

NOBLE Executive Board Meeting hybrid

August 14, 2024

Present: Kathy Lussier, Brian Courtemanche, Catherine McDonald, Allison Babin, Jonathan Nichols, Rachel Overbeck

1. Call to Order/Welcome

Brian called the Meeting to order at 2:06pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

Catherine made the motion to approve the minutes from June 12, 2024, seconded by Jonathan. All in favor.

3. Treasurer's Report

Kathy presented the final FY2024 Treasurer's Report, as Myron was absent. The report shows the budget was about 94% expended with a balance of about \$115,000 remaining. Kathy explained there was actually a bit less remaining because some funds were placed in a restricted fund for an ergonomic consultant for NOBLE staff. The surplus is typically factored into the next fiscal year's budget (FY2026) to offset library assessments for that year.

4. Executive Director's Report

Kathy's report included the following:

- MessageBee has been successfully implemented. NOBLE found a path to success by working with Mobius which resulted in cost savings. NOBLE is continuing to work on tweaking the test messages for quicker speed.
- Evergreen development: NOBLE is waiting on one last fix for the code to restore shelving location groups to the library selector in the new staff catalog. Once completed, the update should be able to be rolled onto the production server. Planning to continue working in the new staff catalog this year. Priorities include making the sort menu options use a custom sort, implementing a "Read More" feature for summaries on the search results page, and adding support for hold groups.
- e-Renew: Martha has resumed work on this. (Fake registrations seem to have died down.)
- Member Services Support Associate Position: Very strong pool of candidates with great interviews. An offer has been made.
- NOBLE is now the new fiscal sponsor for ECDI. The administrative work is going well. Implementing some electronic procedures for ECDI may ultimately benefit NOBLE as well. Still waiting on a signed contract from the state of Georgia. ECDI is working on a strategic plan with Linda Braun and Michelle Frisque of LEO Group. Expect the plan to be finalized in January.
- NOBLE will be releasing the fall workshop schedule soon. Working group meetings, Welcome to NOBLE sessions, and director roundtables are scheduled. All working groups will meet in person at NOBLE for the first meeting of the year with a remote option available.
- NOBLE will also hold an in-person director session on November 6 that will include a review of privileges and responsibilities of NOBLE membership, discussion of current projects, and an opportunity for directors to converse. Lunch will also be provided.
- Ergonomics consultant Denise Ponbriand will be coming to the NOBLE office to evaluate workstations. One employee will have their home/remote station evaluated as well. This could lead to recommendations/purchasing needs.
- Elizabeth and Kathy participated in a panel presentation at ALA on the benefits of the open-source development process over a proprietary system's user group process. There was a small turnout at the session, but those who attended were highly engaged. Kathy

also facilitated a virtual discussion among Evergreen developers about improvements to the Evergreen release schedule.

- Massachusetts Library Legislation: The formal legislative session is over. The FY25 state budget had positive news for libraries with state aid to public libraries being increased as requested to \$20,000,000. State aid for regional libraries also received a large increase that had not been requested. MBLC has begun discussing the FY26 legislative agenda with a tentative focus on state aid to public libraries, the MBLC agency line, and the Massachusetts Center for the Book.
- The two bills that the MLA Legislative Committee have been tracking this year, the Freedom to Read and improved licensing for digital books and audiobooks, were both sitting in Ways and Means Committees when the session ended. There is a remote possibility they will be picked up in the upcoming informal session, but it is more likely they will need to be reintroduced in the next legislative session. The e-book bill was also significantly overhauled with the establishment of a commission to study the issue and come up with a recommendation.
- The MLA Legislative Committee is planning to sponsor a program at the Worcester Public Library on Thursday, October 10 to prepare people for advocacy during the upcoming legislative session. This program will take the place of a day at the State House. Instead, the committee is focusing on regional legislative events to advocate for library interests.

7. FY25 Board Orientation

The board agreed to table this agenda item due to only 5 Executive Board members being in attendance.

8. Working Group/Committee Appointments and Board Liaisons

President Brian Courtemanche has appointed people to the FY25 Working Groups. Each Working Group also needs a Board liaison. Board liaisons attend the meetings and report back to the Executive Board on policy recommendations.

Myron has already signed up for ERDWG and Abby has signed up for the Advocacy Committee. Liaisons are still needed for the Resource Sharing Working Group and the Collection Management Working Group. The Privacy Audit Task Force will also need a Board liaison, but the Resource Sharing Working Group needed to be established first.

Rachel tentatively volunteered to serve as the Executive Board liaison to the Collection Management Working Group. Jonathan tentatively volunteered to serve as the Executive Board liaison to Resource Sharing.

Brian will email the Executive Board and proceed with appointments based on interest, deferring to the aforementioned members at this meeting if no one else volunteers.

8. Vote to Approve FY25 OverDrive Allocations

Kathy presented the proposed OverDrive Allocations for FY25 as is done annually each August. OverDrive assessments went up this year, so this budget went up accordingly. The proposal for FY25 was the same as FY24, with the exception of designating the increase in funds to renewal titles (titles with holds where the title has expired).

Catherine made the motion to approve the allocations, seconded by Rachel. All in favor.

9. Proposed Policy for Third-Party Integrations

Kathy presented the proposed policy for third-party integrations, developed by Martha and based on policies from other networks, and shared some background on the need. NOBLE periodically hears from libraries about third-party Evergreen integrations late in the process after a library has already contracted with the new product. This can be problematic if the product is not integrating with Evergreen in a manner that NOBLE staff considers to be safe or in the best interest of all libraries. NOBLE standard is usually SIP2. NOBLE should be contacted early on.

Jonathan inquired about a list of pre-approved vendors (e.g. meescan). Kathy said NOBLE can work on this. Rachel recommended that, if this policy passes, it be included in a packet via email to new Directors.

Allison made the motion to recommend that Members adopt the recommended Third-Party Hardware and Software Policy, seconded by Rachel. All in favor.

10. Presentation of Draft NOBLE Strategic Plan FY26-30

The board agreed to table this agenda item due to only 5 Executive Board members being in attendance.

13. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

14. Adjournment

Allison made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Babin
Secretary Pro Temp