MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Date : May 1, 2014

Time : 10:00 A.M.

Place : Holyoke Public Library

Holyoke, Massachusetts

Present : Francis R. Murphy, Chairman; Mary Rose Quinn, Vice Chairman; Gregory J. Shesko, Secretary; Carol B. Caro; George T. Comeau; Mary Ann Cluggish; Mary Kronholm; N. Janeen Resnick; Alice M. Welch

Absent : None

**Staff Present:**

Dianne Carty, Acting Director; Liz Babbitt, State Aid Specialist; Celeste Bruno, Communications Specialist; Marlene Heroux, Reference Information Systems Specialist; Paul Kissman, Library Information Systems Specialist; William Morton, Assistant to the Director; Cynthia Roach, Head of Library Advisory and Development/Government Liaison; Lauren Stara, Library Construction Specialist; Rosemary Waltos, Library Construction Specialist

**Observers Present:**

Anna Fahey-Flynn, Collaborative Library Services Manager, Boston Public Library; Em Claire Knowles, Assistant Dean for Student Services, The Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College; Joan Kuklinski, Executive Director, C/W MARS; Maria Pagan, Director, Holyoke Public Library; Gregory Pronevitz, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System

**Call to Order**

Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed the attendees. He recognized Holyoke Public Library Director Maria Pagan who welcomed the Board to Holyoke and the library. Ms. Pagan thanked the Commissioners for the grant under the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program for the renovation and new addition to the library. She stated that the library has become a true multigenerational community center. The meeting room is booked constantly, teenagers are returning to the library, and the elementary students from the nearby school regard the library as “their” library. She invited the Commissioners to tour the library following their meeting.

Chairman Murphy noted that he attended the Holyoke groundbreaking in November 2011 and the dedication in November 2013, which, he stated, were both wonderful bicultural and bilingual events coordinated by Director Pagan.

**Approval of Minutes – April 3, 2014**

Commissioner Caro moved and Commissioner Comeau seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approve the minutes for the monthly business meeting of April 3, 2014.

**The Board voted approval.**

**Approval of Minutes – April 15, 2014**

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Resnick seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approve the minutes for the special meeting of April 15.

**The Board voted approval.**

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Chairman Murphy relayed that, on April 16, 2014, he attended MLS-sponsored all day session on new library initiatives: Bending Boundaries: Libraries as Publishers at the DCU Center in Worcester. He said the program was quite informative for any library entertaining the idea of offering self-publishing.

He also attended and spoke at the formal opening of the renovated Fogg Library in South Weymouth on April 28, 2014. Chairman Murphy stated this was a special event for him because former Commissioner Vicki Kaufman is now a Trustee in Weymouth and was actively involved. He noted that the event, coordinated by Director Rob MacLean, was well-attended and included a speech by Weymouth Mayor Susan Kay.

**ACTING DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Acting Director Carty reported that, on April 4, 2014, a Network Planning Retreat coordinated by MBLC staff members Paul Kissman and Cynthia Roach was held at the Minuteman Library Network offices in Natick. The retreat was facilitated by Ruth Kowal. Acting Director Carty stated that Mr. Kissman will repeat the summary presentation he made at the retreat for the Commissioners later in today’s meeting.

Acting Director Carty relayed that Cynthia Roach and she, along with Commissioners Cluggish and Quinn and other representatives from the Massachusetts library community, will be attending ALA’s National Legislative Day in Washington D.C. from May 4 to 6, 2014. She noted that they have appointments with 11 aides or other staff. Acting Director Carty stated that she will stay an additional day to attend the full-day meeting of Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA).

Acting Director Carty stated that that the MBLC will repeat the “Meet and Greet” program that it did at last year’s MLA conference. This year it is slated for Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Acting Director Carty provided the following construction program update:

**Bond Hearing.** Commissioner Cluggish provided testimony to the Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets hearing. The Chair of the Committee, Senator Joyce, spoke favorably of libraries and the MPLCP’s $150 million request.

**Edgartown.** The official ground breaking ceremony for the new Edgartown Public Library was cancelled.

**Hopkinton.** Hopkinton town officials, library personnel and MPLCP team members met with Senator Spilka in her office to discuss the funding status of the Hopkinton Public Library Project. The Hopkinton PL will be going to spring town meeting for approval to seek a debt exclusion to fund its $10.5M library addition/renovation project. All present were confident of a favorable outcome.

**Library Journal Design Institute.** The Institute, which is being hosted by the Boston Public Library and the MBLC, will be held on December 5, 2014 at the BPL. This daylong seminar will invite librarians, architects, and capital improvement and facilities managers from across New England together to discuss library facilities and how to improve them going forward in the 21st century.

Acting Director Carty reported that Shelley Quezada continues to meet on the ASOS (Afterschool and Out of School Time) Coordinating Council which has been convened by Representative Benson of Lunenberg and Senator McGee of Lynn. There have been monthly meetings with either the full committee or the subcommittee that is looking at community partnerships. This work is ongoing, and the committee expects to make a report to the full Legislature sometime this summer that should project new funding for afterschool programs.

Also, Ms. Quezada will be co-presenting with Beth Fredericks from the Boston Children’s Museum on the Collaboration between Libraries and Museums in support of science education on May 22, 2014 in Sturbridge. This is for the first STEM Conference offered by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. They will be presenting twice that day because of high demand.

Acting Director Carty relayed that Gregor Trinkaus-Randall will be chairing and presenting “Response and Recovery Efforts after Disasters” at An International Conference on Disaster Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Sustainable Reconstruction: The Role of Architectural, Planning, and Engineering Education being held on May 8-9, 2014 at UMASS Boston.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Cynthia Roach, Head of Library Advisory and Development and Government Liaison, reported that Massachusetts real gross domestic product grew at an estimated annual rate of 2.6 percent in the first quarter of 2014 according to the MassBenchmarks Current Economic Index, released on May 1, 2014. MassBenchmarks is the journal of the Massachusetts economy published by the UMass Donahue Institute in collaboration with the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. In contrast, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, national real gross domestic product grew at an annual rate of 0.1 percent, according to the preliminary estimate of the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. In the fourth quarter of last year Massachusetts real GDP grew at a revised 4.4 percent annual rate as compared to a 2.6 percent rate for the U.S.

Ms. Roach relayed that the MassBenchmarks Leading Economic Index for March was 4.1 percent, and the three-month average for January through March was 4.4 percent. The leading index is a forecast of the growth in the current index over the next six months, expressed at an annual rate. Thus, it indicates that the state economy is expected to grow at an annualized rate of 4.1 percent over the next six months (through September 2014).

Ms. Roach mentioned that the Senate budget will be released the second week in May.

**MARKETING PLAN UPDATE**

In her report, Communications Specialist Celeste Bruno focused on the new construction video. Ms. Bruno worked with MBLC Building Specialists Lauren Stara and Rosemary Waltos, former MBLC Director Robert Maier and current MBLC Acting Director Dianne Carty to come up with a “wish list” of what should be included in a video that highlights the Massachusetts Public Library Construction program. This group came up with a list four pages long—too much to include in a five-minute video.

Ms. Bruno stated that she tightened the “wish list” by focusing on how the video could be used. The goal was to create a video that libraries could use with local officials and their local community to gain support for their own project; it also needed to appeal to state officials.

Ms. Bruno worked with Buyer Advertising to film in the following libraries: East Boston, Holyoke, Granby, Westwood, Millis, and South Hadley. These libraries were selected because they represented different types of communities that have successfully completed or have nearly completed projects. They demonstrate that a successful library building project can occur in every community. At the end of the video, there is a name roll of all libraries that completed projects which also helps illustrate this point.

She stated that the question is often asked, “Are bigger libraries necessary?” The video answers that question by highlighting how heavily libraries are being used with a particular focus on technology and computer-use in libraries. Need is also demonstrated through footage of the Woburn Public Library and the East Forest Branch of Springfield City Library. In both locations lack of space and no accessibility for individuals with disabilities are major issues. The footage of the Woburn Public Library, which is over 100 years old, also shows how many of the older buildings are in need of repair.

Ms. Bruno stated that the goal of the video is to make a community feel as though it can accomplish a project. Its tone is upbeat and conveys hope and opportunity.

**CONSIDERATION OF A REVISION TO THE FY2014 LSTA PLAN OF SERVICE AND BUDGET**

Cynthia Roach noted that the “At a Glance” chart shows proposed revisions for the FY2015 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) direct grant program budget. She relayed that the adjustments to the budget are based on the receipt of fifty (50) applications by the deadline date of April 11, 2014.

The Total revised LSTA budget for the FY2015 grant round, including year 1 and year 2 payments is $671,174. In November, the Board approved an $814,400 ceiling budget for the grand round. This revised program and budget reduces the grant ceiling budget by $143,226.

In FY2015, the agency has second year payments from the 2014 grant round of $261,450. This makes the total amount requested for the FY2015 Grant Round $932,624.

Ms Roach reported that the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has informed the agency that the MBLC allocation for Federal Fiscal Year 2014 funds is $3,114,756, an increase of $52,000 over the 2013 allotment.

She informed the Commissioners that the State Advisory Council on Libraries (SACL) approved this revised Program and Budget for the FY2015 grant round at its meeting on April 17, 2014. SACL will be meeting on Tuesday May 20, 2014 to review the grant applications.

Commissioner Caro moved and Commissioner Shesko seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approve the revised FY2015 Library Services and Technology Act Grant Round Program and Budget in the amount of $932,624 as detailed in the accompanying documentation.

**The Board voted approval.**

**REVIEW OF OVERALL MBLC SUPPORT FOR AUTOMATED NETWORKS**

Paul Kissman, Library Information Systems Specialist, presented a summary PowerPoint report from the Network Planning Retreat entitled, MBLC Support for Automated Networks.

**MBLC Planning Assumptions**

* MBLC will continue to support automated networks at least at current levels.
* Adjustments in programs and grants needed.
* MBLC will help small public libraries participate in networks.
* Small Libraries Task Force
* MBLC must become more pro-active and nimble in providing network support.

Mr. Kissman then delineated 7000-9506 State Funding to Networks from FY2001 through FY2014.

**Network Operating Income**

* FY2012 - MBLC ongoing support for networks: $1,671,355
* FY2012 Total Network Operating Income: $11,735,697

**Total LSTA Funding over the Last 20 Years (approx.):**

* $12.4 Million
* $1.4M per Network/$33K per Library
* $69K per Network per Year / $1650 per Library per Year

**April 2014 Network Retreat: Why Did We Convene a Meeting?**

* LSTA Funding -The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and MBLC need outcomes showing improvements in people's lives.
* We all need to be able to tell the network story better.
* Times Change, and so do Networks
* Services and infrastructure evolve.
* To identify any historical inequities in how funds have been allocated
* To see where MBLC funding mechanisms no longer fit well

**LSTA / Capital Grant Issues**

* Network Connections and Servers

*Implemented when MBLC lost almost all state (9506) funds in 2003, as a sort of stop-gap. Replaces switches, routers, servers and related equipment.*

* Equipment replacement grants don't bring any new services to staff or patrons.
  + It is very hard to show outcomes or meaningful output measures.
* LSTA grants require formal procurements for goods and services.
* Challenges longstanding relationship with network infrastructure providers.
* The Statewide Advisory Council for Libraries (SACL) would like to see alternative network support mechanisms.
* Network System Upgrades (retired for 10 years)

*Complete migration to a new library system. Startup costs, equipment, new software licenses.*

* Insufficient LSTA funds in direct grant program to support full ILS migrations
* Traditional One-Time Capital Upgrades vs. Ongoing License
* Locally Hosted / Software as a Service / Cloud / Open Source ILS
* How do we define eligible core services today?
* Does resource sharing remain the primary justification?
* What is the import of the three-network MassLNC Evergreen project?

**State Telecommunications Support Issues (9506)**

* Some networks include public Internet access; others don't.
* Some networks (can) apply for federal E-Rate offsets : others can't; it may not be cost effective.
* Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) non-compliance
* Public Internet services on network lines makes a library's connection for E-Rate ineligible.
* E-Rate telecomm must be from a Common Carrier not just an ISP.
* Network technology planning requirement under E-Rate has been removed.
* Should MBLC reinstate to ensure good planning?
* Should MBLC contribute more to keep C/W Mars and CLAMS on the state sponsored fiber networks (MassBroadband 123 in Western Mass. and OpenCape)?
* Telecomm Awards to networks are based on their Requests, not on Need.
* Allows for local control, but inherently inequitable
* The incredibly expensive small library connection
* Resolved

**State Resource Sharing Program Support Issues (9506)**

* Currently, annual network maintenance for the statewide Virtual Catalog is fully-offset.
* How should we help networks and other participants in the new Commonwealth Catalog (next generation Virtual Catalog)?
* Some networks have left the Virtual Catalog.
* Funding formula partially based on total count of bibliographic records.
* How do we fairly count e-resources that have no traditional holdings, but can be quite large in number?
* How does MBLC support ongoing costs for Statewide Discovery / a possible Statewide Library Card or other Inter-network infrastructure related to resource sharing?

**Small Libraries in Networks Programs (LSTA and 9506)**

* A Board priority to have all public libraries participate in networks
* Small Libraries Task Force working
* Split between federal and state accounts, only because that's where the funding could be found.
* Two parallel grant programs should be merged into one.
* Many small public libraries (communities under 10,000) that became network members before the program are not benefiting.
* Some municipalities have grown too large to be considered small.
* Grant award formula should take into account municipal needs, not just a simple population threshold.
* Very small libraries cannot manage full membership.
* Consider startup costs and other impediments as well as ongoing costs.

**Next Steps**

* Share Results from April retreat with Networks.
* Make no significant changes in the FY15 state grant round.
* Pay attention to both network and member library budget cycles.
* Allocate any additional funds that may become available through in 9506 in September.
* Build scenarios and possible changes for a fall 2014 discussion.
* New and amended network support programs.

**CONSIDERATION OF A FY2015 GRANT ROUND FOR ACCOUNT 7000-9506, LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCE SHARING**

Paul Kissman, Library Information Systems Specialist, presented the “FY2015 Telecommunications for Resource Sharing,” “FY2015 Resource Sharing Program,” and “FY2015 Small Libraries in Networks Expansion” grant rounds, to be funded out of account 7000-9506.

He informed the Commissioners that Telecommunications for Resource Sharing provides offsets to the ongoing costs that networks bear for providing broadband connectivity, dedicated data lines, and shared Internet service to its members. Telecommunications for Resource Sharing also provides ongoing support for the actual cost of Internet service for smaller libraries that are not part of a network. He relayed that MLS is the eligible grant applicant for these libraries.

Mr. Kissman stated that the Resource Sharing program recognizes that libraries in networks are contributing to the overall universe of materials available to all residents of Massachusetts by showing their holdings in network bibliographic databases and by facilitating interlibrary lending using network technology.

He also stated that the Small Libraries in Networks Expansion grant provides state funding to supplement the federal Small Libraries in Networks grant. This allows the networks to offset annual membership costs for small libraries and MLS to administer broadband Internet connectivity to public libraries that are not members of a network.

Mr. Kissman noted that the Telecommunications for Resource Sharing and the Resource Sharing Program grant programs are not new; grants to automated networks have been made for over 24 years (Telecommunications) and 16 years (Resource Sharing). He informed the Commissioners that the grants are formula-driven, not competitive. The Small Libraries in Networks expansion is eight years old.

**Telecommunications for Resource Sharing**

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Cluggish seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approve the FY2015 Telecommunications for Resource Sharing grant round from account 7000-9506 in the amount of $500,000 as described in the accompanying fact sheet.

**The Board voted approval.**

**Resource Sharing Program**

Commissioner Quinn moved and Commissioner Comeau seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approve the FY2015 Resource Sharing Program grant round from account 7000-9506 in the amount of $968,000 as described in the accompanying fact sheet.

**The Board voted approval.**

**Small Libraries in Networks Expansion**

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Cluggish seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approve the FY2015 Small Libraries in Networks Expansion grant round from account 7000-9506 in the amount of $102,700 as described in the accompanying fact sheet.

**The Board voted approval.**

**REPORT ON BOSTONBETTER, A PROJECT OF BOSTON'S MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES COMMEMORATING THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOSTON MARATHON BOMBING**

Marlene Heroux, Reference Information Systems Specialist, reported on the BostonBetter.org project and the Agency's involvement, having served as staff liaison to this collaboration by area museums, archives, libraries, academic institutions, cities, towns, and historical societies to preserve the memorial created by individuals after the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing and help Boston and the larger community heal, feel better, and be better on the one-year anniversary.

As the staff liaison, Ms. Heroux informed libraries across the Commonwealth about the collaborative project and its opportunities for participation, coordinating their efforts with project organizers. She developed a resources section for the BostonBetter.org website with the assistance of staff from the Newton Free Library and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine New England Region to assist the public to help them and especially their children to cope with their feelings on the 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing anniversary.

BostonBetter.org partner, Northeastern University's Marathon Bombing Digital Archives, invited libraries along the marathon route, to host “Share Your Story” events, where they would help the public enter their narrative and digital remembrances of the tragedy. Working with the Archives co-directors, Ms. Heroux reached out to the Stoneham Public Library to host a “Share Your Story” event, as Stoneham was greatly affected when several residents lost limbs the day of the bombing, all friends, including two brothers. To promote their “Share Your Story” session the Stoneham’s library director asked Ms. Heroux to be the moderator and script writer for a cable television program about the Archives and the upcoming event at the library.

**REPORT FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY SYSTEM**

Gregory Pronevitz, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System reported on the following items:

**MA eBook Project**

* The pilot project is progressing with three vendors and 50 libraries.
* MLS is meeting with committees to develop recommendations on collection development, training and public relations, and sustainability.
* MLS is hoping that the FY2015 Budget includes funding to support a statewide rollout.
* MLS will suggest a model for library investment that is affordable and leaves room for growth as patron use increases.
* MLS is looking forward to making a report and recommendation to the Statewide Resource Sharing Committee in June.

**Whately Facilities**

* MLS is finalizing a purchase and sale agreement for the facility.
* The Attorney General has approved the sale.
* MLS is waiting on approval from the USDA of the short sale.
* MLS hopes to close the facility in the summer.
* The offer includes an 18-month leaseback which provides sufficient time to find a suitable long-term rental location, preferably in the I-91 corridor.

**MLS ILL Center**

* MLS continues to work with current centers, library networks, members, and vendors to ensure the smoothest transition.
* MLS has held numerous information sessions both in-person and online to orient members to the change.
* The contracting libraries are winding down their roles, and MLS expects to take on all the work by the end of June.

**New Task Force Forming**

* As part of MLS’s strategic direction to address the needs of all libraries, it is forming a task force to work with MLS to identify priorities for serving academic libraries. The Academic Library Services Planning Task Force will begin meeting in the summer for one year.

**COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES**

Reports on Commissioner Activities were deferred to the June 6, 2014 Board meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**INTERVIEW SESSION WITH DIANNE CARTY FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS**

Chairman Murphy welcomed Acting Director Dianne Carty for her interview. The Commissioners asked Acting Director Carty the following questions:

1. What is it about the position of Executive Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners that interests you the most?
2. What attributes do you think are important for the MBLC Director to have? Can you tell us which of these is your strongest and describe a situation that shows that?
3. In working with a Board, how do you decide what issues to bring to them?
4. Please describe your experiences working with different types of libraries that fall under the jurisdiction of another government agency (e.g. school libraries) or organization.
5. Given the environment and the role of the Commission, what immediate steps would you take to provide direction and leadership for statewide library services?
6. Please give us an example of your ability to recruit staff and to work collaboratively with a broad-based team to encourage creativity, engagement in problem solving, and participation in delivering outstanding services.
7. Can you describe how you balance your role as Director and your role as hands-on manager? What level of decisions do you delegate?
8. Please describe an example of your leadership ability in resolving a difficult political situation?
9. What have you done for your own professional development in the past six months? How do you keep up with current issues and trends in the profession and in current American culture, education and politics?

After responding to these questions, Acting Director Carty then presented a prepared response to the following presentation question which was requested in advance by the Commissioners.

Looking ahead five to ten years, what do you envision for Massachusetts libraries in terms of:

1. Organizational structure and funding?
2. Programs and services?
3. Advances and changes in technology?
4. What role would the MBLC play in realizing this vision?

Following is Acting Director Carty’s response to the presentation question:

*Thank you for this opportunity.*

*Looking ahead is both an exhilarating and a daunting task. Since I first became a part of libraries in 1984, so many things have changed: the new technologies, the way we read, the way information is delivered, just to mention a few. The pace of change has quickened and I expect this to continue.*

*As public institutions and governmental entities, libraries tend (and for the most part I speak of public libraries because that is the primary legislative obligation of the Board) to follow the pattern of government of their municipality or parent institution. Thus, they tend to be more conservative in organizational structure and funding mechanisms. However, configurations have begun to alter out of necessity.*

*I believe that in the next 5 to 10 years, libraries will need to be more flexible. They will need to make changes that are similar to the changes taking place in other public non-profits. Some libraries will experience a flattening of their previous hierarchy as staff become more familiar with all the jobs in a library. This ‘total quality management’ approach was just beginning when I was in a public library and continues today.*

*I foresee that library staff sharing job responsibilities and staff working outside a pre-defined job will continue into the future. Over the years I have seen the increasing importance for library administrators to be politically savvy and financially astute. This will continue to rise in importance.*

*The friends and trustees of public libraries, long the library lifelines, will be called on to undertake changing roles as more development and fundraising is required to sustain funding for libraries.*

*Currently Massachusetts public libraries receive almost 80% of their operating funds from local appropriations. These last 6 years have been extremely difficult and have seen funding to libraries decrease. While there has been an upturn in the last year or so, libraries still have not returned to their former healthy local funding of the early 2000’s. This continued lack of funding will push libraries in the direction of fundraising and development. More libraries will establish foundations.*

*Then there is the delicate issue of defining a public library. Other states are more restrictive in the definition of a public library than is Massachusetts. Some of our libraries would not pass the test. Back 20 years ago when Keith Fiels first arrived at the Board he was struck by the fact that each municipality had its own public library. He did not know that for New Englanders local control of services is a birthright. Now, however, the overhead to run a small library is sufficiently expensive as to put its existence in jeopardy. I do not necessarily see small public libraries closing, but I do see that more collaboration and cooperation will be necessary to help small libraries succeed and reduce their costs.*

*Over the next 5 to 10 years, programs and services in libraries will most assuredly shift as the needs of our residents shift. Currently we see the same populations using libraries that have visited over the years. We now have an added element, the online library. This added dimension allows libraries to reach more people with a wider variety of programs and services, especially access to eContent.*

*The programs we are used to will remain—story hours, book clubs, ESL and other teen, adult and children’s programming. But we will see new programs to help residents explore new technologies and navigate an increasingly electronic existence. I believe that staff will have much more interaction with library users. Already we see that libraries are making the foray into this arena with roving librarians. Staff that are no longer tied to a desk will become commonplace.*

*Libraries will become an even more significant part of community life. As old libraries are replaced with new libraries or are renovated, the importance of a community meeting space will gain even greater importance. Flexibility will be the key here. Space that can be changed and used for any size group or purpose will be the norm.*

*While the MBLC is currently in the midst of the 2015 Legislative Agenda that is advancing eBooks and eContent, we must be ready for the next shift in technology that will most assuredly come. Just recently I heard about an application for use on any electronic device that will change the way we read. Spritz's technology* [*streams words individually*](http://www.spritzinc.com/blog/) *using a display called a Redicle, which keeps the eye centered on the same place as each new word appears. So, whatever the next new thing is, libraries must be ready to try, adapt and employ.*

*Again I must mention flexibility. Libraries can no longer afford to feel that they have arrived and that their work is complete. Libraries must be in a state of continually reaching for the next new thing. There is much to learn. Never before has lifelong learning been so apropos both for users and librarians alike.*

*The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) has a huge role in this future vision for libraries. As the state library agency, the MBLC must lead libraries through the coming years to achieve the level of access to services that all residents expect and need. The agency will work with the library community, the Massachusetts Library System (MLS), the Massachusetts Library Association, the Massachusetts Friends of Libraries, the Massachusetts Library Trustees Association, the Library for the Commonwealth (LFC), the talking book programs, the automated resource sharing networks as well as the legislature and municipal officials to collaborate and coordinate plans to develop and enhance library services for residents.*

*Because the MBLC is the source of funding for MLS and the programs that affect the entire commonwealth, it is incumbent upon the agency to provide a common meeting place for the library community to share, plan and collaborate. The MBLC must bring new ideas and cutting edge technologies to the library community. We can do this but only by implementing staff development and employing the same organizational flexibility that we expect from libraries. Yes, funding is critical, but we must also shift internal priorities and focus. We can no longer approach our programs and services in a twentieth century manner.*

*Programs, institutes and workshops originating with the MBLC must focus on the changing needs of libraries. There will need to be a continued focus on effective fundraising, establishment of foundations, library cooperation, as well as the hugely popular summer reading program, and other agency-related programs. However, there will need to be workshop space to incorporate the latest trends as well.*

*We are at the beginning of a new era. The MBLC is well positioned to help Massachusetts libraries with governance and funding issues and to advise in relationships with friends and trustees. Through the MBLC funding of MLS, continuing education and delivery of library items will continue to be their main priorities; but new initiatives and programs will be joint efforts of the MBLC and MLS. The LFC at the Boston Public Library has a statewide focus and adds a dimension to the services for residents that complements the current eContent focus and eBook pilot project. All of the library service providers in the Commonwealth will work together for the common good of the residents.*

*There are considerable challenges and opportunities ahead for Massachusetts libraries and the Board of Library Commissioners. As I said at the outset, a look into the future is both exhilarating and daunting. With the help and support of the excellent staff at the Board of Library Commissioners, Massachusetts libraries will flourish.*

Following Acting Director Carty’s presentation, the Commissioners thanked her for interviewing for the position of Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and she left the room.

The Commissioners discussed the interview. Following the discussion Acting Director Carty rejoined the meeting.

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Quinn seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners offer the position of Director to Dianne L. Carty pending the review of background reference checks and salary authorization by the Executive Office of Administration and Finance.

**The Board voted unanimous approval.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Murphy adjourned the May 1, 2014 monthly business meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners at 1:10 P.M.

Gregory J. Shesko

Secretary