MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Date : March 7, 2019

Time : 10:00 A.M.

Place : Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Offices

 Boston, Massachusetts

Present : Roland A. Ochsenbein, Chairman; Mary Ann Cluggish, Vice Chairman; Deb Abraham; Les Ball; Philip Madell, Esq.; Gina Perille; N. Janeen Resnick; Alice M. Welch

Absent : Mary Kronholm, Secretary

**Staff Present:**

James Lonergan, Director; Liz Babbitt, State Aid Specialist; Celeste Bruno, Communications Director; Andrea Bunker, Library Building Specialist; Kate Butler, Electronic Services Specialist; Maura Deedy, Library Advisory Specialist; Tracey Dimant, Head of Operations & Budget; Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory and Development; Paul Kissman, Library Information Systems Specialist; Evan Knight, Preservation Specialist; Rachel Masse, Assistant to the Director; Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs/Government Liaison; Lauren Stara, Library Building Specialist

**Observers Present:**

Catherine Halpin, Collaborative Library Services Coordinator, Boston Public Library (BPL); Betsy Meaden, Business and Human Resources Director, Massachusetts Library System (MLS); Greg Shesko, Former Commissioner; Steve Spohn, Resource Sharing Director, Massachusetts Library System (MLS)

**Call to Order**

Chairman Ochsenbein called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M.

**Approval of Minutes: February 7, 2019**

* Page 13 line 6- 7000-9508
* Page 9 line 18- Change to Plan of Service and Program and Budget

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Cluggish seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the minutes for the monthly business meeting on February 7, 2019.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Ochsenbein presented the following report:

Activities

* I attended/spoke at Legislative Breakfasts in Northborough and Boylston in February. In January, I attended/spoke at breakfasts in Spencer, Leominster, and Foxborough. All were well attended and well organized. Every breakfast had at least one legislator in attendance and often several aides.
* I attended the MLS Board Meeting on February 11 in Marlborough.
* I participated in the MBLC Executive Board monthly call on February 26.
* I attended Library Legislative Day on March 5. I spoke briefly at the first Legislative Briefing, and spoke at the First Timers session and at the plenary luncheon. Following the luncheon I joined a debrief session that included staff of library caucus co-chairs Rep. Higgins, Rep. Murray and Sen. Lesser, MBLC Director Lonergan, Head of State Programs and Gov’t Liaison Mary Rose Quinn, and representatives from Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) and Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA).
* We learned yesterday that a letter went to the governor signed by all the state senators who have libraries in their districts on the waiting list. Waiting to hear about a similar letter from the House.

Upcoming

* I am speaking at the grand reopening/dedication of the Woburn Public Library on March 16 and excited about that. The project is a high visibility one being a National Historic Landmark.
* We are on the agenda for a Joint Committee on Ways and Means hearing scheduled for March 29—Director Lonergan and I will present.

Finally, for the fourth time in nine months as Chair, I am delighted to introduce a new Commissioner. Welcome Philip Madell. Commissioner Madell replaces outgoing Commissioner Gregory Shesko. Mr. Madell’s resume reflects experience as an attorney, an author and publisher, an adjunct professor at a half dozen colleges and universities, and a business executive. Most importantly, however, he has been a trustee at public libraries in 3 different states (KS, IL, and MA)!

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Lonergan presented the following report:

Meetings/activities since the last Board meeting:

* February 8—Longmeadow Legislative Breakfast
* February 8—MLA Executive Board meeting, Shrewsbury Public Library
* February 11—MLS Executive Board Meeting, Marlborough
* February 13 & 28—MLS Executive Director Search Committee meetings (virtual)
* February 15—Presented at Tewksbury Legislative Breakfast
* February 20 & 21—MLS Executive Director Search Committee Phone Interviews
* February 21—PJ Drive Celebration Event, Lawrence Public Library
* February 27—State Library Communications Quarterly Meeting (virtual)
* February 27—EveryLibrary Webinar: Welcome to Library Legislative Day Success
* March 4—Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) School Libraries Working Group meeting (virtual)
* March 5—Library Legislative Day, State House

MBLC staff participated in Library Legislative Day events at the State House on Tuesday, March 5, including staffing a table (shared with Boston Public Library) of agency information, with a special focus on the Massachusetts Public Library Construction program (MPLCP). Thank you to Lauren and Andrea for staffing the table and to Maura and Andrea for getting the materials to the State House (despite the last-minute request due to travel challenges for other staff). I presented briefings on our Legislative Agenda at two sessions and Commissioner Ochsenbein spoke at the First Time Attendee program. Commissioner Ochsenbein also spoke at the luncheon.

In follow-up meetings with the Library Caucus co-chairs and staff after the Legislative Day events, we discussed how to proceed if Administration and Finance (A&F) doesn’t fully support our $250 million ask for the construction bond bill. Rep. Higgins and Murray recently met with Rep. Cabral, who chairs the House Bonding and Capital Expenditure Committee, to discuss our bond request and are hoping to schedule a meeting soon with A&F Secretary Heffernan. Possible options include amending the Governor’s bond bill to increase the amount if it is below our request level and/or filing separate bills in the House and Senate.

New Commissioner Orientation: Commissioner Ochsenbein, Tracey, Mary Rose, Rob, Celeste, Rachel, and I will be welcoming Commissioner Madell for an orientation session immediately following our board meeting today. Our Commissioner Orientation LibGuide is available at: (<http://guides.mblc.state.ma.us/c.php?g=854014>)

Our FY2020 budget hearing with the Joint Committee on Ways & Means has been scheduled for Friday, March 29 at Roxbury Community College. Commissioner Ochsenbein and I will be testifying at the hearing.

Our Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) program officer will be conducting an official monitoring site visitto the MBLC the week of July 22-26. These visits are usually conducted once during a five-year cycle. We will be preparing for the visit using IMLS’s site visit checklist, which covers four main areas: general statistical information; legal authority and compliance; administration; and financial activity. In addition to spending time at our offices, we will take our program officer on field visits to view exemplary projects that we would like to highlight.

LSTA Grant applications: MBLC consultants have received 31 LSTA direct grant draft applications. February marks the beginning of the draft review process where MBLC consultants work closely with applicants through visits and phone consultation to focus and fine tune grant applications. The goal is to make strong grant applications and more importantly successful grants.

Trustee Orientations: Maura Deedy has finalized our Trustee Orientation sessions for the Spring 2019 season. Content of the program is being revised to better align with some of the advisory questions we receive about board organization, management, evaluation of library directors, and a primer on the MBLC. Promotion and registration will begin in March. The orientation schedule is:

* Tuesday, April 2 - Charlton
* Thursday, April 11 - Rowley
* Wednesday, May 1 - Woburn
* Thursday, May 9 - Wareham
* Thursday, May 16 – Lenox

Trustee Institute: We are finalizing the program. A save the date went out in February, and Rob and Maura are working with Celeste and Matt on full promotion, which will start soon. One addition to the program: Tim Lowe, President of the Worcester Public Library Foundation, will be joining our panel on Foundations.

The First Lady of the Commonwealth Lauren Baker, Bruins alumni and President of the Boston Bruins Foundation Bob Sweeney and Bruins mascot Blades celebrated the Boston Bruins PJ drive with a PJ party at Lawrence Public Library. Mrs. Baker was joined by Blades and therapy dog Oliver as she read kids a story. Kids then participated in fun activities including a shooting on net with instruction from Bob Sweeney, crafts, giant jenga, trivia and more. Many MBLC staff assisted with the event. MBLC staff will hold another PJ event in Norwood on Friday. More than 130 libraries are participating in the drive with a goal of collecting 10,000 PJs for kids in need: PJs go to DCF and to Cradles to Crayons.

Some highlights of this year’s PJ Drive:

* There have been more than 30 news stories about libraries and the PJ Drive, which helps to raise the visibility of libraries
* There is a PJ Drive Billboard that can be seen along 93: <https://mblc-newsroom-static.s3.amazonaws.com/collateral/programs/bruins-pj-drive/1e3d587b_pj-drive-billboard_download.jpg>
* Winners so far of the *12 Days of PJS*:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Salisbury Public | Team-signed stick |
| Great Barrington  | Team-signed stick |
| Nashoba Regional HS | Team-signed  Jersey |
| Whitinsville/Northbridge | Krecji-signed Jersey |
| Beaman Memorial/West Boylston | Signed McAvoy photo |
| Silver Lake Regional High School | Team-signed jersey |
| Berkshire Athenaeum/Pittsfield | Team-signed jersey |
| Ventress Memorial Library, Marshfield | Bergeron-signed photo |
|  |

The *#LibraryLovers* campaign wrapped up. The campaign is designed to capture residents’ feelings about their libraries and share them with legislators. Libraries find all the materials they need for the campaign on the MBLC Awarehouse. Residents simply fill out a paper Valentine to their library or go to Lovemasslibraries.com and share why they love their library. MBLC shares the valentines with legislators. The MBLC communications team is still tallying the ones that were sent to the MBLC but some libraries used them at library legislative day this week. Here’s what one librarian said: “I delivered a packet of hand colored valentines to our legislators today, and they were so thrilled to get them. This is a wonderful program and it really makes a difference. Thank you!”

The *Wired to Reach You* campaign also wrapped up. This too is designed to reach residents. This is the third year in a row that MBLC communications team has collaborated with the Old Colony Library Network on an awareness campaign. The MBLC communications team is currently compiling the results.

The MBLC communications team is currently participating in the Summer Workshops with MLS. Staff are highlighting the statewide partnerships with the Boston Bruins and the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum (these partnerships support the summer program), as well as promotion of the summer program (this includes statewide promotion conducted by the MBLC and promotional items that the MBLC creates for local libraries to use), the #What’sYourFour? social media campaign that helps highlight the benefits or summer reading, and the items created by MBLC that libraries can use in their programs.

The MBLC communications team is also currently working to create materials for the new eBook program. Staff attended the network administrators meeting several weeks ago and got approval of a logo for the program and identified items that libraries needed to promote it.

MPLCP:

* Dedication of Woburn Public Library, March 16 – Commissioner Ochsenbein will speak
* Groundbreaking for Tufts Library, Weymouth, March 27 – Commissioner Ball will speak
* Groundbreaking for Erving Public Library, March 29 – Commissioner Resnick will speak
* The Hingham Public Library formally declined their grant. Given this, we will be able to offer Littleton a provisional grant in FY2020

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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

The American Library Association (ALA) moved forward and reworked National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) this year. The event has traditionally been held in May with states sending a delegation to the Hill to advocate for federal library legislation and funding. This year, because ALA Annual Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. in June, ALA officials decided to move NLLD to dates earlier in the legislative calendar year and invite a small group of advocates representing the 50 states to visit key legislators in each state. ALA scheduled me to meet with staff in the offices of Representatives Katherine Clark, Jim McGovern, and Ayanna Pressley and Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey. Tim Cherubini, the Executive Director of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) and Massachusetts resident, visited with staff in Representative Richard Neal’s office and then joined me for the Senate visits. In addition to discussing federal funding for libraries and the grants to states program, the 2020 Census was a key discussion point.

I have been appointed by Secretary of the Commonwealth Bill Galvin to the statewide Complete Count 2020 Census Committee. The Committee will meet monthly and is chaired by Eva Millona, executive director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition. The statewide committee features government and community leaders who will provide education about the decennial census. Many of our partner organizations are represented on the Committee as well. Population counts gathered in each state will lead to recalculations of federal funding to the states, redistricting and changes in political representation. Federal Library funds are distributed to each state based on population. Massachusetts lost a U.S. House seat after the 2010 Census. Because the 2020 Census will be done mostly online, libraries are expected to play a key role in this decennial census as a place where Census employees can interview and train staff, individuals can apply for Census employment, and residents can fill out their census information. There is a 2020 Complete Count event on Monday, April 1, 2019 in Framingham to help promote awareness of the Census.

The Massachusetts Library Association (MLA)/Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA) Legislative Day on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 was a great success. Chairwoman Alice Peisch received the MLA Advocacy Award for her work to promote the importance of libraries in the Commonwealth. She also accepted the commendation from MSLA on behalf of the Joint Committee on Education for the work done on the School Library Study. Representative Peisch praised the work of Representative Sean Garballey of Arlington who chaired the committee. Legislative Library Caucus Co-Chairs, Representatives Natalie Higgins and Brian Murray and Senator Eric Lesser spoke at the briefings and the lunch. The MBLC Construction Team staffed a table at the event to showcase the recent library projects and to provide information about the need for bond funding for the remaining waitlisted projects.

Senator Eric Lesser has circulated a letter among his colleagues addressed to the Governor regarding the need for a new Library Construction bond and an increase in the annual spending cap. The suggestion for the letter came from Senator Dean Tran at the Leominster Library Breakfast. Thirteen Senators signed on to the letter.

There is one more Legislative Breakfast scheduled before the season draws to a close. The Amherst Breakfast is scheduled for Friday, March 22, 2019 from 7:30-9:00am. Seven area legislators have been invited with Senator Jo Comerford and Representative Mindy Domb confirmed. The Jones Library also invited the Governor. There have been 17 Breakfasts to date. Feedback from the events has been extremely positive. The MBLC has received a number of follow up questions and offers of support from legislative offices regarding information Senators and Representatives received at the breakfasts.

Better than anticipated revenue collections for the month of February closed the deficit on what had been a more than $400 million gap this fiscal year, bringing the shortfall down to $292 million with four months left in the fiscal year. Preliminary revenue collections for February totaled $1.43 billion, which is $111 million or 8.5% above the revised monthly benchmark, and $167 million or 13.3% more than the actual collections in February 2018. For the fiscal year-to-date through February, revenue collections totaled $17.52 billion, $292 million or 1.6% less than the year-to-date benchmark and $374 million or 2.2% more than the same fiscal year-to-date period in 2018.

Income tax collections for February were $724 million, which is $98 million or 15.7% above benchmark and $134 million or 22.7% above February 2018. Withholding collections for February totaled $1.165 billion, $107 million or 10.1% above benchmark, and $148 million or 14.5% above February 2018. Income tax estimated payments totaled $16 million for February, $7 million or 82.1% above benchmark and $7 million or 69.5% above February 2018. Income tax return payments totaled $41 million for February, $3 million or 6.2% less than benchmark and $3 million or 6.6% below February 2018. Income tax refunds in February totaled $498 million in outflows, $13 million or 2.7% more than benchmark and $18 million or 3.7% more than February 2018. Sales and use tax collections for February totaled $497 million, which is $1 million or 0.3% less than benchmark and $19 million or 4.0% more than February 2018. Corporate and business tax collections for the month totaled $14 million, $12 million above benchmark and $15 million more than February 2018. Other tax collections for February totaled $191 million, which is $3 million or 1.4% more than benchmark and close to the February 2018 amount.

**Consideration of approval of additional members to the evolving ecosystem committee**

Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs presented the following people to be added to the Evolving Ecosystem Committee.

The following names are being put forward for Board approval as members of the Evolving Ecosystem Committee:

**Library Community**

Paul Engle, Library Director, Brockton Public Library

**LFC/MBLN Representative**Catherine Halpin, Collaborative Library Services Coordinator, Boston Public Library

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Ball seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the appointment of Paul Engle from the Brockton Public Library and Catherine Halpin from the Boston Public Library/Metro-Boston Library Network (MBLN) to the Evolving Ecosystem Committee.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Consideration of approval of additional members to the State Aid Advisory Committee**

Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs presented the following people to be added to the State Aid Advisory Committee.

The following names are being put forward for Board approval as members of the State Aid Advisory Committee:

NAME POSITION LIBRARY

Jen Inglis Director Lynnfield Public Library

Alan Thibeault Director Saugus Public Library

Ellen Dolan Director Shrewsbury Public Library

Olivia Melo Director New Bedford Free Public Library

Christi Farrar Consultant Massachusetts Library System (MLS)

Commissioner Cluggish moved and Commissioner Resnick seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the appointment of Jen Inglis, Lynnfield Public Library; Alan Thibeault, Saugus Public Library; Ellen Dolan, Shrewsbury Public Library; Olivia Melo, New Bedford Free Public Library; and Christi Farrar, Massachusetts Library System to the State Aid Advisory Committee.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Consideration of approval of a new member to the Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library’s Consumer Advisory Board**

Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs presented the following appointment to the Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library’s Consumer Advisory Board.

**Approval of Appointment to the Perkins Advisory Board:**

At their quarterly board meeting, the Perkins Braille and Talking Book Library Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) voted in a new member, Ashley B. Colburn, M.Ed., CVRT from the Carroll Center for the Blind to replace outgoing Board Chair, DeAnn Elliott, who has served on the CAB for eight years as the Carroll Center and whose term has expired. All other CAB members have served on the Board before and received MBLC Board approval/confirmation at the time of their original appointment. The Perkins CAB requests that the Board of Library Commissioners confirms the appointment of Ashley B. Colburn. Ms. Colburn’s biographical summary is included below.

**Bio Sketch for Ashley Colburn for CAB:**

Ashley B. Colburn, M.Ed., CVRT

Ashley is a Communications Skills instructor in the Rehabilitation Department at the Carroll Center for the Blind where she has worked since 2014. In her position, she teaches individuals with visual impairments skills including: Braille, personal computing, information management, and other assistive devices. Learning to access technology using low vision and nonvisual access methods is integral to her teaching role. In addition, she teaches personal and home management skills including adaptive cooking, cleaning, organizing, labeling, and personal care methods. In her teaching roles she appreciates the opportunities to influence the lives of other blind people as they progress in their journey towards independence. Ashley also happens to be blind and values the daily opportunities that reading thru listening and Braille bring to her work and personal life.

Commissioner Ball moved and Commissioner Abraham seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approve the appointment of Ashley B. Colburn to the Perkins Consumer Advisory Board member representing the Carroll Center for the Blind.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Consideration of approval for Supplemental Network Resource Sharing Program Award**

Paul Kissman, Library Information Systems Specialist presented the FY19 *Supplemental* *Resource Sharing* Grant Award Recommendation.

The additional award will supplement the $1.3 million awarded in October, 2018 for a total of $1,339,649.

Program Abstract: The Resource Sharing program provides an incentive for libraries that are members of the nine automated resource sharing networks to list their titles and holdings in a publicly accessible database, and to lend materials to users of other libraries. Annual assessments that network member libraries pay are reduced with the help of these funds. Libraries, in turn, can show their funding authorities that there is a direct monetary benefit for their sharing materials, as well as the opportunity for their own users to have access to a much larger pool of resources.

The original series of 7000-9506 grants to networks, awarded in October 2018, left funds in account 9506 to enable MBLC to complete its procurement for Commonwealth Catalog software and support. The $39,649 reflected in this recommendation will completely expend any remaining funds in the line item. MBLC staff and the networks had agreed in September that remaining funds would be directed to the resource sharing program.

**Resource Sharing Program**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Network** | **Municipality** | **Award** |
| CLAMS | Barnstable | $2,143  |
| C/W MARS | Worcester | $7,884  |
| FLO | Boston | $1,837  |
| MBLN | Boston | $6,175  |
| Minuteman Library Network | Natick | $7,296  |
| MVLC | North Andover | $3,333  |
| NOBLE | Danvers | $4,326  |
| OCLN | Braintree | $2,987  |
| SAILS | Lakeville | $3,668  |
| **$39,649** |

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Welch seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approve the Resource Sharing Program Supplemental Awards totaling $39,649 for FY2019 as presented in agenda item 8.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Consideration of new appointments to the State Advisory Council on Libraries (SACL)**

Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory and Development presented that the Statewide Advisory Council on Libraries has two openings for SACL representatives; one representing school libraries and one academic library. The LSTA staff is pleased to present the following candidate for your consideration:

Alida Hanson, School Librarian, Weston High School, Weston, MA representing school libraries

Sara Marks, Associate Librarian, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, MA representing academic libraries

Each representative is appointed to a three year term and can be re-appointed for an additional three years.

Commissioner Cluggish moved and Commissioner Ball seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners appoints Alida Hanson, School Librarian, Weston High School and Sara Marks, Associate Librarian, University of Massachusetts, Lowell for terms to begin March 1, 2019 and end September 30, 2022 to the State Advisory Council on Libraries (SACL).

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Consideration of approval for the FY2020 Plan of Service and Program and Budget for the Massachusetts Center for the Book**

* Commissioner Cluggish expressed her concern about voting on this Plan of Service and Program and budget at this time. She said that the Center for the Book needs to prioritize its time and efforts.
* Commissioner Resnick said she was concerned about the public/private partnership given there are few to no private partners at all.
* Commissioner Ochsenbein said he thinks that the strategic planning is key. Every year the budget line gets zeroed out and we have to fight to get it back. Little to no effort has been spent on fundraising. Commissioner Ochsenbein also stated that what they have submitted does meet our requirements.
* Director Lonergan will draft a letter to the Center for the Book with the concerns from the Commissioners about the sustainability of the program. Director Lonergan also plans to request that he and Commissioner Resnick both be kept in the loop when it comes to strategic planning and developing private/public partnerships.

Commissioner Perille moved and Commissioner Madell seconded to table this motion until the next meeting when more information can be provided to the Commissioners.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Report from the Massachusetts Library System**

Steve Spohn, Resource Sharing Director presented the following report:

**A Note of Sympathy**

MLS joins librarians across the state and beyond in mourning the passing of Paula Sharaga, Children’s Librarian at the Coolidge Corner Branch, Brookline Public Library. Her dedication and passion will be remembered by the many families and library staff whose lives she touched. Our thoughts are with Paula’s family and colleagues during this difficult time.

We also send our thoughts to the staff at the Peabody Institute Library in Danvers. Assistant Librarian Patrick Clapham passed away on February 5 after battling cancer. He loved the Danvers library and community deeply and requested that friends and family donate to a foundation in his name that will perpetually support the Children’s Room. Patrick’s knowledge, dedication, and humor will be greatly missed.

**Legislative Breakfasts**

Thank you to all the support groups, networks, staff and host libraries for your dedication and hard work planning the Legislative Breakfasts. We were pleased to attend many as guest speakers and are appreciative of the support demonstrated for MLS and our services. We look forward to the final breakfast on March 22 at the Jones Library in Amherst, and we hope to see many of you at Library Legislative Day on March 5!

**Marlborough Office News**

Last month, we let you know that we need to move our Marlborough office. Thanks to those of you who offered your assistance and good wishes as we began our search for our new home for our Marlborough office. We are working with our brokers and hope to have some good news to share soon.

**Membership News**

MLS welcomed 2 returning members and 6 new directors in January:

Returning Members

* Codman Academy Charter Public School, Dorchester
* John F. Kennedy Elementary School, Billerica

New Directors

* Agawam Public Library – Nancy Siegel
* Elizabeth Taber Library, Marion – Elizabeth Sherry
* Lanesborough Public Library – Sheila Parks
* Middlesex Community College, Bedford and Lowell – Donna Maturi
* Norfolk Public Library – Elisabeth (Libby) O’Neill
* S. White Dickinson Memorial Library, Whately – Cyndi Steiner

**MLS Spring CE**

Our spring classes are filling up, but there are still spots available. Check out all of our learning opportunities on our calendar!

We are also pleased to announce some other informal networking opportunities we have planned:

* Directors’ Roundtable Lunchtime Discussion: Staff Structure and Other Topics at the Hopkinton Public Library on April 30
* MLS Listening Tour at the MLA Conference on May 21 at the Sheraton Framingham
* Small Library Lunchtime Discussion at the Langley­Adams Public Library in Groveland on May 28.
* Small Library Lunchtime Discussion at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library in Mattapoisett on May 31.
* Directors’ Roundtable Lunchtime Discussion: Staff Structure and Other Topics at the Bushnell­Sage Public Library, Sheffield, MA on June 13

Members can earn Professional Development Points (PDPs) with MLS.

We are pleased to share that MLS is a MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Certified Professional Development Points provider! Our members who are required to earn and track PDPs can now do so by participating in MLS hosted classes, webinars, and events. Please contact us for more information.

**FY 2019 Statewide Database Statistics**

We now have a handy dashboard for you to access your library’s statewide database statistics for Britannica, Gale and ProQuest. Use the filters on the right side of the page to customize your search.<http://guides.masslibsystem.org/databases/statistics>

MBLC Commissioners asked about school library use of the databases. From July through February this fiscal year, school library users account for 2.6 million full text views, roughly 60% of the total 4.2 million full text views. There are roughly 881 school library members of MLS.

**Report from the Library for the Commonwealth**

Catherine Halpin, Collaborative Library Services Coordinator, Boston Public Library presented the following report:

Digital Commonwealth Update:

1. Ben Barber began work as the new Digital Repository Developer on December 3, 2018.
2. Eben (Digital Repository Services Manager) and Ben are in the process of conducting some long-overdue updates and upgrades to our server infrastructure and application dependencies. These updates should result in improved performance and address a number of existing security vulnerabilities.
3. Ongoing discussions with BPL management and IT staff about acquiring more storage space; looking at both cloud-based and locally-managed solutions. The newspapers will require an incredible amount of storage space.

Other items:

* + Free Tax Prep with VITA; very popular but limited volunteers have left some patrons frustrated.  Patrons not coming prepared with proper id: -identification.
	+ Had table highlighting BPL Outreach Services during Library Legislative Day at the State House
	+ Pine Street Inn Outreach workers stationed at the BPL were highlighted in Kevin Cullen’s column in the Boston Globe

**Standing Committee and Liaison Reports**

**COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES**

Commissioner Madell

* First Meeting; please explain acronyms for New Commissioners

Commissioner Cluggish

* Spoke at PJ Drive Celebration in Lawrence
* Attended Legislative Day
* Participated in Executive Committee Call
* Received a wonderful Thank you note from Millbury for speaking

Commissioner Ball

* Attended Legislative breakfasts in Sharon and Holbrook
* Attended Legislative Day
* Suggests we have a Board Meeting at the State House Library during budget season

Commissioner Abraham

* Spoke at Reading Public Library’s Legislative breakfast
* Attended Perkins CAB Meeting
* Attended Legislative Day
* Started a Twitter Librarybits

Commissioner Resnick

* Spoke at Longmeadow Legislative Breakfast
* Attended Legislative Day
* Will be speaking at Erving groundbreaking

Commissioner Perille

* Attended PJ Drive Celebration in Lawrence

Commissioner Welch

* May 4 Friends Sharing with Friends in Canton
* Attended Legislative Day.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Ochsenbein presented Commissioner Welch citations from the House and Senate for her 10 years of library service.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Cluggish moved and Commissioner Welch seconded to adjourn the March 7, 2019 monthly business meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners at 12:00 PM.



Mary Kronholm

Secretary