

NOBLE Executive Board Meeting Hybrid January 8, 2025

Present: Kathy Lussier, Brian Courtemanche, Myron Schirer-Suter, Jonathan Nichols, Allison Babin, Catherine McDonald, Rachel Overbeck, Anna Sarneso, Theresa Hurley, Abby Porter, Elizabeth Thomsen

1. Call to Order

Brian called the meeting to order at 2:04.

2. Approval of Minutes

Rachel made the motion to approve the minutes from December 11, 2024, seconded by Theresa. All in favor.

3. Treasurer's Report

Myron reviewed the treasurer's report and noted that there was nothing out of the ordinary. The capital fund is currently around \$809,000, as the allocations voted on at the last two meetings have been removed from that account. Investments stand at \$2,223,000, a 0.1% increase over last month.

4. Advocacy Committee

Abby reviewed the most recent Advocacy Committee meeting, noting that invitations have gone out and thanking libraries that submitted videos for the montage. Directors were asked to reach out to local legislators to encourage them to attend.

5. Assessment Formula Review Subcommittee Report

Brian reported on the first meeting, in which the subcommittee reviewed the formulae of several other consortia to begin determining the direction, as the committee wants to ensure equitable costs for each member library.

6. Executive Director's Report

Kathy reviewed the Executive Director's report, which included the following:

- The recent Evergreen update that occurred on Jan. 4. Overall, it went well, but staff are addressing some issues.
- The recent Network Administrator's meeting, which discussed some Overdrive issues concerning certification and hold priority.
- Evergreen Community Development Initiative strategic planning process is almost complete. It will be recommending a full-time manager position, working on growing

membership, improving engagement with current members, and working on organizational infrastructure. They have also started developing the budget for next year.

- Kathy participated in a meeting to finalize the strategic plan for the Evergreen Project, which will be voted on next week.
- Kathy also reviewed her work on the MLA Legislative Committee, which included finding new representatives and senators to re-file legislation protecting the Freedom to Read and offering consumer protection to libraries for the licensing of ebooks and digital audiobooks, and finding a new library caucus chair.

7. Vote to Recommend Aspen Hosting Proposal

Kathy reviewed the quotes received from different vendors. Elizabeth went through a presentation on the reasons a switch to Aspen is recommended. Discussion ensued. Kathy reviewed the timeline, starting in the coming months with Aspen most likely going live around the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Allison made a motion to recommend to Members to enter into contract negotiations with Equinox Open Library Initiative for hosting and support of Aspen Discovery and to transfer \$20,025 from capital to fund implementation and year-one hosting and support fees, seconded by Jonathan, all in favor.

8. Vote to Approve Capital Request for Furniture / Equipment Purchase to Improve Workplace Ergonomics

Kathy reviewed the capital request for furniture.

Abby made a motion to transfer \$22,785 from capital for the purchase of furniture and equipment to improve ergonomics in the NOBLE office, seconded by Myron. All in favor.

9. Executive Director Semi-Annual Goal Review

Brian reviewed the meeting for the Executive Director's semi-annual goal review, which included very positive feedback for the actions Kathy has undertaken and a suggestion to prioritize visiting all NOBLE libraries among the remaining goals. Some goals have had to be pushed back due to hiring, upgrades, and other opportunities, and the subcommittee felt that Kathy had prioritized very well.

10. Policy Review - Confidentiality Policy and Legal Request Policy

This item was tabled until the next meeting to allow for a legal review.

11. Gordon Conwell

Kathy noted that Gordon Conwell has received the quote for their Hamilton, MA campus. They have inquired about adding on their additional campuses outside of Massachusetts. This would require adding all bibliographic records from those campuses into the NOBLE catalog, but those materials would not be able to be shared. This would need to be voted on by the Executive Board and also discussed with MBLC, as it could affect grants. Kathy said she would meet with them on Friday and would have more information after that meeting.

12. New Business

Kathy reported that she will need to take some PTO in the coming months.

13. Adjournment

Jonathan made the motion to adjourn at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Porter

Clerk