MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Date : September 5, 2019

Time : 10:00 A.M.

Place : Forbes Library

 Northampton, Massachusetts

Present : Roland A. Ochsenbein, Chairman; Mary Ann Cluggish, Vice Chairman; Mary Kronholm, Secretary; Deb Abraham; Les Ball; Stacy DeBole; Philip Madell, Esq.; N. Janeen Resnick

Absent : Gina Perille

**Staff Present:**

James Lonergan, Director; Celeste Bruno, Communications Director; Andrea Bunker, Library Building Specialist; Maura Deedy, Library Advisory Specialist; Rachel Masse, Assistant to the Director; Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs / Government Liaison

**Observers Present:**

Mary Anne Antonellis, Library Director, M.N. Pear Memorial Library, Shutesbury; Nora Blake, Library Director, Emily Williston Memorial Library, Easthampton; Russell Carries, Trustee, Forbes Library, Northampton; Lisa Downing, Library Director, Forbes Library, Northampton; Anna Fahey- Flynn, Central Library Manager, Boston Public Library (BPL); Catherine Halpin, Collaborative Library Services Coordinator, Boston Public Library (BPL); Jennifer Harris, Library Director, Plymouth Public Library; Jeanette Lungren, Network Administrator, C/W MARS, Inc.; Molly Moss, Assistant Director, Forbes Library, Northampton; Phil McNulty, Network Administrator, Minuteman Library Network; Greg Pronevitz, Consultant, Massachusetts School Library Association; Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director, Massachusetts Center for the Book (MCB); Sarah Sogigian, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System (MLS)

**Call to Order**

Chairman Ochsenbein called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Chairman Ochsenbein awarded Director Downing with a proclamation in celebration of the Forbes Library’s 125 anniversary.

***WHEREAS***, the Forbes Library has promoted knowledge, information, culture and learning both in the printed word and other media for the benefit of the people of Northampton and the surrounding communities for over a century; and

***WHEREAS***, the Forbes Library opened in 1894, as a result of a bequest by Judge Charles Edward Forbes, who wished to build a public library for the citizens of Northampton; and

***Whereas,*** the Forbes Library is home to the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library and Museum which celebrates the life of the 30th President of the United States who studied law and politics in Northampton; and

***WHEREAS***, the Forbes Library originally served as the library for the newly founded Smith College across the street and still maintains a close connection to its collegiate neighbors; and

***WHEREAS***, the Forbes Library provides free access to technology, including computers with Internet, Wifi, streaming services, and eBooks, allowing all residents to participate in the digital revolution and demonstrating that far from replacing libraries, technology has made libraries more vital to democratic communities; and

***WHEREAS***, the Forbes Library provides free programming for all generations encouraging life-long learning and connecting people with their neighbors so that new relationships and friendships form, creating a community in which differences are valued and appreciated; and

***WHEREAS***, the Forbes Library stands as proud and vital today as it was at its founding 125 years ago thanks to its staff, trustees, volunteers and countless community supporters;

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners recognizes the many achievements of these first one hundred and twenty five years of the Forbes Library ***AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners enthusiastically supports the Forbes Library as it journeys on with Northampton residents into the next century of service.

**Approval of Minutes: August 1, 2019**

Commissioner DeBole moved and Commissioner Resnick seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the minutes for the monthly business meeting on August 1, 2019 as presented.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Ochsenbein presented the following report:

**Activities**

* MLS Executive Board Meeting in Marlboro on August 12.
* MBLC Executive Committee on August 27.
* Census Working Group conference call on Sept 4.

**Upcoming:**

Focus areas for me in September include helping to finalize the Legislative Agenda for FY 2021, and helping to advance our goal with regard to construction funding. We will be discussing the Legislative Agenda later this morning. On the construction front, I, along with Director Lonergan and selected staff, will be meeting with Representative Antonio Cabral, Chairman of the House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets, at the State House on Sept 12, 2019. The construction bond bill is currently in this committee. With Chairman Cabral, we will be discussing the possibility of amending the amount in the bill related to the Construction Program. More detail on construction funding to come today in the Director’s Report and Legislative Report sections of the agenda.

I will be attending the Massachusetts Book Awards, hosted by the Massachusetts Center for the Book, at the State House on Sept 17. As I understand it, there will be 3 years of awards given this year.

I will be attending the first of several scheduled Trustee Orientations, coordinated by Rob Favini and Maura Deedy and with help from Liz Babbitt, to be held at the Goodnow Library in Sudbury on Sept 25. Commissioner Ball is also attending. This is first of several such sessions scheduled for the fall. I encourage all Commissioners to attend as you are able. I believe that Trustees are and can be a great asset as far as grassroots advocacy.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to recognize the passing of Gregor Trinkaus-Randall this past month. I will include in the minutes for this meeting the full press statement that was issued on August 20. Gregor worked at the MBLC for over 30 years and was nationally and internationally recognized for his work in preservation and disaster preparedness. In Massachusetts, he was instrumental in helping advance the work of preserving our priceless statewide cultural heritage. He led the effort to include libraries as key resources in coordinated disaster recovery efforts. He was highly regarded as well among his professional peers outside of Massachusetts, having been elected a fellow of the Society of American Archivists in 2006, and having served as president of the Society in 2011 and 2012. He received numerous awards over the course of his career, including, most recently, the Distinguished Service Award of the Academy of Certified Archivists. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family. As has been announced, the family is hosting a Celebration of Life event and reception on October 5, 2019 at 2 p.m. at the Pompositticut Community Center in Stow, Massachusetts.

Trinkaus-Randall press release follows.

**MBLC Mourns the Loss of Gregor Trinkaus-Randall**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 20, 2019
Celeste Bruno
Communications Director
1-800-952-7403 x208
[Celeste.Bruno@state.ma.us](https://mblc.state.ma.us/news/news-releases/2019/Celeste.Bruno%40state.ma.us)

The MBLC is mourning the loss of former Preservation Specialist Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, who worked at the Board for over 30 years and became nationally and internationally recognized for his work in preservation and disaster preparedness. MBLC Chairman Roland Ochsenbien said, “Gregor’s loss is felt by all of us and his family is in our hearts and minds. His legacy will be felt not only within the library community, but extends to cultural institutions across Massachusetts and the United States.”

Among Gregor’s many MBLC projects was “Finding Common Ground: Collaborative Training for the Cultural Heritage and Emergency Response Communities,” which was funded through a prestigious $196,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). This project built on the quarter century of the MBLC’s statewide preservation activities and the work of its partners--the statewide cultural heritage emergency network, COSTEP MA, the Massachusetts Archives, the New England Museum Association, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services-- to ensure that the cultural heritage community is included in a municipality’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and that emergency responders play a formal role in the protection of local humanities collections.

In 2009, he led the effort to make libraries in Massachusetts disaster recovery centers (DRC) in collaboration with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).  In the wake of the massive flooding in eastern Massachusetts, and subsequently, the devastating tornadoes that tore through the western part of the state in 2010, several libraries including Lakeville, Billerica, Middleton, Lancaster, and Quincy opened their doors as DRCs, and librarians there were trained to begin the work of recovery as soon as possible.

He was elected a fellow of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) in 2006, and served as president of the Society from 2011 to 2012. As chair of the SAA’s Preservation Section, he was instrumental in coordinating the organization’s response to Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, and Hurricane Wilma. In 2006 the SAA recognized him in a Council Resolution for distinguished service to the Society and its members regarding his hurricane response work. In 2008 he was awarded the Heritage Preservation and American Institute for Conservation Award for Outstanding Commitment to the Preservation and Care of Collections. He also received the 2012 George Cunha and Susan Swartzburg Preservation Award (ALCT/PARS), and in 2013 he was presented with the New England Archivists’ (NEA) Distinguished Service Award, honoring his dedication and service to promoting the NEA’s mission and goals. In 2018 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Academy of Certified Archivists.

Gregor graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison with Master of Arts degrees in History and Library Science/Archives Administration. He was also a graduate of the Preservation/Conservation Internship at Yale University. His work for the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners included implementing the statewide preservation program, the MBLC’s Emergency Assistance Program, and its Environmental Monitoring Program.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Lonergan presented the following report:

Meetings/activities since the last Board meeting:

* August 5—Meeting with Commissioner Steven Florio, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing(MCDHH), and MCDHH and MBLC staff, MCDHH office, Boston
* August 7—Meeting with Department of Transitional Assistance and MBLC staff
* August 9—MLA Executive Board meeting, Shrewsbury Public Library
* August 12—MLS Executive Board meeting, Marlborough
* August 13—Meeting with Director James Fuccione, Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative, and MBLC staff
* August 22—WMLA meeting, Tyler Memorial Library, Charlemont
* September 4—Meeting with David Leonard, BPL, and Sarah Sogigian, MLS, to discuss statewide strategy

The **bond bill** (*An Act Financing the General Governmental Infrastructure of the Commonwealth,* formerly H.3687, now **H.4039**) that includes $100 million for public library construction has been favorably reported from the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight and is now with the House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets. We have scheduled a meeting with Committee Chairman Antonio Cabral for Thursday, September 12, to discuss the possibility of amending H.4039.

We will also be scheduling a meeting soon with the Executive Office of Administration and Finance to discuss possible changes to the MPLCP (particularly regarding our waiting list) to better align our program with the Commonwealth’s capital budget plan and to hopefully have the annual cap raised for FY2021.

Agency staff participated in meetings in August with the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Department of Transitional Services, and the Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative. All three organizations are looking to libraries to assist in their organizational outreach and to use libraries as a means to deliver services throughout the Commonwealth.

Shelley and Maura are both serving on the scholarship review committee of the Massachusetts Library Aid Association (MLAA) Committee on Aid to Small Public Libraries.

**IMLS Site Visit:** We received our final report from our IMLS Program Officer Michele Farrell. Michele visited the agency in July for a review of office procedures and a visit to libraries to highlight work done with LSTA direct grants. Her report evaluated the MBLC in the following three areas:

Legal Authority and Compliance

* Our certifications and assurances are in order; property is appropriately inventoried and acquired
* Our 5 year plan has been submitted and approved and we have completed required System for Award Management (SAM) and Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) registrations

Administrative Issues

* Our policies and procedures are in place to effectively run the grant program, our physical filing system was cited as a model for other states
* It was recommended that we update our English as a Second Language policy

Financial Issues

* There are no financial issues

**MPLCP**: Commissioner Kronholm spoke at the Monterey Library dedication on Saturday, August 17. The $3 million project was supported with a $1.85 million MPLCP grant. The one room, 1,809 square foot library built in 1931 was renovated and expanded to over 3,700 square feet. The project also removed two earlier additions and converted the original library into a large multipurpose room.

**Summer reading** came to a close with visits to Marshfield and Braintree. Commissioners Ball, Cluggish, and DeBole participated in these well-attended events. The Communications team is now wrapping up summer reading and creating special “thank-yous” for the legislators who attended summer events: Rep. Viera, Rep. Frost, Sen. Lesser, Sen. Finegold, Rep. Moran and Sen. Timilty; as well as a special thank you for the First Lady of the Commonwealth, Lauren Baker.

The Communications team is also putting together the booth for the Boston Book Festival, which takes place October 19, and coordinating with MLS on some materials for the booth. JFK Space posters, JFK space reading list and the Read with Pride booklist were sent to the National Book Festival for the booth that the MBLC shares with Center for the Book. They also met with the construction team to re-work materials that may be helpful in securing the bond and additional bond funding. New materials promoting the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants are also being developed.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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

The Construction Bond Bill, now numbered H 4039, An Act financing the general governmental infrastructure of the Commonwealth, has been reported out favorably from the Joint Committee on State Administration and Oversight and has been referred to House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets, chaired by Representative Antonio Cabral of New Bedford. The MBLC has a meeting scheduled with Chairman Cabral and will continue to work with the Library Caucus Co-Chairs, the House Leadership and appropriate Committee Chairs, and the Massachusetts Municipal Association to determine next steps to secure additional funding for the Construction Program through an amendment to the $100 million currently proposed in H 4039 .

Senator Diana DiZoglio of Methuen announced plans for a Senate listening tour beginning with her District in the Merrimack Valley. The "September SenaTOUR" will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 17. The event will feature a policy forum in Amesbury and walking tour of Newburyport. These listening sessions were previously known as Commonwealth Conversations, and were designed to help the state's forty senators learn about the concerns and priorities of local officials and residents across the state. Commissioners will receive details about this event and other possible tours as they become available. These events are excellent opportunities for Commissioners and other library supporters to let the Senate know about the Construction Program, State Aid and other statewide library priorities.

July 2019 revenues of $2.025 billion were $115 million or 6.0% more than last July, and $6 million above benchmark. Income tax collections were $55 million or 5.3% ahead of last July, and $10 million above benchmark. Withholding collections (a subcategory of income tax) were $51 million or 5.1% more than last July, and $6 million above benchmark. Sales and use tax collections were $32 million or 5.6% ahead of last July, and $6 million below benchmark. Corporate and business taxes were $18 million or 20.6% more than last July, and $6 million above benchmark. Other taxes, which include motor fuels, cigarette, estate, and other categories, were $9 million or 4.7% ahead of last July, and $5 million below benchmark. The FY20 revenue benchmark of $30.099 billion was used in building the signed FY20 20 General Appropriations Act. Mid-month August Total Tax collections for the month-to-date period were $814 million, up $49 million or 6.4% versus the same period in August 2018. Income Taxes totaled $601 million, up $44 million or 8.0% versus the same period in August 2018. Sales & Use Tax collections were $113 million, up $4 million or 3.2% versus the same period in August 2018. Corporate & Business Taxes were $25 million, up $12 million or 94.2% versus the same period in August 2018. Other Taxes totaled $76 million, down $11 million or 12.3% versus the same period in August 2018.

**MLS FY2020 Budget Revision 2 approval Request**

Sarah Sogigian, MLS Executive Director presented the FY2020 Budget Revision 2 to the Board.

The most significant changes from the original budget were made to recognize the increase MLS received in this years' state budget. This increase helps delivery remain solvent and cover all of its increased costs. The database /online content line was increased as well as computer hardware/software line due expenses that will be incurred due to the move of the Marlborough office.

The budget is based on our annual budget figure: $8,637,000.

We have also allocated money to fund projects that will benefit our members. I will have more information regarding what type of projects after the new Consulting and Training Services (CATS) Director is hired.

This budget revision has no major effect on our Plan of Service.

We will continue to focus on our three strategic goals; co-creator culture, future readiness and marketing, communication and advocacy.

The MLS Executive Board unanimously approved the budget revision at its August 12, 2019 meeting.

Commissioner Cluggish moved and Commissioner Kronholm seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the FY2020 Budget Revision 2 filed on September 5, 2019 for the Massachusetts Library System with a bottom line of $8,637,000, as detailed in the agenda item 5.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Consideration of appointments to the PR Committee**

Celeste Bruno, Communications Director presented the appointment to the PR Committee.

Since the inception of the statewide Public Relations Advisory Committee, membership has typically included staff from the Boston Public Library (BPL). However with staff changes at BPL there has been a slight lapse in BPL’s participation on the committee. Lisa Pollack, Chief of Communications at BPL and Renee Juline Barouxis, Senior Public Relations Associate at BPL would like to be appointed to serve on the statewide Public Relations Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Resnick moved and Commissioner Kronholm seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners appoints Lisa Pollack and Renee Juline Barouxis to serve on the statewide Public Relations Advisory Committee for a term ending in June, 2020.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

**Discussion and consideration of the FY2021 Legislative Agenda**

Chairman Ochsenbein, Director Lonergan, and Ms. Quinn lead the discussion of the FY2021 Legislative Agenda. Each affiliate that was present was asked to speak.

**Massachusetts Library System**

Sarah Sogigian stated that delivery continues to be critical to the infrastructure. She said that MLS supports the Legislative Agenda as presented.

**Library for the Commonwealth**

Anna Fahey Flynn said that LFC supports the Legislative Agenda. State Aid also benefits the Boston Public Library. In the future LFC would like to grow the Digital Commonwealth maybe by hiring a teacher.

**Library Networks**

Phil McNulty, Network Administrator for the Minuteman Library Network stated that they support the Legislative Agenda as presented. He said it was great to see the increase in FY2020. The increase will support purchase of eContent.

Jeanette Lungren, Network Administrator, C/W MARS, Inc. said that they support the Legislative Agenda as presented.

**Center for the Book**

Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director stated that the Center can’t continue with the funding suggested. She is asking the Commissioners to support the request for $300,000. She stated that the Center has been level funded since fiscal 2014. Ms. Shaloo also asked for support in educating the Senate about the Center. There needs to be a way to let them know that the Center is a part of library services.

**Massachusetts Library Association**

Nora Blake, Vice President of MLA stated that they support the Legislative Agenda as presented. State Aid to Public Libraries is very important to the members.

**Massachusetts School Library Association**

Greg Pronevitz spoke on behalf of MSLA in support of the Legislative Agenda. Save delivery and save the databases!

**Western Mass Library Advocates**

Nora Blake spoke on behalf of WMLA in support of the Legislative Agenda. She said State Aid is extremely important to Western Mass Public Libraries.

Commissioner Ochsenbein asked Ms. Shaloo what she would do with the increase in funds to $300,000.

Ms. Shaloo stated that she would hire a Program Manager and that would free up her time to be able to fundraise. She stated that they must raise money to be able to sustain the program.

Director Lonergan asked the Commissioners if they would be willing to increase funding for the Center for the Book to $250,000.

The Commissioners stated that they would need to see evaluation tools to see the program is working. The $200,000 would be seed money for administration. The Center must get more donations.

Commissioner DeBole moved and Commissioner Abraham seconded to increase the Center for the Book funding for the FY2021 Legislative Agenda to $250,000.

***Voting Yes:, Roland A. Ochsenbein, Chairman; Deb Abraham; Stacy DeBole; Jan Resnick***

***Voting no: Mary Kronholm, Secretary; Les Ball, Philip Madell***

***Abstaining: Mary Ann Cluggish, Vice Chairman***

**The motion does not pass.**

Commissioner Ball moves and Commissioner Cluggish seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners adopts the FY2021 Legislative Agenda with the understanding that minor editorial and graphic changes may be made prior to publication with the totals presented below.

**Board voted unanimous approval.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Item No. | Item Name | FY2020 Budget | FY2021 Legislative Agenda Request |
| 7000-9101 | Board of Library Commissioners | $1,322,130 | $1,579,876 |
| 7000-9401 | State Aid to Regional Libraries | $11,516,000 | $11,861,480 |
| 7000-9402 | Talking Book Library (Worcester) | $468,217 | $482,264 |
| 7000-9406 | Talking Book and Machine Lending (Perkins) | $2,665,800 | $2,745,774 |
| 7000-9501 | State Aid to Public Libraries | $10,059,081\* | $12,000,000 |
| 7000-9506 | Library Technology and Resource Sharing | $4,259,000 | $4,386,770 |
| 7000-9508 | Center for the Book | $200,000 | $225,000 |
|  |  | $30,500,228 | $33,281,164 |

\*Includes $158,000 in earmarks.

**Discussion/ review of policies for the FY2022 State Aid to Public Libraries Program**

Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs, presented the Board policies related to the FY2022 State Aid to Public Libraries program: a) Extending a Grace Period for Increased Population-based Minimum Standards; b) Minimum Standards of Hours of Service for Public Libraries; c) Minimum Materials Expenditure Standard Calculation; d) Materials Expenditure and Hours Open Accommodation Policy; e) Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR) Calculation; f) Determining Eligibility for a Waiver of the FY2022 Municipal Appropriation Requirement; g) The Closure of a Public Library; h) Five Year Waiver Plan Policy.

She stated that the proposed policies would be presented for Board approval at the October 3, 2019 Board Meeting.

**Update from the Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA)**

Greg Pronevitz, Director of Outreach presented the following update to the Board from Massachusetts School Library Association.

MSLA has a new President, Laura Luker, Librarian at the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School, she is taking on this leadership role for two years. Kathy Lowe, our long-term Executive Director, is stepping down into retirement. Her role is being filled by two independent contractors:

-Emily Kristofek, Office Manager/Event Planner - emilykristo@gmail.com

-Greg Pronevitz, Director of Outreach - greg@pronevitzconsulting.com, 978-760-4767

Our 2020 Conference, “We can do it: School libraries build strong communities,” will be held March 29-30 at the Sheraton in Framingham.

We have new advocacy co-chairs:

-Deeth Ellis, Boston Latin School

-Georgina Trebbe, Minnechaug Regional High School.

We are reaching out to connect with legislators who are on the Joint Committee on Education, Ways and Means, and the Library Caucus to deliver our advocacy message.

Our advocacy priority is to call for the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Commission on School Library Services in Massachusetts as described in the Commissions [2018 Report](https://www.maschoolibraries.org/ma-school-library-study-for-equity--access.html). The study found that there is disparity of equity of access to school libraries and school library services in Massachusetts schools. The recommendations are steps to enhance equity. We feel that the most important first steps are to appoint an individual at the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education with responsibility for school libraries. No one has this responsibility currently. We also would like to see a comprehensive audit or census of school libraries, librarians, and related services to provide a baseline for enhancing equity. We are grateful for Director Lonergan’s participation in our efforts to bring about these recommendations.

We were pleased to support the MBLC’s Library Legislative Agenda and appreciate the opportunity to provide input. We applaud you on your success at boosting funding this year. We ask that you consider restoring online content with some of the additional funds, particularly “Opposing Viewpoints.”

We are planning an advocacy summit in October to define our own Legislative Agenda for this fiscal year and will invite MBLC to join us.

**School Libraries matter—But not all students have what they need**

The Special Commission on School Library Services in Massachusetts submitted its findings in February 2018 with recommendations to improve equity of access to school library services in its report: *The Massachusetts School Library Study: Equity and Access for Students in the Commonwealth* to the Legislature’s Joint Committee on Education. The Commission, which included educators, legislators, librarians, and members of the business community, found that Massachusetts public school students do not have equity when it comes to their school library programs.

Access to a school library and a school librarian benefits every student, but

* There is no Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) staff member charged with overseeing school library programs and no data is collected regularly regarding the number of schools with libraries or the number of schools with licensed school librarians in Massachusetts public schools.
* One in five schools have no licensed school librarian.
* The majority of school libraries have no support staff.  Librarians are performing clerical work, when they could be teaching students.
* Fewer than half of Massachusetts school districts have a library or technology director.
* School libraries, often in urban schools, are frequently closed to provide testing or due to lack of staff.

Access to information from digital resources and technology benefits every student, but

* Urban school districts have significantly less access to information technology compared to rural and suburban districts. This includes access to state-funded online resources.
* Many districts have limited access to computers in the school library and poor internet access, and this is more common in urban and rural districts.

The Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA), the professional organization for Massachusetts school library teachers, calls for action to implement the recommendations to improve equity of access to students in Massachusetts as recommended by the Special Commission.

The most important first steps:

1.    Creating a position at the DESE to oversee implementation of the Special Commission’s recommendations, to work with stakeholders to recommend appropriate language in possible Chapter 70 revisions and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) documents and funding requests, and to act as a liaison between DESE, school librarians, the library community and other stakeholders.

2.    Conducting a thorough, detailed census of public school library programs to determine exactly where the inequities lie with regard to student access to a school library, librarians and staffing, funding, information technology, physical/electronic resources, and other factors related to school library services in the Commonwealth.

Further information on the Special Commission’s report is available at: https://libguides.salemstate.edu/MASchoolLibraryResearchProject

**Report from the Massachusetts Library System**

Sarah Sogigian, Executive Director presented the following report for MLS:

**Budget News**
The FY20 State Budget was announced on August 2, 2019, and we are incredibly pleased and grateful to see that State Aid to Regional Libraries (7000-9401-the budget line that MLS shares with Libraries for the Commonwealth) received a $1,233,860 increase. We’ll be using this increase mainly to stabilize the statewide delivery service and program support for our members. Sincere thanks to all of you who have advocated on MLS’ behalf, and to the organizations who have supported the legislative agenda through Legislative Breakfasts, Meet and Greets with local legislators, and legislative contacts.

**New Marlborough Office**
We’re almost there! Our move from our current location to our new one will take place the week of September 16. Our new location features a slightly smaller space, but a bigger training room, with free parking, cafe, and even easier access to major routes. Our new address will be:

Massachusetts Library System
33 Boston Post Rd. WEST, Suite 400
Marlborough, MA 01752

Email, delivery routing, and phone contacts will remain the same. We look forward to inviting you to visit once our move is complete.

**New website**
Our new website launched this month. Thank you to all for your patience as we migrated to our new site. Thanks also for sharing your ideas and suggestions with us. We’ll continue to update and incorporate ideas in the coming months.

**MLS Service News**
Gale Pages
As you may have seen, Gale introduced a new look and feel as well as some additional features to their products. While these changes impact nearly all of the Gale resources included in the statewide databases, please note that there are no changes to the content of the databases, nor are we losing any resources. All links will also remain the same. For more information, please see our databases libguide: <http://guides.masslibsystem.org/databases>.

**Fall Continuing Education (CE) and Special Events**
Our Fall season of continuing education workshops and events has been announced. Topics include leading effective meetings, grant writing, collection maintenance, media mentorship, career action plans, and more. Special event topics include Copyright First Responders, Communities in Crisis: Libraries Respond to the Opioid Epidemic, and Building Your Leadership Toolbox.

Our Annual Meeting will be at the College of the Holy Cross on November 4. Details are forthcoming; all members are invited to attend!

For registration and further info on all of our events, please visit our Event Calendar:
[calendar.masslibsystem.org](http://calendar.masslibsystem.org)

**Welcoming Library Kits**We are excited to unveil a new project facilitated by the “I’m Your Neighbor” organization. The Welcoming Library kit is a ready-to-use display of children’s books that highlight the lives of immigrants and refugees. The collection — with its pop-up display unit and resources for how to use the kit — packs into 2 bright red delivery bins and travels between MLS member libraries, building an environment of welcoming and belonging. Through the sharing of children’s literature readers of all ages and backgrounds can experience immigration, resilient resettlement and adjustment, and cultural celebration.

Starting in Spring 2020, kits can be requested via our professional collection and sent through delivery. Contact April Mazza, MLS Consultant at april@masslibsystem.org for more information.

**Manton Foundation Grant**MLS was recently awarded a grant for $12,700 from The Manton Foundation to fund educational opportunities specifically designed for our small library members (but available to all members). More details will be forthcoming, but we are especially excited, as this grant will help us plan and fund our next Small Libraries Forum, which we co-host with MBLC. This one day event is dedicated to bringing together small library directors and staff for speakers and presentations, along with the opportunity to network with their colleagues.

**A Note of Sympathy**
MLS was saddened to learn that our friend and frequent collaborator, Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, passed away on August 16, 2019. Gregor was a valued member of the MBLC team, working there for over 30 years. You may remember Gregor from his hands on book repair workshops and his “better than the forecasters” weather updates. Gregor was internationally known for his work on preservation and disaster preparedness. Generations of users will benefit from his dedication to libraries and cultural institutions. We send our thoughts and condolences to Gregor’s family, friends, and colleagues.

**Report from the Library for the Commonwealth**

Catherine Halpin, Collaborative Library Services Coordinator presented the following update:

* The BPL gave two presentations at the Otis Public Library about the Library for the Commonwealth program as well as Document Delivery services, and Foreign Language Deposits offered through BPL. There was a morning session offered for librarians in the area, and then an afternoon session geared towards patrons. We were joined by representatives from MLS who spoke in the morning session for librarians about ILL services and then also gave an overview of MLS services. Librarians from Otis, Blanford, West Stockbridge, and Becket were present. (Librarians from Monterey and New Marlborough were unfortunately unable to attend at the last minute)
* LFC presentation is planned for the next C/W MARS membership meeting later this month where we expect 40-50 library directors to be present.
* Another presentation in conjunction with UMass Amherst is currently being planned for October. (Thanks to MLS for supporting this event and special thanks to MLS Board Member, Matthew Berube, for conceiving this event and making the introductions to get the ball rolling.)
* An updated FY20 LFC budget will be presented at next month’s MBLC meeting on October 3.

**Standing Committee and Liaison Reports**

**COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES**

**Commissioner Madell**

* Attended National Book Festival in Washington DC

**Commissioner Resnick**

* Attended Western MA Advocates Meeting

**Commissioner Cluggish**

* Participated in Executive Committee Conference Call
* Attended Braintree Summer Reading Visit
* Plans to attend Book Awards Event

**Commissioner Kronholm**

* Participated in Executive Committee Conference Call
* Attended Western MA Advocates Meeting
* Spoke at the Monterey Library Opening

**Commissioner Abraham**

* Attended Minuteman Library Network Library Crawl on August 1

**Commissioner DeBole**

* Attended Braintree Summer Reading Visit

**Commissioner Ball**

* Participated in Census conference call
* Attended Marshfield Summer Reading Visit
* Spoke at the Norwell Groundbreaking

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jennifer Harris, Director of the Plymouth spoke about the 400th Anniversary of Plymouth in 2020. On November 9, residents can go and have up to three photos scanned that are about Plymouth. The summer reading theme for 2020 is Imagine Your Stories and the Plymouth Library will be reading the *Boy Who Fell Off the Mayflower*. There will be performances all over the Mashpee/Plymouth area.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Cluggish moved and Commissioner Madell seconded to adjourn the September 5, 2019 monthly business meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners at 12:19 P.M.



Mary Kronholm

Secretary