

Possible Governance Model with Board Membership Based on Legislative Nominations

Concept

Each elected member of the Minnesota Legislature, Representative and Senator, would nominate 2-3 individuals for consideration as a member of the SELCO Board of Directors. A standing Board Membership-Nomination Committee, appointed annually by the President would then review the nomination and recommend a balanced, cross section of regional residents for board membership with one SELCO Board member per legislative district. The Board Membership-Nomination Committee would consider a variety of factors when reviewing each legislative recommendation. Examples of possible determining factors may include gender balance, ethnic representation, as well as a diverse range of skills and expertise.

All appointments would initially occur in the first year of a new governance model for a merged SELCO and SELS. New members would draw lots for staggered terms of 1-year, 2-years, or 3-years. With the exception of this first rotation, all future terms would be for 3-years.

If a legislator is unseated or resigns, his or her appointee would continue until the end of a current term on the SELCO Board of Directors and the newly elected legislator would then make a recommendation for replacement.

Board Size

Number of Board Members: 22

Senators: 8

Representatives: 14

Legislators would be eligible to make nominations for membership on the SELCO Board of Directors if a majority of their constituency resides within SELCO regional boundaries or if their district includes a city with a public library that is a SELCO member, such as Cannon Falls.

For example: Senator Thomas Neuville (25) and Representative David Bly (25B) would be eligible to make nominations but Representative Laura Brod (25A) from New Prague could not nominate.

While Board size may fluctuate slightly with each legislative re-districting every ten years, the total size of the Board would remain manageable as the state constitution dictates the maximum membership of the House and Senate. Legislative districts, as represented by both Senate and House seats, are roughly equal thereby ensuring equitable representation of the population by each SELCO Board member. This will eliminate the disproportionate representation that exists with the current board makeup.

For example: Freeborn County has a population of 31,997 and one SELCO/SELS Board member. Fillmore County has a population of 22,484 and has seven appointees to the SELCO/SELS Board of Directors.

Representation of a Greater Audience

Legislators understand they represent a broad based constituency with their districts, sometimes even serving more than one community. Concerning libraries, legislators are generally aware that there is more than one library or even one type of library within their districts. The individuals nominated for regional library board membership may thereby have

greater chance of understanding that they represent all of the libraries within the legislative district. This may help eliminate the confusion that a board member is appointed by a single public library but then called upon to represent all of the libraries in the community at the regional board level (with community loosely defined).

For example: While Rep. Kim Norton's 29B district is located almost completely within Rochester, the other half of the district, 29A, Rep. Randy Demmer's district, includes part of Rochester, as well as the communities of Byron, Dodge Center, Hayfield, and West Concord, all of which have SELCO and SELS members.

Legislators are well connected within their districts. They have personal contacts and also work closely with constituents who serve on campaign committees, as well as other elected officials and community members.

Funding

Based on the most recent SELCO and SELS FY 2007 audits, SELCO received 49% of its funding in direct state aid from legislative appropriations and another 3% in Federal grants administered by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). During the past five years, state funding has consistently constituted the majority of SELCO funds and this will continue in the future. Ninety-nine percent of SELS operating funds follow this same state funding stream.

SELCO Fiscal Year	State	Federal	Total
2007	49%	3%	52%
2006	52%	2%	54%
2005	53%	1%	54%
2004	49%	2%	51%
2003	46%	11%	57%

Multitype activities are exclusively covered by state funds through an operating grant from a legislative appropriation and competitive grant funds administered by MDE.

SELS Fiscal Year	State	Federal	Total
2007	55%	44%	99%
2006	64%	36%	100%
2005	54%	46%	100%
2004	82%	18%	100%
2003	47%	53%	100%

Meetings and Officers

The corporation would continue to hold monthly meetings but with attendance by the entire board. This will enable a group of individuals residing throughout the region an opportunity to develop closer personal and professional relationships.

Elected officers of the corporation will include a President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer, although the Board may choose to divide the duties of Secretary/Treasurer into two elected positions. Other governance issues, such as whether to create committees, the number or type of committee would be determined as part of other merger discussions.

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