MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Date : May 3, 2018

Time : 11:00 A.M.

Place : West Tisbury Free Public Library

 West Tisbury, Massachusetts

Present : Mary Ann Cluggish, Chairman; Roland A. Ochsenbein, Vice Chairman; George T. Comeau, Esq.; Francis R. Murphy; N. Janeen Resnick; Gregory J. Shesko; Alice M. Welch

Absent : Carol B. Caro; Mary Kronholm, Secretary

**Staff Present:**

James Lonergan, Director; Celeste Bruno, Communications Director; Tracey Dimant, Head of Operations and Budget; Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory and Development; Rachel Masse, Assistant to the Director; Matthew Perry, Outreach Coordinator; Shelley Quezada, Consultant to the Unserved; Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs / Government Liaison

**Observers Present:**

Robert Hauck, Trustee, West Tisbury Free Public Library; Linda Hearn, Former Trustee, West Tisbury Free Public Library; Beth Kramer, Library Director, West Tisbury Free Public Library; Wendy Nierenberg, Trustee, West Tisbury Free Public Library

**Call to Order**

Chairman Cluggish called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M.

Beth Kramer, Director of the West Tisbury Library welcomed the Board to the Vineyard! Ms. Kramer expressed how thankful the community was to receive a Construction Grant Award in 2011 for almost $2,900,000. She noted that the library was always loved and well used but was just too small. Having a program room and teen space has changed their world.

**Approval of Minutes: April 5, 2018**

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Shesko seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the minutes for the monthly business meeting on April 5, 2018 as presented.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Cluggish reported that she participated in the Executive Board meeting conference call. She also completed Director Lonergan’s review.

On April 11 the House Budget was released and our budget lines did better and some were actually increased.

On April 19 Ms. Cluggish attended the Financial Literacy Storytime at the Framingham Public Library with Treasurer Goldberg, who read a financial literacy themed book to children in honor of Financial Literacy Month.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Lonergan presented the following report:

Meetings/activities since the last Board meeting:

* April 5—Lunch with Commissioner Resnick and Jim Wald, Massachusetts Center for the Book (MCB) Chair
* April 17—Ebook conference call with Massachusetts Library System (MLS)
* April 17—OCLC Webjunction Webinar on “From Awareness to Funding: Voters Perceptions and Support of Public Libraries in 2018”
* April 19—Financial Literacy Storytime with Treasurer Goldberg at the McAuliffe Branch of Framingham Public Library
* April 24-25—Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Grants to States Convening, Milwaukee, Wisc.
* April 24—MBLC Executive Committee meeting
* April 26—American Library Association (ALA) National Library Legislative Day conference call
* April 30—Statewide Leadership Summit, Boston Public Library
* May 1—MLS Executive Director Search Committee conference call

MBLC Budget Lines: House Ways and Means released its FY 2019 budget on April 11. The MBLC Administrative line was funded at the Legislative Agenda request of $1,275,000; both Perkins and Worcester received funding in the budget that met the request in the Agenda as well. These three lines did not need amendments in the House.

The Regional line and Technology and Resource Sharing (networks) both received the 1% increase recommended in the Governor’s budget. State Aid to Public Libraries was level funded at $9,090,000. The Center for the Book was again zeroed out by Ways and Means.

Rep. Byron Rushing filed an amendment for the Regional line, Reps. Higgins and Murray filed an amendment for State Aid to Public Libraries, and Rep. Meschino filed for the Technology line. The amendments were for the funding listed in the FY 2019 Agenda. Rep. Hogan filed an amendment for the Center for the Book for $300,000.

Three of the four Amendments requested by the MBLC (the Regional line, State Aid to Public Libraries, and Technology and Resource Sharing) received an increase in funding. In fact, the Regional line for MLS and LFC received a few hundred dollars more than the Legislative Agenda request. Rep. Rushing rounded up the amount requested to $10,282,140 and increased the per capita for Library for the Commonwealth (LFC) to 42.4 cents (this keeps the percentage split for LFC and MLS at the appropriate level). State Aid was increased $200,000 from the current fiscal year and Technology and Resource Sharing was increased by $118,598 from this fiscal year, which is $100,000 more than the Ways and Means budget. The Center for the Book was level funded at $200,000. There were also three earmarks attached to State Aid to Public Libraries, adding $200,000 to the total.

The overall increase of $904,642 represents a total percentage increase of 3.56% for the MBLC budget from FY 2018 to FY 2019 (calculations do not include earmarks for either fiscal year).

Rep. Mark proposed the following amendment to the State Aid to Public Libraries (7000-9101) line:

**Amendment #1396 to H4400**

**Greenfield Library**

Mr. Mark of Peru moves to amend the bill in section 2, in item 7000-9501, by adding the following: "Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, there shall be a pilot program for Hub Libraries established in the City of Greenfield, a Hub Library defined as those libraries that serve a significant proportion of clients from surrounding communities containing a population of fewer than 5,000, and shall be reimbursed at a rate not less than 75 percent."

Mary Rose, Roe, Commissioner Cluggish and I developed the following statement regarding the amendment:

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners does not support Amendment #1396 to H4400. We are concerned about the negative impact the amendment would have on the statewide integrity of the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP). It would not only diminish the integrity of the program, but it would be unfair to the other communities that were recently awarded MPLCP grants or are currently on the MPLCP waiting list.

Greenfield is currently at the top of our waiting list for construction grants. The average MPLCP Library Construction Grant award is 45-50% of the eligible costs. This amendment would reimburse the Greenfield Public Library at a rate of not less than 75 percent. Awarding Greenfield a match of 75% would reduce the funding available to other communities for their construction projects and would delay approval of grants to the 21 other communities on the waiting list.

For over a year, the MBLC has been working with Sasaki Associates on a study of Massachusetts public library lending and usage patterns. We believe that this major study will inform our design and support of “hub” libraries—libraries that serve a significant portion of users from smaller surrounding communities.

Any changes to the matching percentage or any additional incentive programs will require discussions and hearings with the entire Massachusetts library community followed by regulatory changes. Any changes at this time would not apply to current construction projects or waiting list applicants, but only to applicants in future construction grant rounds.

Once our study is complete, and discussions with the statewide library community are held, we envision supporting “hub” libraries through both our construction and state aid programs, perhaps with an incentive program similar to what we offer for Green libraries, as well as an increase in the Nonresident Circulation component of the State Aid to Public Libraries program and net lender funding.

Premature action before the appropriate processes take place is disruptive to equitable and rigorous planning for a well thought out and fair program for communities across the state.

Commissioner Cluggish sent the statement to Rep. Peisch for forwarding to Rep. Sanchez, the Chair of House Ways and Means. The amendment did not pass.

The Senate Ways and Means budget should be available late next week.

IMLS has informed us that we will be receiving a site visit from our program officer in 2019. This gives us plenty of time to prepare for the visit, including making sure that we are following all requirements and suggested best practices.

MLS Executive Director Search Committee: We have narrowed the field of applicants down to six for first interviews, which will be conducted by phone next week. Western Mass Library Advocates (WMLA) forwarded interview questions for consideration by the Search Committee.

Staff News: Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, the MBLC’s Preservation Specialist, has informed us that he will be retiring as of July 31, 2018, after spending nearly thirty years developing and running the MBLC’s state preservation program. Gregor has been out on medical leave since the beginning of the year but has been keeping up with his work when his health has permitted. He hopes that his condition will improve over the next month so he will be able to return to the office to complete projects and wrap things up. We thank Gregor for his dedicated service to the MBLC and to the Commonwealth’s libraries and wish him well on his upcoming retirement!

English Language Learner (ELL) and Literacy Coordinators Roundtable Meeting, Newton Free Library, April 13, 2018

The Library ELL and Literacy Coordinators in Massachusetts is an informally convened group made up of representatives of some of the approximately forty library-based programs in the Commonwealth. Susan Bécam, the director of the Newton Public Library’s Legacy for Literacy program, has taken the initiative over the past few years to invite other coordinators to Newton to share their ideas and provide support to one another about twice a year. There has been steady participation over the years from programs in Watertown, Wellesley, Natick, Needham (not library based but library cooperating) Cambridge, Wayland, Framingham and occasionally Amherst. Representatives from Randolph and Brookline, neither of which have active programs (outside of Friends of the Library supported Conversation Circle program in Brookline), also came to gather information.

The majority of participants at these roundtables are non MLS staff who are either volunteers or who serve in a teacher/coordinator position in their libraries. Some programs such as Newton, Cambridge, Watertown, Framingham and Amherst have been involved in literacy activities for close to 30 years and are well established with good support from their institutions.

MBLC staff member Shelley Quezada met with the group and asked for support to provide photos and fliers for an upcoming MLA program on May 22. Several of the literacy coordinators noted that they regularly receive requests from residents in neighboring communities for help in tutoring.

Discussion revolved around the importance for the library administration to acknowledge the need for these services within the community in order to explore options for possibly developing a program. Admittedly the cost of starting and maintaining a program can be steep. Susan Bécam said she would be willing to help provide other libraries with materials for tutoring and coordination but there are a number of complex steps involved in setting up a program that go beyond the availability of a curriculum.

Specifically the library needs to identify an individual on staff who would be able to dedicate at least a portion of his/her time to coordinating a new program. Shelley mentioned the LSTA Conversation Circles program and the Citizenship Corners grants as a potential source for limited start-up funding. The MBLC may look into developing some kind of informational session for libraries that have an interest that could outline potential steps in establishing programs. As always there are a number of factors that should be in place in order to successfully consider program development. It should be noted, however that within the past few years LSTA grants have been instrumental in expanding services into new communities such as Chelsea and Peabody. Also, there is at least one library currently under consideration in the LSTA grant round that hopes to start a program in another community, so we continue to make slow progress.

The opportunity to meet, share and discuss with one another is the key reason these informal gatherings have been so important and the leadership from long standing literacy coordinators should be recognized for the very important and valuable service they provide to their communities.

Network Consolidation Discussion: Christopher Lindquist, Director of the Northborough Free Library, has written to MLS and the MBLC to suggest that we lead a statewide discussion about what network services will look like in the next ten years and whether consolidation of some of the networks would provide economies of scale and be a good idea.

I’ve included Chris’s most recent email and emails from Greg Pronevitz and Tim Spindler below:

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**From:** Christopher Lindquist [mailto:clindquist@town.northborough.ma.us]
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 01, 2018 3:00 PM
**To:** Gregory Pronevitz; Amy Lewontin; Melinda Webster-Loof
**Cc:** Lonergan, James (BLC); Tim Spindler; Deborah Chown; Dan Paquette; Steve Spohn; Betsy Meaden; Sarah Sogigian
**Subject:** Re: Network consolidation

Hi Greg,

Thank you for discussing this with the MLS Exec. Board and following up with me on this.

As we know, the consolidation of the 6 regions came about because of a funding crisis. It was not due to a long-term strategic plan that was carefully considered and implemented prior to the funding crisis occurring. On the other hand, maintaining 6 regions was likely not going to be sustainable for the long term and it's fair to say we will not be going back to that model.

This is obviously a statewide issue and since MLS and the MBLC are the two statewide agencies governing or providing services to libraries throughout the Commonwealth, I think both organizations need to play a critical role in initiating and facilitating a statewide discussion in order to come up with a vision for what network services will look like in the next 10 years.

While the nine member-governed organizations are autonomous, with their own boards and staff, state funds are being used to support each of the networks and the member libraries within those networks. While it is true that the networks formed due to geographical proximity, I think we all need to consider whether having nine networks in geographic proximity makes sense going forward and whether the cost-benefit of consolidation and the strategic advantages that come with economies of scale outweigh sticking with the status quo.

If MLS and the MBLC do not initiate this discussion and take a leadership role in envisioning what a truly integrated statewide network will look like in the next 10 years, and we leave it up to the individual networks to come up with a strategic plan, I think as a state we will lose a golden opportunity to transform network services and position our member libraries and the state as a whole for future success in delivering library and information services and to the residents of the Commonwealth.

As a state, I think we are woefully behind the curve on this issue. Perhaps it will take a funding crisis for the networks to be forced to consolidate, but I hope we as library leaders and stakeholders won't let that happen. It does take political will and hopefully our state library leaders will invest the time and energy to in framing the discussion so that we can determine our own future in terms of a sustainable solution for integrated statewide network services, instead of having them thrust upon us by one or more crises.

When WRMLS conducted a survey of member libraries back when I was WMRLS President, approximately 90% of respondents indicated they thought exploring network consolidation was a priority. I shared this with James when I spoke with him since it was before he came onboard at the MBLC. I also shared the results of the survey with the MBLC Board at the time. There was, and I believe there continues to be an interest in studying this issue.

While I am a obviously a strong proponent of having a statewide discussion now so that we can engage member libraries in each of the networks and come up with a vision for network services in the future, the incentive needs to come from the state. Hopefully, we can begin to have that conversation in the very near future.  On that note, I let James know I will be happy to participate on any Task Force that is convened in order to explore this issue further and it's good to know that MLS is interested in having a seat at the table, as well.

Best,

Chris

**From:** Gregory Pronevitz <greg@masslibsystem.org>
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 1, 2018 1:58 PM
**To:** Christopher Lindquist; Amy Lewontin; Melinda Webster-Loof
**Cc:** James Lonergan; Tim Spindler; Deborah Chown; Dan Paquette; Steve Spohn; Betsy Meaden; Sarah Sogigian
**Subject:** Re: Network consolidation

Dear Chris,

I shared your suggestions about MLS and MBLC leading a discussion about some consolidation among the networks with the MLS Executive Board at their April 23 meeting.

While we do not feel it is our role to initiate this process, there was discussion about how, if we could start over, knowing what we know now, networks may have formed in a different manner.  It was pointed out that geographical proximity is important to network members and local collaboration would be missed in a consolidation, the same way it is missed now by former regional library system members.  In some ways, the networks are replacing that local touch lost in the regional consolidation.

There was consensus that MLS should have a seat at the table in a statewide discussion about sustainability, however, we do not feel it is our role to call for action in and among other not-for-profit, member-governed organizations.  This is the role and responsibility of the members and governing boards of those organizations.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or suggestions.

Thanks,

Greg

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**From:** Timothy Spindler [mailto:tspindler@cwmars.org]
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2018 1:59 PM
**To:** Christopher Lindquist
**Cc:** Gregory Pronevitz; a.lewontin@neu.edu; mwloof@gmail.com; Lonergan, James (BLC); Deborah Chown; dpaquette@westath.org
**Subject:** Re: Network consolidation

Thanks Chris for your thoughtful proposal and I can see the value in studying the issue.

I am very doubtful that there would be cost savings.  All the networks operate at fairly lean levels.  The big ticket items for the networks are staffing costs and ILS costs.

The main opportunity for cost reductions would be by reducing staffing needs.  However, reducing staffing impacts service levels.  It is likely in a merged network environment the new network would need an equivalent number of staff that  the separate networks currently maintain.  Obviously, restructuring and reorganization would be needed in a merged network.  There is not likely to be significant cost savings with an ILS because the commercial vendors would scale their pricing to meet the new network's size.  A larger network would have potentially more negotiating power but it is difficult to predict the amount of cost savings involved and I would want to be careful in overstating the potential cost savings.  There might be cost savings in reducing redundant facilities space but overall I'm not sure that would have a significant impact.  At C/W MARS, our rent is 3% of our total budget.

As far as cost saving, for the MBLC, the reality in the state funding for the networks is a small portion of a networks budget.  Outside of the SLIN program which provides direct grants to small libraries for membership in a network, the MBLC funds make up about 8-11% of the various networks budgets.  The funding formulas use metrics based on the size of the network to distribute those funds so merging networks would not necessarily reduce the amount of the grant the MBLC distributes to the networks.  The amount distributed is dependent on legislative funding of line 9506 and not related to the number of networks.

The networks also have a significantly different make up and each network provides a unique suite of services.   The networks formed originally as much based on the needs of the libraries and developed serving those needs. Pushing libraries into a single network would create a significant level of disruption for possibly a small amount of cost savings.  The switching costs could grow significantly also as data migration would be required to move the data from one ILS into another.  The size of any new network would also impact the selection of an ILS because the ILS would need to be able to handle the new larger network.  Fewer ILS can handle the larger networks.

As you know, I would not be a part of this process but since you asked, I thought I would share my thoughts.

--Tim

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs/ Government Liaison presented the following report:

March 2018 revenues of $2.243 billion were $36 million or 1.6% less than last March, and $176 million above benchmark estimates. Income tax collections were $69 million or 7.7% ahead of last March and $15 million below the benchmark estimate. Withholding collections (a subcategory of the income tax) were $105 million or 9.3% ahead of last March and $44 million above the monthly benchmark estimate. Sales and use tax collections were $22 million or 4.8% ahead of last March, and $16 million above the monthly benchmark estimate. Corporate and business taxes were $138 million less than last March, but $165 million above the monthly benchmark estimate. Other taxes, which include motor fuels, cigarette, estate, and other categories, were $11 million or 6.8% ahead of last March, and $10 million above the monthly benchmark estimate. For the fiscal year-to-date period, revenues of $19.393 billion were $1.263 billion or 7.0% ahead of the prior year figure, and are $892 million or 4.8% above benchmark estimate.

The April Revenue Report is expected out May 3. Commissioners will receive a link to the full report as soon as it is published by the Department of Revenue. Thus far, tax collections are ahead of estimates over the first eight months of fiscal 2018. April is the single largest month for collections. April is individual tax filing season and payments made with returns are concentrated in April, generating significant revenue and estimated payments from individuals are due in April as well, the first such estimated payments for the new tax year of 2018. Because the cut-off date for the Mid-Month Report fell on April 13, well before the filing deadline, only a portion of this activity is reflected. Corporate tax collections for April Mid-Month are substantially ahead of the prior year figures on a percentage basis. Total Tax collections for the month-to-date period were $1.02 billion, up $98 million or 10.6% versus the same period last year. Income Taxes totaled $788 million, up $61 million or 8.4% from the equivalent period in April 2017. Sales and Use Tax collections were $77 million at mid-month, which is $6 million or 6.7% less than the 2017 figure. Corporate & Business Taxes collections for the April mid-month were $110 million, up $50 million or 83.0% more than the same period last year. Other Taxes totaled $47 million at April mid-month, which is $8 million or 14.5% less than the 2017 figure.

Economic growth in Massachusetts slowed in the first quarter and trailed growth across the United States for the second straight quarter. Massachusetts has, up until now, kept pace with or grown faster than the nation during the recovery that began in 2009. Massachusetts’ jobless rate has held for months at a low rate of 3.5 percent and economists say a slower pace of job growth has more to do with an aging workforce and a shortage of workers than a decrease in employer demand.

The ballot committee opposed to a $1.25 billion reduction in the sales tax has asked Governor Baker to outline areas of government he would cut if the initiative petition wins in November. The question dubbed the “Millionaires’ Tax” which would tax people earning more than $1 million per year at a higher tax rate, is still being argued in the Courts. A decision is due out shortly.

The House Ways and Means Committee released its FY 2019 budget. The Agency budget was funded at the Legislative Agenda request of $1,275,000; both Perkins and Worcester received funding in the budget that met the request in the Agenda as well. These three lines did not need amendments in the House. The Regional line and Technology and Resource Sharing (networks) both received the 1% increase recommended in the Governor’s budget. State Aid to Public Libraries was level funded to $9,090,000. The Center for the Book was again zeroed out this year by Ways and Means.

The House voted Consolidated Amendment “A” (Education and Local Aid) late on Monday, April 23. Three of the four Amendments requested by the MBLC (the Regional line, State Aid to Public Libraries, and Technology and Resource Sharing) received an increase in funding. In fact, the Regional line for MLS and LFC received a few hundred dollars more than the Legislative Agenda request. Representative Rushing rounded up the amount requested to $10,282,140 and increased the per capita for LFC to 42.4 cents (this keeps the percentage split for LFC and MLS at the appropriate level). State Aid was increased $200,000 from the current fiscal year and Technology and Resource Sharing was increased by $118,598 from this fiscal year, which is $100,000 more than the Ways and Means budget. The Center for the Book was level funded at $200,000. There were also three earmarks attached to State Aid to Public Libraries totaling $200,000. The amendment earmark to increase construction funding to Greenfield (also attached to State Aid) was not approved.

Overall, the House funded four of the seven MBLC lines at the Legislative Agenda requested amounts, increased two others by a total of more than $300,000, and level funded the Center for the Book at $200,000. The total increase of $904,642 represents a percentage increase of 3.56% for the MBLC budget.



Library Caucus Committee Co-Chairs, Reps. Natalie Higgins and Brian Murray, filed the original amendment for State Aid to Public Libraries for $9,362,700, which was the Legislative Agenda request. Although the final House budget funded State Aid at $9,490,000, an amount higher than the Agenda, they approved three earmarks totaling $200,000 in the line as part of the total. The earmark wording, “*And further amend said section 2, in item 7000-9501, by inserting after the words “offset program” the following words:- ; provided further, that not less than $50,000 shall be expended for the Stoneham Public Library; provided further, that not less than $50,000 shall be expended for the Hispanic American Library in Springfield; provided further, that not less than $100,000 shall be expended for repairs to the Salem Public Library;* *And further amend said item by striking out the figure “$9,090,000” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- $9,490,000;”,* effectively reduced the increase to State Aid by the earmark amounts. There were additional earmarks related to library buildings and services that were not attached to MBLC lines or were unaffiliated to budget lines (e.g. sales tax on Friends book sales, funding for the Social Law Library, trauma kits for all public buildings-including libraries, building upgrades in Waltham, etc.).

Senate leaders plan to unveil their annual budget on May 10, with debate planned the week before Memorial Day.

Six library supporters from Massachusetts, including MBLC Director James Lonergan, have signed up to attend National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) on May 7 and 8 in Washington D.C. In addition to IMLS/LSTA funding, the attendees will also discuss Net Neutrality, the Marrakesh Treaty and state and local library initiatives that impact the Congressional Districts in Massachusetts. The American Library Association provided three topics for discussion with the Congressional Delegation:

* Senate: Reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act
* House and Senate: Fully Fund LSTA / IAL for FY 2019
* House and Senate: Visit a library, see broadband access in action

MLA Legislative Committee is sponsoring a program at the MLA Annual Conference called

**Fearless Advocacy** on Monday May 21, from 11:45 to 12:45. Speakers will include Jason Tait, Education Director for the Office of Campaign and Political Finance, Bernadette Rivard, Bellingham Library Director, speaking on the formation of the Central Massachusetts Library Advocates (CMLA), and Andrea Bernard, the Director in Charlemont who will discuss working with other small libraries on local library advocacy efforts.

On the local level, Wareham Free Public Library has received the funding vote it needed at Town Meeting last month to fund the library at a sufficient level next year to re-apply for certification in the State Aid to Public Libraries Program. The Town of Douglas is holding an override vote next Tuesday for $1.5 million which will follow a Town Meeting vote scheduled for the night before. If the vote fails, the library is expected to close as early as June 30, 2018.

**Marketing update**

Matt Perry, Outreach Coordinator reported:

In March we were approached by Treasurer Goldberg’s Office of Economic Empowerment about teaming up for Financial Literacy Month. We developed the materials that you see which were made available to libraries on the Awarehouse and by requesting printed copies of posters and booklists through me. On April 19 we also hosted a story time with Treasurer Goldberg in Framingham where she read a financial literacy themed children’s book and the kids were able to color the sheet about what they want to save their money for. Thank you to Commissioner Cluggish and Director Lonergan for coming to that event.

We also created a social media campaign around the idea of “What Are You Saving For” and the office of economic empowerment created an online list of financial literacy games and resources for kids and parents to use.

We are planning a follow up meeting to see how we can continue this partnership and do quarterly projects with them to promote different financial literacy topics to different audiences.

Communications Director Celeste Bruno continued the report and presented the new LSTA brochure and inserts that will be used during National Library Legislative Day in Washington, DC. LSTA staff helped select the grants that are highlighted in the district inserts. In the brochure redesign, thegoal was to give federal legislators information they can use when they are advocating for federal funding. Statistics and a cover statement that help demonstrate the importance federal funding to every resident in Massachusetts were added.

Ms. Bruno also informed the Commissioners that database promotional materials will soon be ready for libraries to use.  To create the materials, MBLC staff worked with librarians who participated in the MLS IDEALprogram—an intensive course on the databases. As part of the IDEAL course, librarians had to come up with ways to promote databases. MBLC staff met with several librarians and developed their ideas into materials that could be used statewide.
MBLC staff is also finishing a new flyer for state aid that can be used in the upcoming state aid workshops. It explains the changes to the program, including the new 5 year waiver plan.

Ms. Bruno also mentioned that the MBLC worked with Perkins Talking Book Library to create a video based on the audio valentines received from Perkins patrons during the statewide *Love Letters to Libraries* campaign. The video will be shown at the Perkins meeting on May 16.

Ms Bruno ended her presentation by discussing the Summer Library Program. The statewide media plan for the summer program is similar to last year’s which was very successful in reaching target audiences. In addition to Google, Facebook, Twitter, we will be advertising on Snapchat.  There are about 225,000 Snapchat users who identify as parents; and 405,000 users between the ages of 13-17.

For the Blades visits, the MBLC received applications from all across the state. MBLC staff reviewed them and received some input from MLS staff. The top 15 applications were given to the Bruins who will make the final selection. Ms. Bruno also announced that the Bruins player who will be featured on the READ poster and summer certificate is Charlie McAvoy.  Also, the *Bruins Recommended Reads* was updated and now includes some of the young Bruins players.  Libraries are in the process of ordering these items now. The MBLC will share these materials with New Hampshire again this year.

**discussion of net neutrality**

Massachusetts Library Association

Intellectual Freedom /Social Responsibility Committee

Statement on Net Neutrality - DRAFT

The Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) opposes the FCC’s plan to repeal all protections contained in its 2015 Open Internet Order. Net Neutrality is essential to intellectual freedom, guaranteeing the right to communicate, seek information, and engage in commerce via the internet without limitations or discrimination. A healthy democracy requires that all citizens have access to information from many sources representative of diverse viewpoints. American democracy will be seriously compromised if the FCC repeals all protections contained in its 2015 Open Internet Order with no plans to replace it with any enforceable rules.

American Library Association’s Definition of Net Neutrality:

"Network neutrality is the concept of online non-discrimination. It is the principle that consumers and citizens should be free to get access to-or to provide-the Internet content and services they wish , and that consumer access should not be regulated based on the nature or source of that content or service. Information providers-which may be websites, online services, etc., and who may be affiliated with traditional commercial enterprises but who also may be individual citizens, libraries, schools, or nonprofit entities-should have essentially the same quality of access to distribute their offerings. "Pipe" owners (carriers) should not be allowed to charge some information providers more money for the same pipes, or establish exclusive deals that relegate everyone else (including small noncommercial or startup entities) to an Internet "slow lane." This principle should hold true even when a broad band provider is providing Internet carriage to a competitor."

The statement is still in draft form. Once the Statement is approved by the MLA Executive Board the Commissioners will be asked to endorse the final version. MLA plans to send out the Net Neutrality statement statewide.

**Standing Committee and Liaison Reports**

**Commissioner Ochsenbein**

* Attended last meeting of Commonwealth eBook Collection (CEC) virtually

**COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES**

**Commissioner Ochsenbein**

* Participated in the Executive Committee meeting

**Commissioner Resnick**

* Attended lunch meeting with Director Lonergan and Jim Wald, Massachusetts Center for the Book (MCB) Chair to discuss the importance of the MCB.
* Attended spring meeting of the Western Mass Advocates

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Murphy seconded to adjourn the May 3, 2018 monthly business meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners at 12:55 PM.



Mary Kronholm

Secretary