussion, it was moved and seconded by the Committee to recommend both proposals to receive PEEL stipends of \$30,000 each. Eight Committee members voted yes to this motion. Two members did not respond to the email motion and vote.

Therefore, the PEEL Advisory Committee respectfully recommends that the State Library Commission award \$30,000 from the PEEL Library Stipend Program to both Bitterroot Public Library and Helena School District.