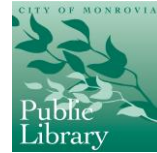




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services
Library Division

MEETING DATE: September 23, 2021

PREPARED BY: Anush Balayan, Librarian

AGENDA LOCATION: AR-1

TITLE: 2020-21 Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Evaluation

OBJECTIVE: To provide the Library Board with the annual evaluation of the 2020-21 Teen Advisory Board.

BACKGROUND: The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) was formed in June 2009 for sixth through twelfth grade teens to plan events for themselves and their peers at the Library, offer volunteer opportunities, and make suggestions for purchasing materials for the young adult collection. TAB members get involved in the community by assisting with City events, and are able to establish relationships with other teens as well as with adult role models.

Library staff emphasizes the importance of creating a library environment that serves teens from diverse backgrounds, and the rich diversity of TAB enables a wider range of voices to be heard. Staff rely on teen feedback to design programs and purchase collection materials that appeal to teens throughout the community. The TAB program encourages lifelong library users and fosters a sense of empowerment and teamwork amongst teens via their suggestions for programs and services, further connecting teens with the Library and with the community.

ANALYSIS: TAB membership includes teens from all walks of life and from different schools in the area served by the Library. Local schools include Monrovia High School, Santa Fe Middle School, Clifton Middle School, and area private schools, in addition to home schools. However, TAB membership also appeals to teens from neighboring communities, including teens attending school in Duarte, Arcadia, Pasadena, and throughout the San Gabriel Valley. Membership is open to all teens in sixth through twelfth grade. To join, teens must fill out an application and waiver, and both documents must be signed by their parent or guardian. The waiver is a formal document approved by the City of Monrovia, asking for emergency medical information and photo release approval, and is kept on file for one year. At the end of the school year, teens interested in continuing their TAB membership submit a new application with updated contact information.

The following information is an overview of the 2020-21 TAB program:

- 1. Members:** TAB membership included 146 teen members from June 2020 through May 2021. The 2020-21 school year fell entirely within the timeframe of Covid-19 related school closures and limited library operations. TAB members were not required to submit new TAB applications, and memberships were retained from the previous year. However, 37 lapsed memberships from the 2018-19 school year, were taken out of the 2020-21 TAB roster. Those included teens who did not participated in TAB meetings or other TAB activities. A total of 8 new members joined TAB during this school year. The unusual circumstances of the pandemic led to some changes in the TAB membership demographic in the 2020-21 school year. Close to 27% of TAB members were in 7th grade during the 2019-20 school year. This

AR-1

year, TAB membership shifted to 8th and 10th graders being 28 and 27% of TAB members respectively. Middle school representation in TAB, which stayed consistently at 60% over the previous three years changed to 48% in 2020-21 school year. The more even split is a result of decreased recruitment opportunities for 6th graders, but it also meant that many middle school students stayed in TAB and participated in meetings as they transitioned into high school. TAB members played a role in recruiting new members through word-of-mouth and school-wide messages on their virtual learning platforms.

The following is a comparison of each school's student representation over a three year period.

TAB Membership by School			
School	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Clifton Middle School	41	58	45
Santa Fe Middle School	10	18	11
Monrovia High School	37	47	53
Monrovia Charter Schools	N/A	N/A	2
Arcadia Public and Charter Schools	7	15	10
Private Schools	9	19	9
Home Schools	3	2	2
Duarte Schools	6	9	5
Pasadena Schools	N/A	7	N/A
Other	11	18	9

The following information is a comparison of grade level enrollment over a three-year period.

TAB Membership by Grade			
Grade	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Grade 6	14	28	1
Grade 7	31	48	28
Grade 8	24	27	42
Grade 9	26	32	20
Grade 10	11	19	40
Grade 11	11	14	13
Grade 12	7	4	2
Total TAB Members	124	172	146

- TAB Council:** There were no elections held in 2020. TAB officers from the previous year continued holding on to their posts, with limited responsibilities. Typically, elections are held in April to vote for TAB Council Officers for a term of one year. The 2019-20 and 2020-21 TAB Council included the positions High School President, Vice President, Secretary, Middle School President, Director of Volunteers, and Director of Programs. TAB Officers normally lead each monthly meeting, under supervision of the TAB supervising librarian, but virtual TAB meetings this year were held by the TAB librarian. TAB Officers continued taking a more active role in planning and implementing programs for teens. They planned a virtual movie screening, a jewelry-making workshop, and the migration of virtual programs to Discord.
- Programs:** TAB planned and participated in several virtual events in the 2020-21 school year. Most programs took place monthly after TAB meetings. Teens organized a virtual movie screening and a Just Dance program through Zoom and Discord. Virtual platforms presented some challenges in hosting programs, particularly ones that included streaming videos. Craft programs were more popular with teens. One of the TAB officers organized and led a jewelry-making program on Discord. Teens got

together in February to make crepe paper flowers. The opening of library's curbside service allowed teens to pick up materials for virtual programs.

4. **Projects:** Members volunteered their time to represent TAB at Library Board meetings. TAB also played a role in suggesting and planning teen programs, such as the jewelry making and movie screening programs. Throughout the entirety of the school year, teens contributed material for the TAB website, such as book reviews, craft and recipe suggestions, and art. TAB members also played an instrumental role in setting up the new Discord server for TAB activities. Discord allows TAB members to share ideas, ask questions, and meet virtually for programs.
5. **Collaboration:** TAB partnered with the Recreation Division's Youth Commission on creating an Arbor Day video with an introduction to trees in Library Park. Although not many collaboration opportunities were available to TAB during the 2020-21 year, TAB members are excited to resume activities this year.
6. **Volunteer Hours:** Last year, TAB members volunteered a total of 310 hours, a significant decrease from 1,781 hours the previous year. Notably, Summer Reading Program volunteer hours were unavailable this year, which constitutes a significant portion of teen volunteer hours at the library. TAB support was also unnecessary for youth programs, which were held virtually and asynchronously. The main TAB volunteer hours included attending TAB meetings, contributing content for the TAB website, and representing TAB at library board meetings.
7. **Outcomes:** The Covid-19 pandemic and migration to virtual instruction and library services impacted teens at the library. Teen feedback throughout the years has pointed to the significance of TAB playing a role in the community and the library. Although many programs and citywide activities resumed in a virtual format, absent were most opportunities for teens to contribute in-person. However, TAB membership did not decline significantly, and neither did participation in TAB meetings. During this period, TAB was an essential connection for teens to the library, as it has always been. TAB members attended virtual meetings consistently, and were more vocal and engaged during meetings, sharing with one another their school struggles, hobbies, and activities they did with their families. TAB members suggested and planned programs with a renewed energy, since most had more free time than they did before the pandemic. Since the pandemic interrupted the social components of our everyday lives, TAB was even more crucial in maintaining this connection between teens, ensuring that the library maintained a welcoming and familiar environment for teens through the changes and challenges brought on by the pandemic.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: There is no environmental impact associated with this program.

FISCAL IMPACT: During the fiscal year of 2020-21, TAB members contributed 310 volunteer hours to the Library. Based upon a Library Aide wage of \$14.07 per hour, this volunteer support saved the Library \$4,362. The TAB program is funded entirely by donations from the Friends of the Monrovia Public Library, although during this period no funds were spent on TAB activities.

PROGRAM COMMENTS:

1. TAB remains an engaging program designed to highlight the voices of teens within the community and promote active teen contributions to the Monrovia Public Library.
2. TAB continued serving teens in the community by connecting teens to the library and remaining a vital source of library and community information for teens and their families.

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Staff recommends increasing outreach opportunities to Clifton and Santa Fe middle schools to increase the number of middle school participants in TAB.

2. Staff recommends renewed recognition incentives for TAB participation and engagement, such as volunteer of the year awards.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Library Board move *to receive and file AR-1 2020-21 Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Evaluation Report*.

LIBRARY BOARD ACTION Required: If the Library Board concurs, the appropriate action would be a motion: ***Receive and file report AR-1 2020-21 Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Evaluation Report.***

AR-1