Graphical user interface, text

Description automatically generated with medium confidence**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS monthly regular meeting**

**Date** : Thursday, August 4, 2022

**Time** : 10:00 A.M.

**Place** : Perkins School, Grousbeck Center

Watertown, MA

**Present** : Debby Conrad, Chair; Deb Abraham, Vice Chair; Vicky Biancolo; Mary Ann Cluggish; George Comeau, Esq.; Karen Traub

**Zoom** : Stacy DeBole, Secretary

**Absent** : Les Ball; Jessica Vilas Novas

**Staff Present:**

James Lonergan, Director; Celeste Bruno, Communications Director; Maura Deedy, Library Advisory Specialist; Tracey Dimant, Head of Operations & Budget; Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory and Development; Rachel Masse, Assistant to the Director; Mary Rose Quinn, Head of State Programs / Government Liaison

**Staff Zoom:**

Andrea Bono-Bunker, Library Building Specialist; Kate Butler, Electronic Services Specialist; Jen Inglis, State Aid Specialist; Paul Kissman, Library Information Systems Specialist; Evan Knight, Preservation Specialist; Matthew Perry, Communications Specialist; Lauren Stara, Library Building Specialist; Lillian Sutton, Administrative Assistant

**Observers Present:**

Kim Charlson, Library Director, Perkins School Library; Terry McQuown, Consulting & Training Services Director, Massachusetts Library System (MLS)

**Observers Zoom:**

Gary Aussant, Director, Perkins Access Consulting; Eileen Dyer, Library Director, Swansea Public Library; David Slater, Network Administrator, Old Colony Library Network (OCLN); Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director, Massachusetts Center for the Book; Angela Veizaga, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Boston Public Library (BPL)

**Meeting called to order by Chair Conrad**

Chair Conrad called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

**Roll Call of Commissioners**

Chair Conrad stated that she is required to take a roll call of Commissioners to comply with the Open Meeting Law for hybrid meetings.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Commissioner Abraham- Present | Commissioner Cluggish- Present | Commissioner DeBole- Present- Zoom |
| Commissioner Ball- Absent | Commissioner Comeau- Present- Zoom | Commissioner Traub- Present |
| Commissioner Biancolo- Present | Commissioner Conrad- Present | Commissioner Vilas Novas- Absent |

Chair Conrad explained that she would be making a motion to comply with a consent agenda. A consent agenda is a board meeting practice that groups routine motions into the consent agenda. If there are no objections, the Chair can declare a motion passed, rather than counting votes for each motion separately.

Chair Conrad moved to adopt a consent agenda for agenda items #2, Approval of minutes, Agenda item #8 Consideration of reappointments to the PR Committee, and #14 adjournment. Commissioner Cluggish seconded.

Chair Conrad asked for a roll call vote of the Commissioners for this motion.

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| Commissioner Abraham- Yes | Commissioner Cluggish- Yes | Commissioner DeBole- Yes |
| Commissioner Ball- Absent | Commissioner Comeau- Yes | Commissioner Traub- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo- Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Vilas Novas- Absent |

**The motion passed.**

**Approval of Minutes from the regular monthly meeting:**

**July 7, 2022**

Chair Conrad asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2022 Monthly Meeting.

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Cluggish seconded to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2022, Regular Monthly Meeting with minor edits.

**Hearing no objection, Chair Conrad declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Chair’s Report**

Chair Conrad presented the following report:

As this is the first month I am serving as Chair of this meeting, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mary Ann Cluggish for providing me with information and guidance so that I can feel comfortable in my new role. I know I am echoing the comments of many others when I say that Mary Ann has contributed so much to the Board and the Massachusetts library community – she sets a very high standard for me to meet. I also want to thank the Perkins Library for hosting our meeting today. Kim Charlson, Executive Director of the Perkins Library, will be speaking later in the agenda. There were plans for the Commissioners to go the Perkins Story Walk but we decided that the excessive temperatures today would make that more than uncomfortable. I know that Kim will be talking about this temporary exhibition, and I hope some of us can visit before it leaves.

The announcement that the Legislature and the Governor have approved funding for all of the MBLC line items at the level requested is proof that the advocacy efforts of the past year were more than effective. Combined with the increase in the construction bond cap, this has been the best budgetary news I can remember for some time. This success was due to a lot of hard work on the part of many people – MBLC staff for creating a wonderful website that beautifully laid out the legislative agenda in a clear and easy to understand format, the MLA Legislative Committee for organizing the statewide virtual Legislative Days and working with regional breakfast groups, the various regional groups and library directors who hosted their own virtual or onsite Legislative events, and the library community as a whole who worked so hard to tell their stories that demonstrated the need for robust library funding at the state level. I spent some time in the last month traveling through parts of the country where libraries are facing book challenges, reduced funding, and governance upheavals. This budget proves that Massachusetts elected officials at the state level understand the critical role that libraries play and will take steps to ensure libraries have the means to fulfill that role.

That being said, as soon as one budget cycle ends another begins. Later in the agenda James and Mary Rose will be talking about some preliminary ideas for the next legislative agenda which will build on the successes we have seen so far.

During the past month I attended the July 26 Virtual Executive Committee meeting and am in the process of reviewing Commissioner Committee and Liaison assignments. I also contacted my local legislators and members of the Budget Conference committee to thank them for approving the MBLC line items at the levels requested. I would like to remind the Commissioners and those in attendance today that if you haven’t contacted your legislators to thank them for the approved funding it isn’t too late.

**Commissioner Activities**

**Commissioner Abraham**

* July 14- Urban Librarianship Conference
* July 19- PR Committee Meeting
* July 26- MBLC Executive Committee Meeting

**Commissioner Biancolo**

* July 19- PR Committee Meeting
* July 21- CMLA Monthly Meeting

**Commissioner Cluggish**

* Sent letters to legislators
* July 19- PR Committee Meeting
* July 28- Tynsborough Summer Library Reading Program

**Commissioner Traub**

* July 11- MLS Executive Board Meeting
* July 12- Online webinar Books, Boots, Bridal
* July 19- PR Committee Meeting
* July 30- Grafton Summer Library Reading Program

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Director Lonergan presented the following report:

Meetings/activities highlights since the last monthly Board meeting:

* July 8 & 21—COSLA EDI Working Group meeting, virtual
* July 11—MLS Executive Board meeting, virtual
* July 13—COSLINE (Council of State Library Agencies in the Northeast) meeting, virtual
* July 14—Meeting with Timur Yontar, Assistant Budget Director for Capital, Executive Office of Administration & Finance, virtual
* July 20—"Sustainable Thinking for the Future of Libraries” webinar
* July 21—"Tips for Handling Media Inquiries” webinar
* July 26—EveryLibrary webinar on Digital Equity Act and stakeholder engagement for state library agencies
* July 27— “Commonwealth Conversation” Planning Discussions with MCB
* July 28—COSLA Member Update
* August 2—Meeting with Janelle Abreu, Director and Deborah Kelsey, former acting Director from Lawrence Public Library with Rob, Tracey, and Lyndsay to discuss ARPA grant, virtual

On July 16, 2022, Governor Baker signed into law “An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations”, which extends the expiration of the provisions pertaining to the **Open Meeting Law** to **March 31, 2023**.  This extension allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings.

Governor Baker signed the **FY2023 operating budget** on July 28 and didn’t veto/adjust any of the proposed amounts for our line items from the Conference Committee. Our State Aid to Public Libraries line received $16 million, a 23% increase over the FY2022 funding level, and an increase of just over 59% since FY2020. Thank you to the Commissioners for recommending that we ask for a $3 million increase for State Aid to Public Libraries for FY2023, rather than the $2 million increase Mary Rose and I initially suggested. This was the year to make such a substantial request.

State Aid to Regional Libraries received a $1 million increase for the third year in a row (in addition to a larger increase of $1.2 million in FY2020). The Mass. Center for the Book’s budget of $400,000 is now double its FY2020 funding level, however the Center was level-funded from FY2016 until FY2020.

Tracey, Mary Rose, Lauren, Andrea and I met virtually with Timur Yontar, Assistant Capital Budget Director, Executive Office of Administration & Finance (A&F) on July 14 to discuss how to get on the “to do” list that A&F will leave for the next Governor for a new bond authorization for our next MPLCP grant round. We tentatively plan to announce the grant round later this fiscal year, with applications due in FY2024 and awards made in FY2025. Timur is investigating the possibility of our making awards tied to a general A&F capital bond if our new construction bond has not been approved in time for making awards in July 2024 (it can take two legislative years to get a bond bill passed). We have a follow up meeting scheduled with him on August 4.

Celeste, Matt, and I met with Sharon Shaloo and Mass. Center for the Book colleagues on July 27 to discuss the possibility of the MBLC co-sponsoring a “**Commonwealth Conversation**” with MCB for a second year this fall, with a “Books in Action” focus on climate change.

We will also be co-staffing the Massachusetts booth with the MCB at the upcoming **National Book Festival** in Washington, DC on Labor Day weekend. Matt Perry will be representing the MBLC at the event.

With the awarding of both LSTA awards and construction awards, the **Communications Team** has shared press releases with legislators so that they’re aware of the MBLC support in their districts. They have also worked with the library community as they release grant information to local media.

The Team held two “Tips for Working with Media” zoom sessions attended by 80 people in which they discussed the basics of handling media interactions and answered questions from the participants.

The Statewide Public Relations Advisory Committee met to begin the development of promotional materials for databases. Prior to the meeting, Celeste and Matt sent an email asking the library community what would be most helpful to them and received valuable input.

The Committee also reviewed equity recommendations stemming from the April training with Dr. Sonya Grier. In addition, the Committee also discussed its potential role in statewide issues affecting libraries such as book challenges and disruptions from hate groups.

The Team has held five **summer reading events** so far this year. The kickoff at Medford Public Library was attended by 12 Bruins prospect players and was led by Rachel Masse and Matt Perry. At the Tyngsboro Public Library, First Lady Lauren Baker was in attendance as was Olympic Gold Medalist and Boston Pride President Colleen Coyle, State Representative Colleen Garry, and Bruins mascot Blades. Ms. Coyne brought the Isobel cup and was a huge hit answering questions and letting kids hold her gold medal. Commissioner Cluggish led the event off with a welcome to the crowd of about 80 people and recognized VIPs including the town administrator and library trustees.

In Ipswich, they were joined by Pride Player Kali Flanagan who also brought the Isobel Cup. Kali is an Olympic Gold Medalist as well and shared her medal from the 2018 South Korea Olympics with the crowd of 350 people. Commissioner Vilas Novas greeted families and handed out READ posters and drew the trivia prize winners in a random drawing. Bruins mascot Blades posed for pictures and had fun with the children. In Grafton, families enjoyed story time with Blades, trivia with Commissioner Traub, and fun activities and games. Matt Perry ran the Sterling event during the library’s picnic/concert with Blades posing for photos and crafts for kids. Three events remain: Wilmington, Wareham, and Hamilton-Wenham.

MLA recently released the following statement on censorship and book challenges:

MLA Censorship and Challenges Statement

July 2022

Massachusetts libraries, along with the rest of the nation, are experiencing unprecedented numbers of censorship attempts. More book challenges were reported to the American Library Association in 2021 than in any year since data collection began. 2022 is shaping up to outpace 2021 with the majority of censorship efforts hitting school and public libraries.

The Massachusetts Library Association fully supports the American Library Association's Statement on Book Censorship

[(https://www.ala.org/advocacy/statement-regarding-censorship).](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/statement-regarding-censorship))

We champion the public’s constitutional right to access a broad array of information, services, and programs. As professionals, librarians rely on policies and local knowledge to create collections, services, and programs that serve their entire community. Individuals make their own decisions about what they read and what they believe and patrons and parents have the freedom to determine which of these offerings fit their individual needs.

These ideals are rooted in the First Amendment and the American Library Association’s [Bill](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill) [of Rights](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill), including the [ALA Freedom to Read](https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement) statement.

If your library is experiencing a challenge to materials, services, or programs, Massachusetts library workers can reach out to the Massachusetts Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom & Social Responsibility Committee ([ifsrc@masslib.org](mailto:ifsrc@masslib.org)), the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners ([answers@mblc.state.ma.us](mailto:answers@mblc.state.ma.us)), or the Massachusetts Library System [(info@masslibsystem.org)](mailto:info@masslibsystem.org) for support and resources.

MLA calls on you to stand up against censorship in your community and join the [Unite](https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/) [Against Book Bans Campaign](https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/).

Signed,

MLA Administrative Board

Regarding book/material challenges, Maura Deedy has been regularly focusing on intellectual freedom and how to prepare for material challenges (including the requirement for public libraries in the Commonwealth to have a collection development policy) in her work with library trustees and directors, whether through all-regions emails, her Trustee Deep Dives, or forwarding information about ALA and/or United for Libraires efforts in these areas (including several recent webinars), as well as our own Collection Development and Intellectual Freedom LibGuide (<https://guides.mblc.state.ma.us/c.php?g=43533&p=8978900>). In addition, both Rob and Maura regularly provide guidance/advice about these issues in their frequent advisory sessions. They are also in regular communication with the MLA Intellectual Freedom/Social Responsibility Committee and MLS to keep up to date on challenges and to offer guidance. Finally, Mary Rose and State Aid unit staff field questions and provide guidance related to material challenges and State Aid to Public Libraries program requirements.

**Perkins Report**

Kim Charlson, Library Director of the Perkins School Library provided the following report for the Commissioners.

Perkins hosted the August 4 meeting of the MBLC Board. Ongoing programs and services statistics included: materials circulation was up in FY22 over 500,000 outgoing books, magazines, DVDs, and equipment circulated to over 22,000 patrons statewide. Library Zoom activities are very popular with patrons because they eliminate barriers with transportation and geography. In FY22, Perkins held 440 Zoom events, with over 6,400 unique attendees, having over 800 hours of programming provided to participants. Perkins Library staff answered 51,000 phone calls in FY22.

We introduced patrons to hotspot technology as part of the MBLC Hotspot Program funded with an ARPA grant. In January 2022, Perkins began lending a braille ereader device, similar in functionality to a Kindle for downloading braille books. We have distributed over 400 units and trained braille readers in its use.

Beginning in FY23, the Perkins Library is transitioning its materials distribution system away from more traditional available books on the shelf processes to a customized production on demand system where we prepare a book order with specific titles the patron wants, with no reserves or waiting. Borrowers will get the books they want, when they want them. It will dramatically increase our capacity to fill requests and user satisfaction.

Finally, the Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library was one of fifteen finalists for the 2022 IMLS Library and Museum Medal. We were the only Massachusetts library to be a finalist. We didn’t receive a medal, but we still view it as a very significant honor.

Ms. Charlson spoke about their Storywalk® that they had on campus. There is no better way to spend a beautiful summer day on the campus of the Perkins School for the Blind than right outside the Braille & Talking Book Library (BTBL) exploring our Storywalk®! Come take the walk and read Sonia Sotomayor's book *Just Ask: Be Brave, Be Different, Be You* to celebrate Disability Pride Month 2022.

A Storywalk® is an innovative and delightful way for children — and adults! — to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Laminated pages from the children's print book *Just Ask* have been enhanced with braille overlays and QR codes for audio content and then attached to signboards. These signs have been placed along the outdoor sidewalk around the BTBL buildings. As you walk the path, you're encouraged to continue along to the next page in the story. If you want to use the audio from the QR codes, you can use your phone’s built-in reader or download the app by following the instructions below.

Storywalks® were created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont, and developed with the help of Rachel Senechal, formerly of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library located in Montpelier, Vermont. Today Storywalks® have been installed in 50 states and 13 countries including, Germany, Canada, England, Bermuda, Russia, Malaysia, Pakistan and South Korea!

The Perkins Storywalk® follows the book *Just Ask!: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You* by Sonia Sotomayor and Rafael Lopez . In this warm and inclusive story, inspired by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor’s own childhood diagnosis of diabetes, readers join along as differently abled kids use their strengths to work together and learn about each other. Sonia and her friends plant a garden, and each one contributes in their own special way, celebrating the many differences among humans.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

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

MBLC Budget



MBLC budget lines in the last decade have increased 47.6%; State Aid in the last decade increased 84% (FY 2013-2023)

MBLC budget total of $40,883,002 is 0.0776% of the total state budget of $52.7 billion

1986 Tax Relief Law and the Economic Development bill

Chapter 62F, a law from 1986 that has not been triggered since 1987 but which could send $3 billion back to taxpayers, has paused the decision on the economic development bill. The House and Senate will reevaluate the Legislature's spending decisions in that more than $4 billion bill and will delay the decision to include $500 million in one-time tax rebates and $500 million in permanent tax cuts in it until after the Auditor determines if the Tax Relief Law is triggered. The Auditor may have the figures in September.

The Department of Revenue collected $2.367 billion during July - the first month of the new fiscal year - an increase of $101 million or 4.5 percent over last July.

After adjusting for an elective pass-through entity excise that skews some comparisons, DOR said last month's collections were at least $92 million ahead of July 2021 receipts. There is not yet a monthly benchmark against which to judge the month's figures; DOR said benchmarks are still in development for fiscal 2023. We are still waiting for the June end of month and FY 2022 end of year figures which are typically delayed due to the transition to the new fiscal year.

Legislative Agenda: Topics to consider

* Construction
  + New bond and cap with talking points and advocacy
* Library e-book bill
* MBLC budget lines
* Statewide initiatives

Legislative Agenda discussion aids

<https://massbudget.org/>

<https://massbudget.org/budget-browser/>

<https://massbudget.org/budget-browser/subcategory/?id=Libraries>

State Aid

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| **Adjusted for inflation (cpi)** | **Adjusted** | **Not Adjusted** |
| FY23 Leg | $16,000,000 | $16,000,000 | |
| FY22 | $13,562,408 | $13,000,000 | |
| FY21 | $13,396,512 | $12,000,000 | |
| FY20 | $11,486,764 | $10,059,081 | |
| FY19 | $11,150,518 | $9,612,700 | |
| FY18 | $10,762,795 | $9,090,000 | |
| FY17 | $10,895,111 | $9,000,000 | |
| FY16 | $11,133,564 | $9,029,000 | |
| FY15 | $10,981,998 | $8,847,300 | |
| FY14 | $8,530,691 | $6,823,657 | |
| FY13 | $8,663,424 | $6,823,657 | |
| FY12 | $8,809,438 | $6,823,657 | |
| FY11 | $9,068,157 | $6,823,657 | |
| FY10 | $9,248,046 | $6,823,657 | |
| FY09 | $13,672,414 | $9,989,844 | |
| FY08 | $13,169,994 | $9,489,844 | |
| FY07 | $13,370,709 | $9,289,844 | |
| FY06 | $13,349,028 | $9,039,844 | |
| FY05 | $13,087,068 | $8,539,844 | |
| FY04 | $11,586,056 | $7,339,844 | |
| FY03 | $12,633,770 | $7,830,844 | |
| FY02 | $15,190,696 | $9,212,758 | |
| FY01 | $16,696,503 | $9,949,804 | |

Commissioners agreed to consider a five percent funding increase for all MBLC budget lines for the FY 2024 Legislative Agenda and to support a larger increase for the two Talking Book lines and the Technology and Resource Sharing line.

Discussion of the Legislative Agenda also focused on a Hearing about MBLC budget lines at the next monthly meeting in Worcester on September 1.

**Consideration of reappointments to the public relations committee**

Celeste Bruno, Communications Director presented the reappointments to the Board.

I would like to mention some of our accomplishments that occurred while a global pandemic shut down in-person services and changed the way we do business. We found new ways to promote databases and eBooks, developed materials in 11 languages to support the statewide hotspot program, and helped launch the state’s first ever comprehensive calendar of virtual events. We conducted our first ever widespread patron and non-patron survey reaching more than 1,000 people and we used the results to develop a new three-year plan. We created what some would argue are the best legislative agendas to come out of the MBLC and we included legislative sheets for our school colleagues. Materials we create are now tested by a 90 person patron focus group and are used by libraries and residents across the state. National and local events caused used to reflect on how we do our work and led us to participate in Inclusive Marketing for Equity in Library Services with Dr. Sonya Grier, Professor of Marketing at Kogod School of Business at American University. We’re using what we’ve learned to create equity recommendations for the MBLC. And with that, I ask you to consider reappointments to the committee.

Members up for reappointment are Jason Homer, Director of the Worcester Public Library; Jeanette Lundgren, Executive Director of the CW/MARS Library Network; Olivia Melo, Director of the New Bedford Public Library, and Georgina Trebbe Information Specialist, Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham, would like to be reappointed to serve on the statewide Public Relations Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Comeau moved and Commissioner Biancolo seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners reappoints Jason Homer, Director of the Worcester Public Library; Jeanette Lundgren, Executive Director of the CW/MARS Library Network; Olivia Melo, Director of the New Bedford Public Library, and Georgina Trebbe Information Specialist, Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham to serve on the statewide Public Relations Advisory Committee for a two-year term ending in June, 2024.

**Hearing no objection, Chair Conrad declared the motion passed under the consent agenda.**

**Preliminary discussion of the FY2024 Legislative Agenda**

Director James Lonergan and Head of State Programs, Mary Rose Quinn started the preliminary discussion of the FY2024 Legislative Agenda. They stated that due to inflation there would be a request for a minimum 5% increase to all line items across the board.

The primary focus of this upcoming legislative agenda will be 7000-9506, Library Technology and Resource Sharing and the two Talking Book lines, 7000-9402 Talking Book Worcester and 7000-9406 Talking Book and Machine Lending Perkins.

All affiliates will be invited to the September 1 Board Meeting that will be held at the Worcester Public Library and will be given time to speak and express their thoughts on the FY2024 Legislative Agenda.

**Report from the Massachusetts Library System (MLS)**

Terry McQuown, Consulting & Training Services Director presented the following report to the Board.

**Strategic Initiative 1**  
MLS ensures its services are sustainable, prioritize member needs, and equitably serve all member types.

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| Goal | Actions | Measurement of Success | **Monthly work towards goal** |
| MLS ensures service value to all member types. | ●MLS will develop a guide to its levels of services, clarifying what benefits are available to each member type; the guide will be shared broadly and in several formats. | *Member library staff at a broad level will have a greater understanding of MLS services and resources.* | ●Michelle Eberle hosted a webinar on intellectual freedom that was presented by Martin Garner (the Director of the Amherst College Library). |
| MLS will continue to strengthen its partnerships and collaborations to allow MLS to focus on what it does uniquely well. | ●MLS will establish a partnership process, including a rubric, liaisons, expectations, policy and evaluations of current and new partnerships for opportunities and overlap. | *MLS will report out annually on the value of their partnerships.* | ●MLS was a sponsor of the Association of College and Research Library New England (ACRL NE) conference and Digital Commonwealth’s Conference. Terry McQuown and Sarah Sogigian spoke briefly about MLS and our services to both groups.  ●The [June Small Libraries Community Chat](https://vimeo.com/721452988), hosted by Kristi Chadwick, focused on book challenges and was offered in partnership with the Western MA Library Advocates (WMLA).  ●The [Community Engagement blog series](https://masslibsystem.org/blog/category/advisory/engagement/) featured interviews with David Leonard of Boston Public Library and Krista McLeod of Nevens Library in Methuen. |
| New services will be designed to deliver the greatest statewide impact, able to expand and contract due to available funding and need. | ●MLS will create guidelines and criteria for new and established services for value and impact. | *As an element of service review or introduction, MLS will be able to detail the impact/impact of the service.* | ●MLS/MBLC Database Procurement team worked with vendors to finalize details for roll-out on July 1st. |

**Strategic Initiative 2**

MLS empowers leaders to emerge at every level of library service, connecting staff throughout the stages of their careers.

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| Goal | Actions | Measurement of Success | **Monthly work towards goal** |
| MLS promotes excellence and continuity by providing professional development, conversation, and community around leadership. | ●MLS develops a process for reaching out to members/training participants, asking them to report on how MLS programs have helped them. | *Member library staff recognize the transformative value of building and maintaining a professional network*. |  |
| Leadership, professional development, and networking opportunities will have flexible offerings in order to include participants from various library types, library sizes, and resources. | Linked to Initiative 1, Goal 1: MLS will develop a guide to its levels of services, clarifying what benefits are available to each member type; the guide will be shared broadly and in several formats. | *MLS will report to member libraries on an annual basis the number of professional development opportunities via type of opportunity, intended audience, training modality, and type of library.* | ●MLS completed its offerings of HR related workshops with the Employers Association of the NorthEast |

**Strategic Initiative 3**

MLS will take the lead in facilitating important conversations, and support member-facing initiatives focused on DEI: diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility and social justice.

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| Goal | Actions | Measurement of Success | **Monthly work towards goal** |
| MLS will integrate the core values of diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility and social justice into its policies, practices, procedures, and programs. | ●In collaboration with partner organizations, MLS will explore hiring a Coordinator/ Consultant to support the membership in this work.  ●MLS will work to align internal policies and procedures to the tenets of DEI. | *MLS will demonstrate both increased resource allocation as well as substantive, visible progress in representation throughout MLS services.* |  |
| Following the lead of trusted experts, MLS will build awareness in using the DEI tenets with member library staff to identify and eliminate barriers to inclusive library services. | ●In partnership with member libraries, research and tailor a DEI evaluation framework for member libraries. | *Member library staff are confident in using the core values of DEI with their communities.* | ●MLS offered a workshop on effectively working with multiple generations. |

**Staff updates:**

**Hillary Washburn** has accepted the position of *Instructional Designer & LMS Administrator*. She will be in the Consulting & Training Services department and Northampton will be her home office. Hillary’s first day will be July 18, 2022. Hillary will be overseeing our learning management system and leading our online training and eLearning efforts. Hillary has experience as the Technology Integration Specialist at Keene Middle School and as a Librarian at Keene Public Library. She has completed her M.ED. in Digital Learning & Library Media and is currently pursuing an ED.D. in Curriculum & Instruction (Digital Learning Specialization) at Plymouth State University.

The [Delegation LibGuide](https://guides.masslibsystem.org/c.php?g=1191106), which had been created by Consultant **Kristi Chadwick**, was cited in a national LibraryWorks webinar that was presented by Pat Wagner entitled “The Art of Delegation.”

Member Update:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Librarian Name | Library | Town/City | Email |
| Sara Slymon | Thomas Crane Public Library | Quincy | [sslymon@quincy.ocln.org](mailto:sslymon@quincy.ocln.org) |
| Cyndi Harbeson | Clapp Memorial Library | Belchertown | [charbeson@cwmars.org](mailto:charbeson@cwmars.org) |
| \*Caitlin Browne | Watertown Free Public Library | Watertown | [cbrowne@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:cbrowne@watertown-ma.gov) |
| \*\*Joseph Hood | Woods Memorial Library | Barre | [jhood@barrelibrary.org](mailto:jhood@barrelibrary.org) |
| Maria Palacio | Action Memorial Library | Acton | [mpalacio@action-ma.gov](mailto:mpalacio@action-ma.gov) |
| Jennifer Woodward | Joseph H. Plumb Memorial Library | Rochester | [jwoodward@sailsinc.org](mailto:jwoodward@sailsinc.org) |
| Judy Kelly, Interim since May | Hamilton Memorial Library | Chester | [jkelly4@gmail.com](mailto:jkelly4@gmail.com) |
| Kim DiLego | North Adams Public Library | North Adams | [reference@northadams-ma.gov](mailto:reference@northadams-ma.gov) |
|  |  |  |  |
| \*Caitlin Browne moved from Acting Director to Director on April 26th. | | | |
| \*\*Joe Hood moved from acting Director to Director on June 7th. | | | |
|  | | | |
| This color print= Interim /acting Director- public libraries | | | |
| This color print= new library director but not new to library world | | | |
| This color print= new members | | | |
| This color print= new librarians/ director | | | |
| This color print= returning schools | | | |
| This color print= returning school but not new librarian (new color code this month) | | | |

**Report from the Library for the Commonwealth (LFC)**

Angela Veizaga, Director of Strategic Partnerships presented the following report to the Board.

**MassEdCO Temporary Closure**

The [MassEdCO Center](https://www.massedco.org/locations/boston/boston-area-education-and-career-planning-center) located in the Central Library will be temporarily closed for in-person assistance until Tuesday, September 6, 2022. MassEdCO will be offering phone and virtual appointments during the temporary closure. Please visit their website to schedule an appointment.

**BPL As a “Safe Place” Site**

BPL is working with [Bridge Over Troubled Waters](https://www.bridgeotw.org/safeplace), a licensed [Safe Place Agency](https://www.nationalsafeplace.org/about) to designate all BPL locations as Safe Place Sites. Safe Place is a national youth prevention program for youth under the age of 18 in need of immediate help and safety. The goal is to have all locations as certified Safe Space sites by Fall 2022.

**BPL By Bike**

Formerly known as the Bybliocycle, our [BPL By Bike](https://www.bpl.org/bpl-by-bike/) program had a soft relaunch over the past couple of months with an addition of new e-bikes. The program is not taking any current request for services but will begin taking requests in Spring 2023. The program normally runs from April – October, weather depending.

**Digital Commonwealth Update**

**Hosted:**

* Boston Public Library - Carte de Visite Collection (809 items; photographs of military officers, politicians, writers, and actors from the late 19th century)\*
* Nahant Public Library - Art and Artifacts Collection (52 items; paintings, photographs, and artifacts documenting Nahant’s history from the pre-colonial era to the present)
* New Bedford Free Public Library - Map and Chart Collection (173 items; maps, nautical charts, and surveys from the greater New Bedford area and the world)
* New Bedford Free Public Library - U.S. Geological Survey Collection (261 items; maps of Massachusetts produced between 1915 and 1998)

\* items added to existing collection

**Harvested:**

*No harvests in July.*

**Stats:**

Item views: 154,584

Total item-level records: 955,769

Total hosted items: 388,444

**Repository and Portal Development**

* Recent development work:
  + Integrating full-text transcription data from Zooniverse-hosted Anti-Slavery Manuscripts crowdsourced-transcription project into the digital repository. Transcriptions for over 12K items have been added. The full text of these items is searchable in DigitalCommonwealth.org, and each item features a downloadable transcription, “search inside” functionality, and keyword highlighting on the page image.
  + Ongoing work building a new OAI endpoint to work with DC3 repository system
  + Ongoing work updating OAI harvesting scripts to work with DC3 repository system
* Newspaper digitization:
  + Completed project to process approximately 170,000 pages digitized by MyHeritage from Boston neighborhood newspapers published from the mid-1800s to mid-1900s. We hope to be able to make this content available later this fall.
  + The Title Selection list for the NDNP grant was approved by the Library of Congress, the corresponding microfilm reels are currently being duplicated by New England Micrographics; digitization will run from fall 2022 to late summer or early fall of 2023.
  + Ongoing work scanning the Lawrence *Evening Tribune* at the BPL Imaging Lab.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**List of documents for the August 4, 2022, Regular Monthly Board Meeting:**

1. Agenda for the August 4, 2022, Regular Monthly Board Meeting
2. Draft Minutes from the July 7, 2022 Regular Monthly Board Meeting
3. Agenda #8 Consideration of reappointment to the PR Committee

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:49 A.M.

Text, letter

Description automatically generated

Stacy DeBole

Secretary