Explanation of Construction Funds Allocation

MHLS member libraries have reported a need of over $73 million for construction, expansion and renovation. Usually there is a statewide pool of just $800,000 to be divided up amongst all 23 public library systems resulting in about $29,700 for MHLS.

This year the MHLS member libraries have access to over $550,000 in public library construction funds through NYS: Our normal pool of $29,700 and a special pot of $521,041 due to the passage of a $14 million NYS Dormitory Authority bond to be used for public library construction aid this year.

The Incentives Committee of the MHLS Board was tasked with awarding the grant funds.

To do this as fairly as possible, the committee devised priorities and a ranking system:

1) Elimination of those applications that did not meet the committee's criteria of
    a. Increase in services
    b. Increase in access
    c. Energy conservation in the context of a professional's recommendations or with an historic preservation element
2) Ranked remaining applications on a 1-2-3 scale (1 = highest priority)
3) Divided up the available grants funds using a percentage-based formula applied to the rankings