

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS monthly regular meeting**

**Date** : Thursday, April 3, 2025

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

**Place** : Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Offices

 Boston, MA

**Board**

**Present** : Vicky Biancolo, Chair; Timothy Cherubini, Vice-Chair; Karen Traub, Secretary;

Kate Chang; Debby Conrad; Joyce Linehan; Jessica Vilas Novas

**Absent :** George Comeau, Esq.

**Staff Present:**

Maureen Amyot, Director; Heather Backman, Library Building Specialist; Andrea Bono-Bunker, Library Building Consultant; Celeste Bruno, Communications Director; **Jessica Branco Colati,** Preservation Specialist; Terry D'Angelo, Administrative Assistant / Business Office; Tanesha Deane, Contract Specialist; Tracey Dimant, Head of Operations & Budget / Business Office; Allyson Dowds, Consultant to Special Populations; Susan Faiella, Accountant; Rob Favini, Head of Library Advisory and Development; Rachel Masse, Assistant to the Director;

**Staff Present (Zoom):**

Kate Butler, Library Information Systems Specialist; Al Hayden, Library Advisory Specialist; Jaccavrie McNeely, Electronic Services Specialist; Cate Merlin, Head of State Programs; June Thammasnong, Communications Specialist

**Observers Present:**

Courtney Andree, Massachusetts Center for the Book; Sarah Jackson, Boston Public Library/LFC; Sarah Sogigian, Executive Director, Massachusetts Library System

**Observers Present (Zoom):**

Mary Anne Antonellis, Shutesbury; Eileen Chandler, CLAMS Library Network; Jessi Finnie, Scituate Town Library; Deborah Lang Froggatt, MA School Library Association; Cynthia Gemmell, Manchester-by-the-Sea Public Library; Rebecca Hamburgess, Halifax-Plymouth County ; Lee Anne Hooley, Worcester; Chris Lindquist, Wayland ; Kelly Linehan, Waltham; Kim Long, Watertown; Kathy Lussier, NOBLE; David Mark, SSS; Philip McNulty, Minuteman Library Network; David Slater, Braintree; Sara Slymon, Quincy; Dora St. Martin, Malden

**Meeting called to order by Chair Biancolo**

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

**Roll Call of Commissioners**

Commissioner Traub 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 Cherubini- Present Zoom | Commissioner Linehan- Present  |
| Commissioner Biancolo - Present | Commissioner Comeau- Absent | Commissioner Traub- Present  |
| Commissioner Chang - Present  | Commissioner Conrad- Present Zoom | Commissioner Vilas Novas- Present Zoom  |

Chair Biancolo 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 Biancolo moved to adopt a consent agenda for agenda items #8- Consideration of approval of an increase to the eligible cost for the Small Library Pilot Project; #9- Consideration of approval of the policies for the FY2027 State Aid to Public Libraries Program; #10- Consideration of approval of the FY2026 Plan of Service and Program and Budget for the Library for the Commonwealth.

Commissioner Chang seconded.

Chair Biancolo then requested a roll call vote for the consent agenda.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Commissioner Cherubini- Yes | Commissioner Linehan- Yes |
| Commissioner Biancolo - Yes | Commissioner Comeau- Absent | Commissioner Traub-Yes  |
| Commissioner Chang - Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Vilas Novas- Yes |

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

**March 6, 2025**

Chair Biancolo asked if there were any corrections to the March 6, 2025 as presented.

No corrections were needed.

**Chair Report**

Chair Biancolo provided the following report.

* March 25: I attended the monthly meeting of the MBLC executive board, virtual
* March 25: I attended a fascinating webinar, “Breaking Bad Conversations about Climate Change with John E. Fernandez,” sponsored by MBLC and other state libraries.
	+ My understanding is that this webinar will be posted on the website of the New Hampshire State Library. We might want to grab a copy while we can.
* March 26: I met virtually with the ad hoc subcommittee to rework our orientation materials for new commissioners, and spent hours on our welcome document.
	+ I think it is coming along nicely, and along with the LibGuide will hopefully be a great resource for new and sitting Commissioners
* March 28: I attended the monthly meeting of the Massachusetts Library Association Legislative Committee, virtual
	+ They have updated the [legislation spreadsheet](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1M7tr6xBvV189w6mABTefR5ERZ1wkXPuUpJ-wTI6BfGc/edit?gid=0#gid=0).
	+ Most of the discussion was about IMLS funding, of course. There has been a plea from legislators and other advocates for stories–specific stories of what libraries do for you, and what you will miss if it is gone. Please spread the word. Senator Markey has a website where he is gathering stories, so if you have stories, please contribute them to Senator Markey’s website at [markey.senate.gov/trumpstories](http://markey.senate.gov/trumpstories)
	+ The leaders of the library caucus this session are:
		- Representatives Natalie Higgins and Brian Murray in the House
		- Senator Paul Feeney, who is new and is also the Assistant Vice Chair of the Senate and Joint Committees on Ways and Means
	+ The Chairs of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development where our eBook and Freedom to Read bills are:
		- Senator Paul Mark
		- Representative Sean Garballey
* I hope that we get more information later from Sarah Jackson at BPL, but I want to let you know that the BPL and Digital Commonwealth have made the decision to end their formal partnership. BPL announced that the change will enable them to enhance their statewide digitization and digital repository services while creating clearer pathways for institutions to engage with these resources, and that this decision will have no no impact on the statewide digitization service, digital repository, or statewide digital collections site. They are holding a Statewide Digital Town Hall on Zoom on Thursday, May 1, if you are interested. As for Digital Commonwealth they are going fallow for six (6) months effective July 1. They will use that time to, as they say, “investigate and conceive a potential future for the Digital Commonwealth.
* The Mass Legislature has extended the allowances for remote and hybrid meetings without violating Open Meeting Law through June of 2027, which is great news for increased access, engagement, and transparency. Governor Healey and Senate President Spilka are working to make it permanent.

**Commissioner Activities**

**Commissioner Cherubini**

* March 25- MBLC Executive Committee Meeting

**Commissioner Traub**

* March 11- Mass Center for the Book board meeting
* March 12- Beals Memorial Library Legislative Breakfast
* March 20- Central Mass Library Advocates meeting
* March 21- Commissioner Awards meeting
* March 22- United for Libraries webinar “Shaping the Future for Your Friends of the Library”
* March 25- MBLC Executive board meeting
* March 25- Mass Library Trustee Association Meeting
* March 26- Roles and Responsibilities Meeting
* April 2- Mass Library Trustee Association meeting

**Commissioner Vilas Novas**

* March 7- Andover Legislative Breakfast
* March 12- MBI launchpad webinar
* March 19- MA Digital Equity Coalition
* March 26- Commissioner Roles and Duties ad hoc committee
* recordings: Open Meeting Law & Public Records and Census Data webinars
* sent a letter and book to my book buddy as part of the Haverhill Book Buddy literacy program

**Director’s Report**

Director Amyot provided the following report:

In the wake of President Trump’s [**Executive Order 14238**](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/continuing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/) that targeted the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the notice that the entire IMLS staff was put on administrative leave on March 31, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) announced cuts to library services and grants at its monthly board meeting.

IMLS is the single largest source of critical federal funding for libraries. Through IMLS’ Grants to States Program, the MBLC was allocated $3.6 million to support statewide library services and grants to local libraries. These federal funds support statewide services that **save** money. They fund the virtual catalog that gives everyone the ability to borrow materials from libraries throughout the Commonwealth. They support research databases. Over 60% of database usage comes from schools. Close to two million eBooks were borrowed through a platform that is federally funded. Providing people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds access to information and resources that change lives is the cornerstone of a free democratic society.

At this very moment, we have not received official notice that the Grants to States Program has been terminated. However, overnight, other states received letters of Grant Termination from IMLS. We expect to receive one at any moment. With continued uncertainty about federal funds and fiscal 2026 rapidly approaching, we must take steps to minimize the risk of incurring expenses that we now know are unlikely to be reimbursed by IMLS.

These are the services that we will have to eliminate immediately:

* Explore Grants that [were awarded in February](https://mblc.state.ma.us/news/news-releases/2025/nr250225.php) to 18 libraries.
* Twelve Perkins Accessibility training sessions open to all members of the library community. The sessions, designed to increase library accessibility for people with disabilities, included topics like creating accessible web content and multimedia, creating accessible documents, and writing about people with disabilities.
* Access to training and continuing education for all library directors, staff, Trustees, Friends of the Library groups, and foundations made possible through statewide memberships in United for Libraries, the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations, and the WebJunction Learning Place for Libraries.
* A grant to the Department of Corrections and funding for MBLC’s Manga Book Collection that served Department of Corrections and County Jail libraries. The program allowed the MBLC to collaborate with librarians working in prison and jail libraries across the Commonwealth.

We do not make these decisions lightly. We know how important these services are to the library community and residents we all serve, and all of us at the MBLC will continue our efforts to safeguard the core library services that **millions** of people depend on.

In a recent interview with WBUR, I was asked how I felt. The question made me take a moment and reflect: I’ve been director for nine months now and the longer I am here, the more I see how deeply interconnected all our systems are. Destabilizing one part of the infrastructure of our library environment causes an immediate problem for **many** other parts. Massachusetts General Laws outline the services MBLC **must** provide, and we take that mandate seriously. Our staff has come together quickly and cohesively to creatively find ways to provide what we must to keep our libraries strong. All while doing their work in an environment of changing information and significant unknowns. Our staff **are** our services, and we will do everything we can in the coming days to protect our core.

With all of that said, please know that your advocacy efforts are helping. Now is not the time to doubt or feel discouraged. We are librarians, library staff, Friends of Libraries, and library trustees. Every single day we see the difference our work makes. Now is the time to re-double efforts and return to the funding requests made in the FY2026 Legislative Agenda. An increase to the MBLC agency line will give us the ability to stabilize library services and shore up the infrastructure so that we can continue to provide those services we know libraries count on. An increase to State Aid will help libraries shore up their infrastructures so THEY can continue to provide the services their patrons count on. And an increase to the Massachusetts Center for the Book will help improve literacy at a time in our history where our democracy depends on it.

**Agency Unit Updates**

**Business Office**

The Business Office has been in full-on contingency mode due to uncertainties around our funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). They are slowly phasing in part of our contingency plan, while managing the FY2025 budget, all the day-to-day work, and trying to forecast and plan for FY2026. With so many uncertainties and lack of concrete data from IMLS, this has been a monumental task. For a good recap of the current situation with IMLS, this article gives an overview of the recent situation:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/24/arts/trump-libraries-museums-archives.html?unlocked_article_code=1.6k4.AnsL.f8arsl4YnyOG&smid=url-share>

We’ve been planning for a slowdown in funding, or possible elimination of funding, but the timing of it is particularly problematic. The MBLC was awarded $3.6 million for FY2025 through IMLS’ Grants to States program. It’s important to note that we do not receive the funds in a lump sum. Instead, we submit a monthly invoice to IMLS for our actual monthly expenditures on federally funded programs and are reimbursed. We are concerned that the reimbursements may end with little or no warning. The MBLC utilizes a portion of the IMLS grant to fund, in full or in part, 13 of our 23 staff members. Without the ability to recoup funds from IMLS, which we would be unable to do in the event of IMLS ceasing operations, we would owe any spent funds back to the state.

As of March 27th, we have received our most recent reimbursement request, which was submitted on March 21st. Our intention is to submit reimbursement requests with IMLS weekly, instead of monthly, for the remainder of the fiscal year. This is to ensure that we are not incurring extensive debt, in the event that IMLS is forced to end reimbursements for the Grants to States program with little or no warning.

Part of our contingency plan is that in the event of IMLS ceasing operations, we would - either temporarily or permanently - immediately absorb all staff salaries into our state funds. We are currently working to do so, due to the uncertainty at IMLS. The process of doing that is complicated and time-consuming, but the work is underway.

Thismeans any state-funded expenditures between now and the end of the fiscal year will be extremely limited. This includes staff travel – we have cancelled any out-of-state travel for the remainder of this fiscal year and greatly limited any in-state travel.

We have funded as many programs as possible through the end of the fiscal year, including:

* Statewide databases
* ComCat
* Network grants - these will be fully paid out in April
* The Direct Grant program - we have executed and sent out the funding for the majority of the contracts for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Explore grants that were awarded earlier this year.

**Communications**

The Communications Unit has been working hard on a number of projects. The video project that started last summer is in the final edit stage and should be completed shortly. We have also been working with the Bruins to do some planning for the summer and have received an all-time record number of applications for Blades events! Rachel Masse is coordinating the visits and will share numbers at the Board meeting.

We also had a very successful PJ Drive with Cradles to Crayons, the Bruins, and Wonderfund. The final figures for the statewide drive are being tabulated, and we will have those for you at the meeting as well. June Thammasnong and Maureen Amyot staffed a table at the March 15 Bruins game with Anna Fantozzi from Cradles to Crayons to spread awareness of the PJ Drive and give away stickers and posters. Awarding of the PJ Cup, a friendly rivalry between MBLC and MLS staff and boards will take place at the April 3 Board meeting.

The Communication Unit is taking the lead in planning the Commissioner Awards. The ceremony will be held at the State House in conjunction with the November 2025 Board meeting. A committee has been formed, and plans are underway. Celeste Bruno will share more details at the meeting.

**Library Advisory and Development**

**LSTA Grants Update**

Applicants for LSTA Impact and Inspire grants to libraries submitted draft applications for review. There are 9 drafts with a total funding request of $203,670. Draft applications were reviewed by the unit’s grant consultants and returned to applicants with feedback. Final drafts for application are due Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

**Fortify Your Library Blog Series**

In March Al Hayden launched the new blog series, Fortifying Your Library. Every #FortifyingFriday, she will release a new post on the [MBLC Blog](https://mblc.state.ma.us/mblc_blog/) with suggestions, best practices, and ideas you can use to create policies that can be used effectively and communicate what your library does to its community. The first few posts have been released:

* [Protecting You, Your Staff, and Your Patrons](https://mblc.state.ma.us/mblc_blog/2025/02/28/fyl1/) - introduces general policy suggestions and frameworks
* [Collection Development Policies](https://mblc.state.ma.us/mblc_blog/2025/03/07/fyl2/) - a deeper dive into policies that cover the management of a library's collection
* [Requests for Reconsideration](https://mblc.state.ma.us/mblc_blog/2025/03/14/rfr/) - examining an essential part of a collection development policy

**March Webinars**

On March 18th, Al Hayden hosted *Census 101,* the first of a series of webinars on U.S. Census Data. Nicole Esburnett McKenzie from the US Census Bureau presented an introduction to the tools and data available through [data.census.gov](http://data.census.gov), and featured information librarians can use to help them learn more about their communities. This is the first in a series presented by Ms. McKenzie intended to help librarians use data that is free and freely available to discover more about their communities and inform their library's services.  This session attracted 70 attendees. The next in the series: [*Census Data for Libraries: A Deeper Dive*](https://mblc.libcal.com/event/14218740) will take place on April 15 at 2 PM.

On March 11th, Al hosted *Open Meeting Law for Library Trustees with the Attorney General's Division of Open Government.* The webinar featuredCarrie Benedon and Liz Carnes-Flynn, Assistant Attorneys General. The session was a primer on open meeting laws, covering topics on how to properly conduct a meeting under the state's Open Meeting Laws, when executive sessions are and are not appropriate, and how to apply open meeting laws to committee and subcommittee meetings. The session was attended by 73 participants.

On March 19th, Ally Dowds hosted *Building Friendships Between People with and Without Disabilities: A Train-the-Trainer Workshop.* The ARC of Massachusetts facilitated a 2-hour train-the-trainer workshop model to equip library staff with the skills and strategies needed to foster friendships between people with and without disabilities. Attendees learned about practical tools to help integrate inclusive practices into their organizations.

**Upcoming Webinars**

April 2, 2025: [Special Populations Deep Dive: Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth](https://mblc.libcal.com/event/14285406)
Join us for a conversation and Q&A with the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth to learn more about its Annual Recommendations for state agencies **(including the MBLC!)**, the Safe School Initiative, and opportunities for trainings and technical assistance to schools across the state. The Commission advises others in state government on effective policies, programs, and resources for LGBTQ youth and will help connect you to resources and latest news to help libraries support youth in their communities.

April 15, 2025: [Census Bureau Data:  A Deeper Dive into Your Community by the Numbers](https://mblc.libcal.com/event/14218740)In this workshop you will learn how to find population and demographic data for various geographies, using *data.census.gov*, the Census Bureau’s premiere online data platform. Understanding community characteristics can help inform and prioritize the need for library services, funding, and programs.  You will learn how to customize a search to find data tables on community population, demographics, socio-economic, and housing data.  We will provide a live demonstration of data.census.gov and show you how to use maps, charts, and access various data tables that can be downloaded and shared.

**Touchpoints in Libraries Training**

Certified trainers Lyndsay Forbes and Christi Farrar from MLS provided a *Touchpoints in Libraries* training to 20 librarians. Created by the Brazelton Touchpoints Center, this training supports family engagement in library settings and introduces participants to a strengths-based framework and explores how it can enhance the work they already do with families. This includes an overview of infant to pre-K development and discussion of the typical ups and downs of each developmental stage. This training has previously been offered fully virtual, but a hybrid session was developed. It featured one full in-person day, three (3) two-hour virtual sessions with independent practice assignments and an online discussion board, and six 1-hour monthly virtual reflective practice sessions after training completion that reinforce the strategies and tools learned during the live modules.

**National Grants Management Association Annual Grants Training**

Lyndsay Forbes attended NGMA AGT in Washington DC (March 12-14) a three-day, in-person event for grants management professionals. It is the largest grants management-focused training event in the nation (1,900 attendees at this year's event). Lyndsay brought back valuable information that can be applied to the MBLC’s LSTA grant program as well as agency grant seeking activities.

**State Programs**

**Construction**

Heather Backman has been continuing to support libraries that have been awarded Planning and Design grants as they bring their design teams on board, and in the case of Small Population awardee Otis, complete their building programs. She has been working on creating forms in the Amplifund grant management software to facilitate reporting and the MPLCP Level of Design review process for the current grant round. She helped to run the *Breaking Bad Conversations about Climate Change* webinar, hosted by the Northeast Summit on Climate Adaptation for Library Facilities, and attended legislative breakfasts in Andover and Winchendon.

Andrea continues to work with 2016-2017 grant round recipients, with Melrose preparing for their ribbon cutting in April, Westford receiving construction bids within their appropriation, and Amherst receiving their MOA from the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

 All 2023-2024 grant round recipients now have executed contracts, and their first payments for planning and design have been processed.  Work on OPM RFQs and designer selection continues for those projects.

On March 11, Andrea presented a section of the COSLA Construction Toolkit in a webinar introducing the document to state agencies and state libraries. She planned and facilitated *Breaking Bad Conversations about Climate Change* with MIT Professor John E. Fernandez on March 25 for the Northeast Summit on Climate Adaptation for Library Facilities. She also began work as a juror for the AIA/ALA (American Institute of Architects/American Library Association) Library Building Awards Advisory Jury. Awards will be presented at ALA's annual conference in Philadelphia.

**State Aid**

Uechi Ng has been continuing to work on the FY26 Annual Report of Information Statistics (ARIS) report questions.
We took delivery of two new copiers this month, and Aparna Ramachandran has been working the setup and installation, and getting staff laptops connected to the copiers for printing/scanning functions. She’s also been fulfilling specific requests from libraries for statistical information and reports.

Jen Inglis continues her work on the PLS data, and she and Cate Merlin are gearing up for *Intro to State Aid* trainings to begin in April.

Cate continues to hold twice-monthly State Aid Office Hours, and has also met with a rather disheartening number of libraries facing steep funding cuts for FY26.

Baker and Taylor Connect is officially up and running. Libraries can now run reports on ARIS data, comparing their libraries to others, looking at historical trends, and seeking current data to justify things like budget requests, salaries, hours, and more. Cate led two Connect training webinars in the past two weeks, with close to 150 attendees over the two sessions. She is excited to share the reporting and data visualization database with the library community and is excited to see how directors use this new visual representation of their own data to advocate for their libraries and budgets.

**Director Activities**

March has been incredibly busy – in some ways it feels like the last Board meeting was an entire year ago and in other ways it feels like this month just started. I started off the month at the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) spring meeting and Voices for Libraries event. At the spring meeting, we got some training on using data in “library storytelling” and got to meet in regional groups with our IMLS representatives. It was wonderful to see them in person and be able to share our work while thanking them for their support. We had no idea what was about to happen a few weeks later. Voices for Libraries included a training day with mock “visits” that were helpful (and hilarious) to show new participants what a Capitol Hill visit might look like. It was presented by some of the state librarians, who did a great job. We also got to hear from a library vendor panel of executives and government liaisons from EBSCO, Overdrive, Clarivate, and Gale. Meetings on Capitol Hill were successful, underscoring the fact that our Congressional delegation supports libraries and the work we do. We got to meet with staffers, who were generous with their time and enthusiastically interested in the information we were sharing.

The morning after I got back from Washington, I attended the Legislative Breakfast in Sudbury with Sarah Sogigian from MLS. Rob went to the one in North Andover. It’s safe to say the three of us were a little tired but very excited to share our experiences and knowledge from the trip. Rob will be sending a Legislative Breakfast recap shortly that will cover the successful season we had this year.

Right on the heels of the trip, on March 10, I gave my first Ways and Means testimony on the FY2026 budget request. I’ll share more about that experience at the Board meeting, but suffice it to say it was an outpouring of library love from the legislators. Many of them have mothers (and some grandmothers) who are/were librarians, so the importance and understanding of libraries was on full display. I can’t thank Celeste Bruno, Tracey Dimant, Rob Favini, and Cate Merlin enough for their help getting my testimony ready. It was a LOT of work to fit it all into the very tight timeline I had to get ready, and their help made all the difference.

Then on March 14, the President issued the Executive Order to dismantle IMLS and several other small agencies. It was issued on a Friday, out of the blue, and demanded a report within a week from IMLS on how it would comply. I called an all-staff Zoom meeting on Monday to talk about what I knew (not a lot) and what might happen. Most of my time and work since then has been on this issue. I have been in constant communication with the other state librarians, and you’ve all seen the communications I have sent to the library community. I want to be as transparent as possible, share as much information as I can, and make sure everyone is informed of the dire consequences if IMLS should cease operation. I also have to recognize all our MBLC staff for their professionalism and calm stewardship of the agency as we navigate this absolutely unprecedented situation together. The Business Office, under Tracey’s steady leadership, has had the monumental task of keeping regular business going, while implementing early phases of our contingency plan, trying to forecast expenditures for the next fiscal year, and making sure everything happens on the correct timeline - all while information is scarce and details change daily.

It has been a LOT the last few weeks for everyone at the agency. I’ve said it to staff, and I’ll say it again to them, and to the Board – it is devastating that we have to go through something like this, but I am so thankful that if we have to face it, I get to face it with THIS team and THIS board. We are a great team, and we will get through whatever is ahead, together.

**Legislative Report**

Rob Favini provided following report:

**FY26 Legislative Breakfast Round Up**

The FY26 Library Legislative Breakfast schedule has come to an end. Here is a round up of a very successful legislative event season.

By the numbers

Events: 16
Attendees: 716
Average attendees per event: 45
Number of Legislators in attendance: 48

Although each event highlighted local accomplishments, needs, and challenges we consistently heard the following:

Overwhelming support from legislators…BUT

* Revenue estimates are lower than last year, and the benchmark could be lowered even further.
* There is $16 billion in federal funding statewide that is at risk impacting massive programs including Medicare, schools, and nutrition programs. It is a given that the state will not be able to cover all of it.
* DO NOT expect the state to pick up any lost IMLS funding.
* We are extremely lucky to be level funded in the Governor’s budget.

Local municipal funding is at risk

* Municipal budgets are facing unexpected increases in health insurance costs, regional school commitments, and general increasing costs.
* The number of municipal over-rides is growing. In several communities failing to pass an override will result in closing libraries.

**Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Executive Order**

On March 14, 2025 President Trump signed [Executive Order 14238](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/continuing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/__;!!KKphUJtCzQ!J2fK2c4To4r1mQB2Hwh-UJ3Qic7JIJfpuqehUQ7t0tRs8nOimKwP9WbNN4x60NqWnTjPSFXx3MHkHoUWt35FB8DHAXGUYFoMbFmh$) that targets the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for elimination. This week IMLS staff were placed on administrative leave effectively closing the office and cutting off funds to the MBLC. Since the signing of the executive order the library community has mobilized a response. Below are some of the statements and news stories that have been shaping the discussion:

[Urban Libraries Council America’s Public Libraries Support IMLS](https://www.urbanlibraries.org/initiatives/advocacy/americas-public-libraries-support-imls)

[ALA FAQ: Executive Order Targeting IMLS](https://www.ala.org/faq-executive-order-targeting-imls)

[Senator Reed et al letter to Acting Director of IMLS 3-26-25](https://www.reed.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_to_acting_director_sonderling_re_imls_03262025.pdf)

[Library Journal InfoDocket Roundup: Statements in Response to Executive Order Impacting the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)](https://www.infodocket.com/2025/03/17/roundup-statements-in-response-to-executive-order-impacting-the-institute-of-museum-and-library-services-imls/)

[InfoDocket Library Journal Report: “IMLS Staff Placed on Administrative Leave” (Includes Link to Letter Sent to IMLS Staff)](https://www.infodocket.com/2025/03/31/report-imls-staff-placed-on-administrative-leave/)

[The Institute for Museum and Library Services Was Just Gutted](https://bookriot.com/imls-gutted/) – Book Riot

[NY Times: Trump Administration Moves to Shutter Library Agency](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/31/arts/design/library-agency-trump-museums.html)

[NPR: Entire staff at federal agency that funds libraries and museums put on leave](https://www.npr.org/2025/03/31/nx-s1-5334415/doge-institute-of-museum-and-library-services)

**COSLA Voices for Libraries**

What now seems like a lifetime ago, Director Amyot and Rob Favini led a delegation of Massachusetts librarians to participate in the Chief Officers of Library State Agencies (COSLA) Voices for Libraries (V4L) event held on March 5-6, 2025. Joining us in the Massachusetts Delegation were Nora Blake, Director of the Ipswich Public Library, Wendy Pearson, Director of the Stockbridge Library, and Sarah Sogigian, MLS Director.

The delegation met with representatives from Senator Ed Markey’s office, Representative Richard Neal’s office and Congresswoman Katherine Clark’s office. Discussions centered on the impact of libraries in Massachusetts and the importance of IMLS funding. Information packets were delivered to the remaining Massachusetts Congressional offices that the delegation was not able to meet with.

**MLA Legislative Briefing**

The Massachusetts Library Association Legislative Committee is working on scheduling a legislative briefing session at the State House to present the MBLC’s FY26 Legislative Agenda. Stay tuned for date, time, and briefing details.

**Library Related Bills**

With the start of the 194th General Court there has been a flood of library and technology related bills introduced. Beyond the Act Regarding Free Expression and E Book bills carried over from last legislative session there are 18 new bills addressing topics ranging from school library standards, library user data privacy, to establishing statewide credentials for digital navigators. The MLA Legislative Committee is tracking these bills and hopes to post information on the MLA web site. For Commissioners’ convenience I’ve copied their information on this Google Spreadsheet: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10f-t6GQ-lHrIHzpSBIsBntlvQhdBzSKJXtnbkTIxFhk/edit?usp=sharing>

**Consideration of approval of an increase to the eligible cost for the Small Library Pilot Project**

Andrea Bono-Bunker, Library Building Specialist presented this agenda item to the Board.

In the 2021 Program Notice for the Small Library Pilot Project, it states, “The award for the Small Library Pilot Project will be 75% of eligible costs as defined in 605 CMR 6.00 but excluding demolition and hazardous materials abatement. No further incentives or payments will apply.” At the time of the Board vote on April 2, 2022, the estimated eligible cost was projected to be within the $6,000,000 approved award. As the design and construction of the pilot project progressed, factors including a redesign and escalation increased the eligible cost, which is now projected to be $8,370,000, not including the potential impact of tariffs. For the MPLCP to meet the 75% obligation from the Program Notice, and considering the uncertainty of the construction environment, we respectfully request a $1,000,000 increase in the not to exceed amount.

Chair Biancolo asked for a motion. Commissioner Traub asked for this agenda item to be taken out of the consent agenda.

Commissioner Linehan moved and Commissioner Chang seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves funding for the Town of Shutesbury in an amount equal to 75% of the actual eligible cost of constructing a new library as determined by the Small Library Pilot Project process. The final grant amount will be determined at the end of construction but will not exceed $7,000,000.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Commissioner Cherubini- Yes | Commissioner Linehan- Yes  |
| Commissioner Biancolo - Yes | Commissioner Comeau- Absent | Commissioner Traub- Abstained |
| Commissioner Chang - Yes | Commissioner Conrad- Yes | Commissioner Vilas Novas- Yes |

**The motion passes.**

**Consideration of approval of the policies for the FY2027 State Aid to Public Libraries Program**

**EXTENDING A GRACE PERIOD FOR INCREASED POPULATION-BASED**

**MINIMUM STANDARDS**

1) To be eligible for the extension of a grace period for increased population-based requirements due to new population figures, the library must:

 a. be in compliance with or receive a waiver of the FY2027 Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MGL, c.78, s.19A).

 b. meet the other minimum library standards required for receipt of FY2027 State Aid to Public Libraries (MGL, c.78, s.19B):

*(1)* *“be open to all residents of the commonwealth,*”

*(2)* *“make no charge for normal library services*,”

*(6)* *“lend books to other libraries in the commonwealth and extend privileges to the holders of cards issued by other public libraries in the commonwealth on a reciprocal basis.*”

2) If a municipality is in a different population group according to the population estimates mandated by the General Court for use with the FY2027 State Aid program, it is eligible for a grace period of up to three years to meet the increased standard for hours open or materials expenditure. This grace period is for the FY2027 State Aid to Public Libraries grant round. Compliance for State Aid to Public Libraries in the FY2027 grant round is measured by library performance in FY2026. To be eligible for this grace period the library must be meeting the prior lower standard.

3) A library director whose educational requirement is now “graduation with a degree from an approved library school” because the population of that community has gone above 10,000 will be exempt (*legacied*) from the increased requirement. However, any work in progress by the director on prior educational/professional requirements of the Basic Library Techniques must be completed within the previously established time limits. When a *legacied* director leaves the library, their replacement must meet the changed requirement at the time of appointment as library director.

**Initial Approval of Policy: January 9, 1997**

**Policy wording updated: November 3, 2022**

**FY2027 Approval Date: March 6, 2025**

**State Aid Policies are reviewed annually.**

**MINIMUM STANDARDS OF HOURS OF SERVICE FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

Minimum Hours Open Per Week:

In keeping with the regulation that "library service should be available to the community a minimum number of hours per week," (605 CMR 4.0) the minimum hours requirement will apply during each week of the compliance period. To meet the requirement, a public library must be open the required hours, days and evenings during each week of the compliance period.

Compliance Period

The compliance period will be defined as 38 consecutive weeks per year. The 38 weeks may span two fiscal years if compliance includes summer months.

Massachusetts Legal Holidays:

Libraries may close on Massachusetts legal holidays and local municipal holidays, and not affect their compliance with the hours of service standards.

**Initial Approval of Policy: February 4, 1993**

**Revision of Definition: March 22, 2017**

**FY2027 Approval Date: March 6, 2025**

**State Aid Policies are reviewed annually.**

**MINIMUM MATERIALS EXPENDITURE STANDARD CALCULATION**

The minimum materials expenditure standard is computed for all municipalities using the amount appropriated by the municipality to the library for operations and the percentage requirement as stated in regulation. (MGL, c.78, s.19B; 605 CMR 4.01(5))

Operating expenditures include:

1. Personnel

 *Salaries only.*

2. Library Materials

 *The cost of books, serials, audio materials, materials in electronic format, and other non-print materials that circulate to library patrons or are used by library patrons within the library. Included are items in Library of Things collections, the cost of electronic collections and money paid to networks for digital content, and museum passes. Supplies used to prepare library materials for circulation are not included (e.g. bar codes, book pockets, etc.) and the monetary value of donated books may not be included.*

 *In addition, up to 10% of the materials expenditure requirement may be used to purchase hardware in the library for direct patron use. This includes but is not limited to public computer desktops and laptops, peripherals (mouse, keyboard, etc.), adaptive technology, and scanners. Hotspot connection fees are also included.*

3. Other Operating Expenditures

 *The current and recurrent costs necessary to support the provision of library services. These include expenditures made by the library that are not capital, personnel, or for library materials. Other operating expenditures include building maintenance, energy and utilities, network membership, supplies, repair or replacement of existing furnishing and equipment, and other miscellaneous expenditures.*

Please note: Only materials that circulate to all residents of municipalities certified for State Aid to Public Libraries count toward meeting the Minimum Materials Expenditure Standard unless there are special circumstances, such as a stipulation in a vendor contract or a Trust that is designated for special purposes.

**Initial Approval of Policy: January 9, 1997**

**Revision of Policy: November 3, 2022**

**FY2027 Initial Approval Date: March 6, 2025**

**State Aid Policies are reviewed annually.**

**MATERIALS EXPENDITURE AND HOURS OPEN ACCOMMODATION POLICY**

The Board of Library Commissioners recognizes the necessity of continuing the policy of accommodation of the standards of the State Aid to Public Libraries program. This policy for the accommodation of the Materials Expenditure and the Hours Open standards seeks to certify as many municipalities as possible while still reinforcing the principles of library service represented by the minimum standards of public library service.

A municipality will receive certification for FY2027 State Aid to Public Libraries if it:

meets the FY2026 Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR), or receives a waiver of the FY2027 MAR,

meets the materials expenditure and hours open standard at either a full (100%), or minimum level (90%), meets all other statutory and regulatory requirements for State Aid to Public Libraries as contained in 605 CMR 4.01.

State Aid to Public Libraries grants will be awarded to all certified municipalities.

A municipality may meet a reduced standard of as low as 90% of the materials expenditure and hours open requirement contained in regulation (605 CMR 4.01), while continuing to remain certified and receive State Aid to Public Libraries. Award amounts will be unchanged for municipalities meeting 100% of both standards.

Awards for municipalities meeting adjusted standards will be reduced according to compliance with reduced standard, and will be no less than 75% of the full award for meeting the minimum (90%) of both standards. Each standard that is met at a lower level will result in a 12.5% reduction to the full award for each level of reduction. Awards may be made in amounts of: 100%, 87.5%, 75%. If funds remain at the end of the FY2027 grant round, no additional award of State Aid to Public Libraries will be made to a municipality using this policy of accommodation.

Example: Library A

Library A has a population of 17,000 and is meeting its MAR. It is required to be open 50 hours each week and expend 15% of its municipal appropriation on materials. It was only open 46 hours and spent 14% on library materials, minimum level compliance for both standards. As a result, the FY2027 State Aid award will be reduced to 75% of the Cherry Sheet total.

**Initial Approval of Policy: April 3, 2003**

**FY2027 Approval Date: March 6, 2025**

**State Aid Policies are reviewed annually**

**Adjusted Awards**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Award Amount** | **Level of Compliance with Materials Expenditure Requirement and Hours Open** **Standards** |
| **100%** | **Full** (100%) compliance with both standards. |
| **87.5%** | **Full** (100%) compliance with onestandard and **Minimum-level** (90%) compliance with the otherstandard. |
| **75%** | **Minimum-Level** (90%) compliance with both standards. |

**Materials Expenditure Requirement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Population Group** | **Full****Compliance****(100%)** | **Minimum-Level****Compliance****(90%)** |
| Under 2,000 | 20.00% | 18.00% |
| 2 – 4,999 | 19.50% | 17.55% |
| 5 - 9,999 | 19.00% | 17.00% |
| 10 - 14,999 | 16.00% | 14.40% |
| 15 - 24,999 | 15.00% | 13.50% |
| 25 - 49,999 | 13.00% | 11.70% |
| over 50,000 | 12.00% | 10.80% |

**Hours Open Requirement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Population Group** | **Full****Compliance (100%)** | **Minimum-Level****Compliance (90%)** |
| Under 2,000 | 10 hours, including some evening | 9 hours, including some evening |
| 2 - 4,999 | 15 hours, including some evening | 13.50 hours, including some evening |
| 5 - 9,999 | 25 hours, including some evening | 22.50 hours, including some evening |
| 10 - 14,999 | 40 hours, 5 days, including some evening | 36 hours, 4 days, including some evening |
| 15 - 24,999 | 50 hours, 5 days, including some evening | 45 hours, 4 days, including some evening |
| 25 – 49,999 | 59 hours, 6 days, including some evening | 53 hours, 5 days, including some evening |
| over 50,000 | 63 hours, 6 days, including some evening | 57 hours, 5 days. Including some evening |

**MUNICIPAL APPROPRIATION REQUIREMENT CALCULATION**

The Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR) for each award year is computed using figures for the three prior fiscal years. For each of those three years that a municipality received a State Aid to Public Libraries award, the figure used will be either the MAR or the Total Appropriated Municipal Income, (TAMI), whichever is higher. If the municipality was not certified for State Aid to Public Libraries in any year, the actual TAMI for that year will be used.

For the **FY2027** grant round:

The **FY2024** figure will be either the **FY2024 MAR** or the **FY2024 TAMI**, whichever is **higher**. If the municipality was not certified for State Aid to Public Libraries in FY2024, the actual final FY2024 TAMI will be used.

The **FY2025** figure will be either the **FY2025 MAR** or the **FY2025 TAMI**, whichever is **higher**. If the municipality was not certified for State Aid to Public Libraries in FY2025, the actual final FY2025 TAMI will be used.

The **FY2026** figure will be either the **FY2026 MAR** or the **FY2026 TAMI**, whichever is **higher**. If the municipality was not certified for State Aid to Public Libraries in FY2026, the actual final FY2026 TAMI will be used.

**FY2027 Municipal Appropriation Requirement Calculation:**

(FY2024 + FY2025 + FY2026) / 3 = average of three years

average x 1.025 = FY2027 MAR (average of three years plus 2.5 %)

**Initial Approval of Policy: August 8, 1991**

**FY2027 Approval Date: March 6, 2025**

**State Aid Policies are reviewed annually.**

**DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR A WAIVER OF THE FY2027 MUNICIPAL APPROPRIATION REQUIREMENT (MAR)**

The Board of Library Commissioners will consider requests for waivers of the FY2027 Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR) from municipalities that demonstrate fiscal hardship. Requests for waivers must include the following documentation and must be received by the MBLC State Aid and Data Coordination Unit **with a postmark no later than October 2, 2026:**

1. a signed *Petition for Waiver of the FY2027 Municipal Appropriation Requirement.*

**And…with a postmark no later than November 6, 2026:**

**For Municipalities applying for a waiver of the FY2027 MAR that met full requirements (no waiver) of the FY2026 MAR):**

2. a completed *FY2026/FY2027 Total Municipal Operating Budget Worksheet*, and

3. supporting municipal budget document(s) (such as copies of warrant articles or summary pages from the municipal budget), listing for FY2026 and FY2027 both the total operating and departmental budgets for the municipality,

4. a statement from a senior municipal official:

a. citing the fiscal hardship surrounding the municipality’s inability to meet the FY2027 MAR,

b. explaining the municipality's FY2027 budget process regarding the library,

c. providing evidence that any reduction to the library budget is not disproportionate relative to changes in other municipal departments and the overall municipal budget.

5. a cover letter from the library director and trustee chair, with enclosures if appropriate, explaining the library's FY2027 budget process and reasons why the community did not comply with the FY2027 MAR. (Examples of enclosures include: narratives from municipal officials describing the fiscal situation, text of referenda.)

**For Municipalities that received a waiver of the FY2026 MAR, in addition to documents 2-5 as listed above:**

6. a Five Year MAR Waiver Plan (for Year Two) or an update (for Years Three-Five) written by a senior municipal official in conjunction with library director and trustees.

**NOTE: Municipalities are limited to 5 consecutive fiscal years as a waiver applicant. Commissioners have the discretion to request that any waiver applicant present their petition in person.**

**The Waiver Review Process**

According to Massachusetts General Laws, c.78, s19A:

No city or town shall receive any money under this section in any year when the appropriation of said city or town for free public library services is below an amount equal to the average of its appropriation for free public library service for the three years immediately preceding, increased by two and one‑half per cent of said average. Said board may, upon petition of a community, waive aforesaid requirement upon demonstration of fiscal hardship.

The number of waivers available for FY2027 will not be determined until the budget language is final for FY2027.

1. Petitions for a waiver will be reviewed by the Board of Library Commissioners at their January 2027 meeting.

2. All petitioners for a waiver determined to have a disproportionate cut to their budget must present their petition in person at the January 2027 meeting.

3. All petitioners for a waiver who received a disproportionate cut in the prior fiscal year must present their petition in person at the January 2027 meeting.

4. The Board will review FY2027 MAR Waiver Petitions based on:

a. evidence of municipal fiscal hardship, and

b. demonstration by the municipality that the library’s budget was not disproportionately reduced.

5. The Board will vote on the petitions for waivers of the FY2027 MAR at their February 2027 meeting.

6. The Board will hear any appeals of the denial of an FY2027 MAR waiver at their March 2027 meeting.

7. The Board will act on any appeal at their April 2027 meeting.

8. The FY2027 State Aid to Public Library Program officially concludes at the conclusion of the April 2027 Board of Library Commissioners meeting.

**Initial Approval of Policy: February 7, 2002**

**Revision of Policy: November 3, 2022**

**FY2027 Approval Date: March 6, 2025**

**State Aid Policies are reviewed annually.**

**THE CLOSURE OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners considers any municipality that closes its main public library or ceases offering library service to the public for any reason other than the undertaking of a project to improve library services (such as construction, automation preparation or inventory) or the occurrence of a natural catastrophe (including a limited emergency closing due to illness, death or pandemic) to be, as of the date of that termination of service, no longer a certified participant in the State Aid to Public Libraries program.

The Commissioners will confirm the municipality's loss of certification at their next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Once the municipality has lost certification, it cannot be recertified as meeting the minimum standards of public library service for State Aid to Public Libraries (as set forth in MGL c.78, s. 19A and 19B, 605 CMR 4.0, and current budget language) until the municipality's library has been meeting the standards for one complete fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) and proper application for State Aid to Public Libraries is made to the Board of Library Commissioners.

**Initial Approval of Policy: March 5, 1993**

**FY2027 Approval Date: March 6, 2025**

**State Aid Policies are reviewed annually.**

**FIVE YEAR MAR WAIVER PLAN POLICY**

The Board of Library Commissioners recognizes that municipalities that demonstrate fiscal hardship may need to request a waiver of the FY2027 Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR). Requests for waivers must include documentation as outlined in the *DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR A WAIVER OF THE FY2027 MUNICIPAL APPROPRIATION REQUIREMENT (MAR)* policy.

**NOTE: Municipalities are limited to 5 consecutive fiscal years as a waiver applicant. Commissioners have the discretion to request that any waiver applicant present their petition in person.**

**Second Year Waiver**: For Municipalities that received a waiver of the FY2026 MAR (Year One) and are petitioning for a waiver of the FY2027 MAR (Year Two), a plan must be submitted, written by a senior municipal official in conjunction with the library’s director and trustees. This plan outlines the steps to be made in FY2027 (and for the next three fiscal years) which will bring the municipality’s library appropriation back to the required level of funding, the MAR.

**Third Year Waiver:** For Municipalities that received a waiver of the FY2025 MAR (Year One), and FY2026 (Year Two) and are petitioning for a waiver of the FY2027 MAR (Year Three), an update to the plan created in Year Two must be submitted, written by a senior municipal official in conjunction with the library’s director and trustees. This update reviews the steps that were made in FY2026 (and outlines the steps to be taken for the next two fiscal years which will bring the municipality’s library appropriation back to the required level of funding, the MAR.)

**Fourth Year Waiver:** For Municipalities that received a waiver of the FY2024 MAR (Year One), FY2025 (Year Two), FY2026 (Year Three) and are petitioning for a waiver of the FY2027 MAR (Year Four), an update to the plan created in Year Three must be submitted, written by a senior municipal official in conjunction with the library’s director and trustees. This update reviews the steps that were made in FY2026 (and outlines the steps to be taken for the next fiscal year which will bring the municipality’s library appropriation back to the required level of funding, the MAR.) A senior municipal official must attend a Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioner’s meeting to explain why the municipality is not meeting their requirements, and what they intend to do before they reach the end of the Five Year Waiver Plan to avoid becoming an uncertified municipality.

**Fifth Year Waiver:** For Municipalities that received a waiver of the FY2023 MAR (Year One), FY2024 (Year Two), FY2025 (Year Three), FY2026 (Year Four), and are petitioning for a waiver of the FY2027 MAR (Year Five), an update to the plan created in Year Four must be submitted, written by a senior municipal official in conjunction with the library’s director and trustees. This update reviews the steps that were made in FY2027 (and outlines the steps to be taken in the current fiscal year which will bring the municipality’s library appropriation back to the required level of funding, the MAR, for FY2028.) A senior municipal official must attend a Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioner’s meeting to explain why the municipality is not meeting their requirements, and what they intend to do before they reach the end of the Five Year Waiver Plan to avoid becoming an uncertified municipality.

**Disproportionate Cut:** For Municipalities that received a waiver of the FY2026 MAR with reservation, i.e. the library’s budget was DISPROPORTIONATELY CUT in FY2026, and are petitioning for a waiver of the FY2027 MAR, a plan or update as described above must be submitted, written by a senior municipal official in conjunction with the library’s director and trustees, and IN ADDITION, they must present their petition in person at the Board of Library Commissioners meeting in January, 2027.

**Initial Approval of Policy: October 4, 2018**

**FY2027 Approval Date: March 6, 2025**

**State Aid Policies are reviewed annually.**

Commissioner Chang moved and Commissioner Traub seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioner adopt for the FY2027 State Aid to Public Libraries program the following proposed policy: Extending a Grace Period for Increased Population-Based Minimum Standards.

Commissioner Linehan moved and Commissioner Chang seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners adopt for the FY2027 State Aid to Public Libraries program the following proposed policy: Minimum Standards of Hours of Service for Public Libraries.

Commissioner Biancolo moved and Commissioner Linehan seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners adopt for the FY2027 State Aid to Public Libraries program the following proposed policy: Minimum Materials Expenditure Standard Calculation.

Commissioner Traub moved and Commissioner Linehan seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners adopt for the FY2027 State Aid to Public Libraries program the following proposed policy: Materials Expenditure and Hours Open Accommodation Policy.

Commissioner Chang moved and Commissioner Traub seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners adopt tor the FY2027 State Aid to Public Libraries program the following proposed policy: Municipal Appropriation Requirement Calculation.

Commissioner Linehan moved and Commissioner Chang seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners adopt for the FY2027 State Aid to Public Libraries program the following proposed policy: Determining Eligibility for a Waiver of the FY2025 Municipal Appropriation Requirement.

Commissioner Biancolo moved and Commissioner Linehan seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners adopt for the FY2027 State Aid to Public Libraries program the following proposed policy: The Closure of a Public Library.

Commissioner Traub moved and Commissioner Chang seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners adopt for the FY2027 State Aid to Public Libraries program the following proposed policy: Five Year Waiver Plan Policy.

**Consideration of approval of the FY2026 Plan of Service and Program and Budget for the Library for the Commonwealth**

Sarah Jackson presented the FY2026 Plan of Service and Program and Budget for the Library for the Commonwealth at the March Meeting

Commissioner Traub moved and Commissioner Linehan seconded that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approves the FY2026 Plan of Service and Program and Budget filed on March 6, 2025 for the Library for the Commonwealth as presented in agenda item 10.

**Small Libraries in Networks Report**

Kate Butler provided the following report:

# Small Libraries in Networks Review Committee Recommendations

The following series of recommendations are to be implemented beginning with the FY27 grant round.

## Overview

The Small Libraries in Networks grant program is intended to ensure public libraries in small communities continue to be able to afford network membership. Membership in an automated library resource network is one of the most critical components for providing successful and equitable library services.

## Scope and Purpose

The Small Libraries in Networks Review Committee was charged with examining the program’s rules and distribution formula. The last such review occurred during FY20 and resulted in the implementation of a new formula. The committee’s goal was to determine if the current rules and formula continued to meet the needs of the program, or if adjustments were necessary to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the grant in the future.

The committee was charged with reviewing:

* **Eligibility Criteria** – the municipalities and libraries that should be included in the program
* **Support Mechanisms** – how funding is distributed and the components of the formula used to calculate awards
* **Funding Levels** – how much funding is needed and strategies for weathering changes in state support levels

New recommendations from the committee which differ from the current program will be highlighted.

## Eligibility Criteria: Municipal and Library Eligibility

### Summary

The committee did not feel changes to the eligibility criteria were necessary at this time. However, several points on which the criteria were vague have been clarified, and the rules revised to accommodate some prior changes to how libraries join the program.

### Network Membership Status

1. Libraries must be new or existing members of one of the eight automated resource sharing networks that serve public libraries: CLAMS, CWMARS, MBLN, Minuteman, MVLC, NOBLE, OCLN or SAILS as of July 1 of the grant year. MassCat is not eligible.
2. A public library just joining a network for the first time may benefit from a Joining Networks subsidy for the year in which they join, a component of which is their calculated Small Networks in Libraries Grant. The network will apply for this along with their other SLIN grants.

The MassCat program, provided through MLS, is already state-subsidized in order to make participation very affordable. For public libraries, MassCat has always been intended as a stepping-stone to membership in a network.

### Municipal Population

1. **Libraries in municipalities with population of 10,000 or less will be eligible**. The committee felt that 10,000 remained a good threshold to describe a community with small population.
2. Libraries in municipalities between 10,000 and 12,000 in population that are currently in the program will remain eligible. The committee felt this existing criterion should be retained.
3. **Libraries in municipalities that exceed 12,000 will be phased out of the program over a three-year period.** The committee further clarified that if the population numbers drop back under 12,000 during the phase out, the phase out will cease. After a library’s phase out is complete, a municipality will need to have a population less than 10,000 to rejoin the program.
4. The most current US Census population figures from the Division of Local Services/Department of Revenue will be used to determine population. Figures will be updated annually to determine eligibility. The committee felt this existing criterion should be retained.
5. Independent libraries with a “library service population” under 10,000 located in municipalities over 10,000 in population (towns having multiple public libraries) are not eligible. The committee felt this existing criterion should be retained.
6. The towns of Warren and Shelburne, each of which has two independent libraries in the current program, will be designated *legacy* municipalities. Each library will remain eligible for its own award. The committee felt this existing criterion should be retained.
7. New libraries or municipalities entering the program for the first time will only be eligible for a single award per municipality. The committee felt this existing criterion should be retained.

### Other Eligibility Requirements

1. Municipalities must be and remain certified for State Aid to Public Libraries to join and continue participating in the SLIN program.

## Support Mechanisms (Formula Components)

### Summary

The committee spent the bulk of its time examining the formula and its components. Of special concern were the following points:

* While a small population does frequently present unique funding challenges for the municipality, some towns meeting this description are disproportionately well resourced. Does the current formula do enough to account for this resource disparity when distributing funds?
* Do the current measures of “need” continue to make sense going forward, given changes to the way in which Massachusetts now handles the question of school lunch eligibility?
* The existing formula retains a floor of $2500 for libraries which joined the program prior to FY19. Should this be continued?

### Formula Application

During the previous review of the SLIN program, the committee decided to implement a funding formula in place of the previous flat grant amount. This formula applied to all libraries, but for libraries participating in the program prior to the FY19 funding year, it was further decided that they would receive either their formula amount or 2500, whichever amount was greater. It is the recommendation of this committee that the formula funding amount now be applied across the board to all libraries.

### Need Factors

The existing formula takes into account two types of “need” when determining the grant amount. First is Municipal Need, intended to measure the community’s ability to fund the library. Second is Cost Burden, which looks at how much of a library’s budget their network membership assessment will consume. The committee agreed that these two need factors were correct, but felt the current formula needed updating to better take them into account.

#### Municipal Need

The current formula distributes a percentage of $1350 according to the library’s E-Rate discount percentage. The E-Rate discount percentage is a number between 20% and 90%, and is the discount available to that library if they participate in the federal E-Rate program. This discount percentage is calculated based on National School Lunch Program (NSLP) participation eligibility of the student population in the school district where the library is located.

The committee had several concerns with continuing to use this as the measure of municipal need. The first concern is that the number may not continue to be an accurate measure due to the decision of Massachusetts to make lunches free for all students. It is expected that registration data for the NSLP will be less accurate going forward now there is less of a necessity to fill out the paperwork.

The secondary concern with this measure is that it is more accurately described as a proxy for the incomes of the families in the local school district. Because the bulk of municipal funding comes from property taxes, it is unclear that this income measure (which, in the case of a regional school district, may also include data from surrounding communities) truly is a good proxy for the need of the municipality. The ability of a municipality to raise money from taxes is better reflected by the Equalized Valuation (EQV) supplied by the Department of Revenue.

Both State Aid to public libraries and the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) use EQV per capita in some capacity to determine a portion of the grant. Returning the SLIN program to use this measure would also serve to bring them in line with these other MBLC grant programs.

The committee recommends replacing the E-Rate discount percentage with a different value calculated using the EQV per capita (Appendix B).

#### Cost Burden

The other need based component of the current formula attempts to take into account the burden of network membership fees on the library’s budget. Libraries with a network membership assessment exceeding 6% of their Total Appropriated Municipal Income (TAMI) receive an extra $400.

The committee agrees that the Cost Burden of network membership should be taken into account by the formula. However, the current version, a strict yes or no, creates a cliff situation, where a library’s grant might suddenly drop by $400 in a year. The committee recommends smoothing this out by treating cost burden similarly to municipal need, as a range rather than a single amount. By phasing this amount in and out with smaller steps, the change in total award will be more consistent (Appendix B).

#### Base Amount

Regardless of the demonstrated need, the committee recommends there be a base amount given to each library. The base amount will need to be recalculated for each three year period (see Methodology) and based upon the target level of funding.

The committee further recommends that the base amount be different for municipalities with very small populations. The MPLCP restricts eligibility to the small population grant program to municipalities with population under 2500. The SLIN grant will use this threshold as well for the extra base amount.

## Methodology

**The three formula components will be frozen for three years**. The committee agreed that the ability of libraries to know their grant for three years in advance was a significant advantage for budgeting purposes. The recommendation is that the three year freeze continue indefinitely; grants will only be recalculated at these intervals and the anticipated amounts will be made available a full year in advance.

**Changes greater than 10% will phase in over the three year period.** For libraries where the grant amount changes significantly (either increase or decrease), the change will phase in over the three year period, with only the final year being at the full amount. While the change in absolute terms may be only a small amount of money, for libraries with significantly constrained budgets, even a small difference can be difficult to adjust for in a single year.

**Libraries will not receive awards in excess of 85% of their network membership assessment.** Network assessments are reported on a yearly basis and awards will be adjusted accordingly.

**The Three Year freeze dates are pre-determined, not rolling.** Libraries joining a network during a freeze period will have their initial funding amounts frozen until the end of the following period (a maximum of 5 years).

### Sustainability

The past five years under the new formula have seen slow but steady growth in the amount of funding required for this grant. While the new formula contributed somewhat to the increase, it was not the only source of growth. More than 10 new libraries joined the SLIN program during the past five years, through the efforts of MLS (MassCat) and C/W MARS to encourage public libraries into the mainstream networks. Starting in FY24, the MBLC also folded the Joining Networks grant, previously an LSTA funded program, into the SLIN grant.

That said, there is a ceiling on how much this grant could grow; there are only a handful of eligible libraries left that are not participating, and those left are increasingly unlikely to join.

Even prior to the instability in federal funding, the committee recommended attempting to find a formula which kept the total amount required for this grant in the range of $400,000. Now, with the future of LSTA funding unclear, it is even more important to keep costs contained and at a sustainable level. The target level of funding will be reassessed every three years prior to the calculation of the grant amounts for that period.

## Additional Thoughts

Equity was the topic most on the committee’s mind as they discussed this grant program. There was great concern from committee members that there are a number of larger municipalities with much greater needs than some of the communities that are eligible to participate in this program simply because of their population.

Addressing the needs of larger communities was outside of the scope of this committee’s charge, but the committee wanted to encourage the Board and the library community to consider this when looking at future advocacy for the 9506 line item.

**Report from Massachusetts Library System**

**Strategic Initiative 1**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Goal | Actions | Measurement of Success | **Monthly work towards goal** |
| MLS ensures service value to all member types. | MLS will create new avenues for active member engagement, including task forces, class leaders, and project engagements. | *MLS will report to member libraries on an annual basis the number of active member engagements.* | Changes made by the new School Library Membership Policy are being implemented.Sarah Sogigian and Rob Favini (MBLC) launched their 2023 Road Trip program Two Masscat public library members (Huntington and Becket) have signed contracts to join C/WMARS, with support from MLS. |
| MLS will continue to strengthen its partnerships and collaborations to allow MLS to focus on what it does uniquely well. | Utilizing the newly created partnership policy and process, MLS will explore possible partnership work with the Library for the Commonwealth and other organizations. | *MLS will report to member libraries on an annual basis the value of their partnerships.* | We launched the five-part webinar series with ALA on intellectual freedom topics. Three webinars occurred in February with 176 participants at the live events and 94 views of the recordings. Two additional webinars will occur in March. Recordings of the webinars will be available for 18 months.We continued working with MBLC and other organizations to host a webinar series on mental health supports and libraries. One webinar occurred in February and two will occur in March.Staff from MLS, MBLC, public libraries, and other New England state libraries began the *Touchpoints for Libraries* train- the-trainer program to teach the Touchpoints program to Massachusetts library staff. The training will continue in March.We continued working with other New England states on this year’s Summer Summit, to help libraries prepare for the youth and adult summer library program. The event is scheduled for March 31. |
| New services will be designed to deliver the greatest statewide impact, able to expand and contract due to available funding and need. | MLS will evaluate current, new, and proposed services using a new internal service review process. | *MLS will ensure that services are able to expand and contract due to available funding, need, and capacity.* |  |

# **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. | Together with our partners, MLS will lead the planning of learning opportunities on leadership and management topics and ensure networking options in our engagements. | *MLS will report to member libraries on an annual basis the leadership and management learning opportunities hosted and the reflection from participants.* | We scheduled a series of four workshops with the Employers Association of the NorthEast on HR topics relevant for libraries (employment Law, interviewing, performance management, and documentation skills). They will take place March through May.We are working with EANE to schedule four community chats on HR related topics. |
| Leadership, professional development, and networking opportunities will have flexible offerings in order to include participants from various library types, library sizes, and resources. | MLS will explore the creation of grants and/or scholarship opportunities to support member library staff in their professional development work. | *MLS will report to member libraries on an annual basis the number of opportunities available, awarded, and the reflection from participants.* | We launched the Language Learning Grant program and approved 20 applications in February. |

# **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.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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. | Utilizing learnings from our work last year, MLS will continue its review of documents, resources and practices to ensure they align with core values.In partnership with trusted experts, MLS will begin an accessibility audit of MLS services. | *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. | Utilizing established services, MLS will showcase member libraries that are using the core values of DEI within their communities. | *MLS will report to member libraries on an annual basis the DEI learning opportunities hosted and the reflection from participants.* |  |

**Report from the Library of the Commonwealth**

**Update from Digital and Online Services Department:**

The Boston Public Library is participating in NextGenAI, a consortium of 15 research institutions partnering with OpenAI to advance artificial intelligence applications in research environments. Through this initiative, BPL will receive multi-year funding to support an AI-Enhanced Digitization Initiative focused on materials previously inaccessible due to scale or complexity. The project will explore how AI can enhance metadata creation, improve text recognition, and enable new discovery methods while digitizing hundreds of thousands of items. We anticipate this work will significantly expand accessible digital resources across Massachusetts while developing sustainable models for leveraging emerging technologies in cultural heritage digitization efforts.

The Digital Services team has expanded its digitization capabilities with the installation of a new Digital Transitions BC100 dual-camera workstation. This specialized equipment features a pneumatic cradle and adjustable glass plate designed specifically for safely imaging bound and fragile materials. The system accommodates volumes up to six inches thick with page sizes up to 17 x 24 inches, making it ideal for rare books, historical newspapers, and other delicate materials of significant research value across the Commonwealth. This strategic equipment acquisition addresses an identified service gap for cultural heritage institutions throughout Massachusetts, enabling digital access to historically significant materials that were previously considered too fragile for available statewide imaging workflows.

In mid-March, the Digital team launched a user research study examining how patrons access online learning resources, such as adult education programs and health and wellness resources. This study aims to identify technical barriers, language challenges, and accessibility gaps facing patrons seeking these vital educational resources. By better understanding these obstacles, we anticipate implementing improvements to resource discovery, platform design, and user experience. The findings will directly inform our digital equity initiatives, ensuring that online services effectively reach and serve all patrons regardless of language proficiency or technological access.

**Digital Commonwealth update**

Boston Public Library and Digital Commonwealth Inc. have agreed to end their formal partnership. While this partnership has played an important role in establishing Massachusetts as a leader in digital cultural heritage, both organizations have evolved their missions and priorities in recent years. This decision allows both organizations to focus on their core strengths. This organizational change will have no impact on the Digital Commonwealth services provided through the Library - statewide digitization services, repository management, and website access will continue uninterrupted. To strengthen our direct engagement with Massachusetts cultural institutions, the statewide digital services team is enhancing its outreach efforts for the Digital Commonwealth program, including resuming our popular in-person digitization workshops across the state, which were paused during the pandemic.

**Updates from the Community History Department:**

We have a new webpage dedicated to Community History, a department dedicated to helping Boston history become more inclusive by offering support for anyone who wants to document, share, and save the stories of their families, neighborhoods, and communities. Check us out at [www.bpl.org/community-history](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Crmasse%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5COlk%5CAttachments%5Cooa-6afa5538-3703-4727-a7d4-10e34d7b0a0c%5C3d6fa6b5870da3f062aabe16dad5b9958a793fbf4b94797a3a9853a0eb04413c%5Cwww.bpl.org%5Ccommunity-history)

**Program highlights:**

***Wikipedia Edit-a-thon:*** Queer & Trans Women of New England

On International Women’s Day, Community History partnered with The History Project, Boston’s queer community archive, to host a wiki edit-a-thon celebrating queer and trans women who have shaped New England’s history. In the Computer Workshop and mezzanine classrooms at the BPL Central Library in Copley Square, 35 participants created 52 articles and edited 194 articles over the course of the day. Participants shared overwhelmingly positive feedback, telling us how much they learned about the region’s queer history, about how to edit and publish Wikipedia articles, and how meaningful it was to be in community with queer folks and allies and to participate in queer history.

***Oral History:***

The Oral History Backpacks—[circulating kits](https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S75C8447877) containing basic recording equipment and a multilingual oral history guidebook—rolled out in 2023, and have expanded to include 15 backpacks across 13 locations. These items have circulated 70 times over their lifetime, and 45 times in FY25 alone (July 1, 2024 to March 26, 2025); this growth coincides with the growth of the Community History Department and the increase in our oral history workshop offerings.

**QUARTERLY REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS CENTER FOR THE BOOK**

Over the past few months, Mass Center for the Book brought together a fundraising committee and began work with Financial Development Agency to create a long-range development plan, case for giving, and toolkit for the Center. We are holding our final meetings with the consultants in March and April and anticipate that the plan will be completed later this spring.

Developing and Updating Mass Book Trails

We are in the process of hiring a temporary, contract Project Lead to work on migrating Mass Book Trails to a new platform, with the goal of improving user experience, functionality, and depth of coverage. Mass Book Trails, the Center’s ongoing literary heritage project, captures the exciting stories of Massachusetts authors and book culture, and tracks a range of literary landmarks, gravesites, author house museums, and more. The person in this part-time position will migrate existing Book Trails content to a new interactive mapping platform, Mapme, which is used across the tourism, cultural, and non-profit sectors. The Project Lead will identify new opportunities for growth, building out coverage in previously neglected subject areas and regions, and they will vet and verify existing information. Work is slated to begin this month.

After having completed a Mass Book Trails community survey in December, with over 350 individuals responding, it is clear that there is strong interest in expanding and investing in this initiative. With one of our staff members out on leave and some unanticipated room in our FY25 budget, we felt that this was our best opportunity to jumpstart this work.

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

Our 25th Anniversary Bingo celebration launched in early January. We sent out a call, offering libraries around the state the opportunity to request cards for their patrons and have been encouraging participation through our social media channels, newsletter, and website. Over 1000 physical bingo cards have shipped to public libraries and digital cards have been shared widely. You can join in the fun at [www.massbook.org/bingo!](http://www.massbook.org/bingo%21)

We will also have the opportunity to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Massachusetts Book Awards with a panel at the upcoming Mass Poetry Festival, to be held May 31 and June 1.

We are featuring poets who have won our poetry book award from its inception in 2000 up through today. Participating poets include Ilan Stavans, Sara Deniz Akant, Daniel Tobin, January Gill O’Neil, and more (still to be confirmed).Massachusetts Book Awards

Judging is underway for the Mass Book Awards and we are on track to announce the longlists in May. We closed the application form for the Mass Book Award Speakers Bureau in February. We were able to schedule twenty events in all, with over forty organizations applying to host our authors. We have six events scheduled in April with the Easthampton Public Library, UMass Translation Center, Forbes Library, Worcester State University, Somerset Public Library, and Palmer Public Library, and more scheduled for May and June. We are looking forward to making the Speakers Bureau a permanent offering and plan to open for applications again in the fall.

Letters About Literature

This year’s Letters About Literature recognition ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday May 20 at the State House. Representative Lindsay Sabadosa will provide the legislative welcome and Newbury Honoree and Mass Book Award-winner Rajani LaRocca will address the students at the start of the program—speaking to them as fellow writers. The students will have a chance to meet Rajani and get books signed after the ceremony.

Mass Kids Lit Fest

We were excited to announce the roster for this year’s Mass Kids Lit Fest last month, with two dozen events scheduled across the four counties of Western Massachusetts during Festival week. We received over 70 author applications and two dozen partner applications—numbers that have grown by a large margin over last year’s festival. Staff evaluated applications in January and we are now working to promote the Festival. The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts and Greenfield Savings Bank are supporting this year’s festival with sponsorships.

Reading Challenge

After interviewing booksellers, school and public librarians, and educators and deploying a survey to current partners, we worked to reboot the student edition of the Reading Challenge, aiming to make it a more robust offering. The new Student Reading Challenge cards have a passport on the back; participants will be asked to return to their library or local bookstore each month to get it stamped, with the opportunity to earn prizes for continued participation.

Students will also have the opportunity to complete shelf talkers, offering feedback and recommendations on what they’ve read. We had the opportunity to promote the new and improved Student Challenge at the MSLA conference in early March and have over 80 partners signed on for the coming year, which starts in June.

Upcoming Events/Activities

April

Speakers Bureau Event: “Mass Book Award Honoree Elaine Dimopolous: The Remarkable Rescue at Milkweed Meadow Author Visit,” Easthampton Public Library, April 5 at 10:30am.Speakers Bureau Event: “Fierce Elegy: A National Poetry Month Reading with Mass Book Award-Winner Peter Gizzi,” Forbes Library (Northampton), April 9 at 6pm.

Speakers Bureau Event: “On Translating My Language Is a Jealous Lover”: A Reading and Discussion with Mass Book Award-Winners Victoria Offredi Poletto and Giovanna Bellesia Contuzzi,” UMass Downtown, April 9 at 4:30pm.

Organized Panel with Robin Bernstein and Toussaint Losier: “Prisons for Profit: Racism and the History of Incarceration in the North,” Newburyport Literary Festival, April 26.

Speakers Bureau Event: “Navigating the Reach: A National Poetry Month Reading and Workshop with Mass Book Award Honoree Mary Buchinger,” Somerset Public Library, April 26 at 10am.

Speakers Bureau Event: “Ordinary Entanglement: A Poetry Month Reading and Workshop with Mass Book Award Honoree Melissa Dickey,” Palmer Public Library, April 29 at 6pm.

May

Speakers Bureau Event: “Manchester Reads with Elaine Dimopoulos, author of The Remarkable Rescue at Milkweed Meadow,” Manchester-by-the-Sea Public Library, May 1 at 5:30pm.

Mass Kids Lit Fest, Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire Counties, May 5-11.

Speakers Bureau Event: “Mole Is Not Alone”: Spring Storytime with Children’s Authors Maya Tatsukawa and Hanna Cha,” Peabody Institute Library, May 17 at 12pm.

Speakers Bureau Event: “Into the Amazon”: Author Talk with Mass Book Award-Honoree Larry Rohter,” Vineyard Haven Public Library, May 20 at 6pm.

Speakers Bureau Event: “Author Meet and Greet with Kim McLarin,” Wistariahurst Museum, May 20 at 6pm.

Letters About Literature Recognition Ceremony, Massachusetts State House, May 20 at 1pm.

June

Organized Panel: “Celebrating 25 Years of the Mass Book Awards: A Reading with Poetry Winners Sara Deniz Akant, January Gill O’Neil, Ilan Stavans, Daniel Tobin, and others,” Mass Poetry Festival, May 31–June 1.

Speakers Bureau Event: “Kantika: Author Talk with Mass Book Award-Winner Elizabeth Graver,” Perkins Library, June 17 at 2pm.

Speakers Bureau Event: “Everyday Something Has Tried to Kill Me and Has Failed: Author Talk with Mass Book Award-Honoree Kim McLarin,” Watertown Public Library, June 17 at 7pm.

**Unfinished Business and General Orders**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Deborah Lang Froggatt, Outreach Director presented the following report:

1. MSLA Call to Action re. . [HD.625](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD625), [HD.1221](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD1221)
* School Library Standards Bill: New Numbers:  Representative Puppolo filed [HD.4488](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD4488). SD.1769, which Senator Oliveira filed is now [S.428](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/SD1769).
1. **DESE Literacy Launch**
* In conversation with DESE’s Katherine Tarca re. Literacy Launch Summer PD
* MSLA will present three candidates to lead the database, collection curation sessions for this PD
1. [**MSLA Chapter of the Year Award 2025**](https://www.ala.org/news/2025/03/massachusetts-school-library-association-receives-aasl-chapter-year-award) **3/18/25**

1. **Submitted MA School Administrators Association Conference**

**Presentation Application: 3/7/25**

1. **April is SCHOOL LIBRARY MONTH**
* Every Library advised to create a consistent message
* MBLC to promote this with School Library Standards Bill

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM



Karen Traub

Secretary