

## MLA Legislative Committee Meeting

July 26, 2013

Meeting called to order at 10:05am

ATTENDING: Susan McAllister, Deb Hoadley, Beverly Shank, Greg Pronevitz, Cindy Roach, Katie Baxter, Dinah O'Brien, Anna Kung, Frank Murphy, Jackie Rafferty, Krista McLeod, Kathy Lowe

Virtual participants: Louise Howland, Mary Rose Quinn, John Ramsay, Nancy Rae

### AGENDA

#### REPORTS:

New Legislative year, agenda and priorities-MBLC/MLA/MSLA:

Cindy handed out copies of the final MBLC budget. There are increases in most lines, except MBLC (9101) and technology (9506) lines. The biggest increase was to MLS (9401) and the BPL (9403). June revenues were good, so the year is starting off well.

Commissioner Frank Murphy expressed his concern that state aide and technology funding need to be improved, and his wish that some portion of revenue from the proposed Internet sales tax be used to fund these accounts. He asked the committee for input on this idea. Beverly asked if Frank was proposing a study committee to look into this. Katie suggested that a working group might be established to address issues such as this that come up each year. Susan stated that it would be important to establish if this tax is still being considered by the legislature before voting to pursue the idea further. A discussion ensued about possible strategies for accomplishing this.

Greg moved that a temporary task force be formed to gather information and develop options to get state funding for eBooks. Seconded by Katie. The motion was approved unanimously. Cindy, Katie, Greg, Mary Rose and Jackie will be on the task force. Greg will convene the first meeting.

The FY2015 Legislative Agenda will be discussed at the next meeting of the Commissioners on August 1. Cindy asked what the Committee's priorities would be for next year. The Committee

agreed that State Aide should continue to be the focus. Greg suggested that eBooks also be a priority. Cindy suggested that specific local aspects of State Aide be highlighted. Strategies could be emphasized at the Breakfast on Breakfasts. How libraries use state aid money could be the focus of the breakfasts. Katie offered to organize this. Diane Carty will be surveying libraries to ask for their priorities and how state funding has impacted their programs. The budget hearing will be held on September 12.

MLS: Greg thanked the committee for support for increased MLS funding. There was a meeting to discuss the feasibility of selling the Whately facility. They brainstormed what they would like in a facility and what to do with the money if they sell. MLS is proceeding with attempting to sell the building.

Eligibility for special libraries. They have lost many special library members. Economy really affected special libraries. MLS is working to regain these members.

Susan Babb is now director of West Newbury Public Library. Carolyn Noah is recovering from her surgery.

Deb Hoadley reported on the EBook pilot project. MLS is still in negotiations with three vendors. Three task forces are working on the project: PR Promotion and Training, Collection Development, and Sustainability and Funding. She is pleased that all the multi-type libraries are looking out for each other and embracing the statewide concept of this project. Vendors will provide trainings throughout the state from mid-August through the end of September.

MSLA: There was a hearing on July 10 on MSLA bill (S1475) before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, chaired by Sen. Donnelly, who sponsored the bill. Julie Farrell and Kendall Boninti, MSLA Legislative co-chairs, organized testimony for a hearing to establish a commission to evaluate school library programs. Julie, Leslie Lomasson from Amherst Regional HS, Julia Johnson from Mass. Teachers Association, Greg Pronevitz from MLS and Judi Paradis all spoke about different aspects of the bill and felt they were well received. Julie also had a large packet of written testimony that she provided to the committee from many additional supporters. Next, MSLA will contact the bill's sponsors to find out if it was voted out of committee with a recommendation to go forward.

Lunch with Rep. Capuano was won by Susan Flannery, Director of the Cambridge Public Library. She donated this to MLA. Susan McAllister, Cindy Roach, MLA President Betsy

Marcus, and Beverly Shank will meet to plan a lunch to discuss what issues to raise. Cindy suggested including ALA initiatives.

The Breakfast on Breakfasts will be held on Oct. 1 from 10-noon at CWMARS. Agenda for the morning to include:

Invitations to all regions, friends and trustees.

Timing& location. Food/set up/program

Legislative focus/priority- State Aid

Finances for breakfasts and donations for MLA Legislative Day

MLA and MSLA speaker @ each breakfast. Lead up to Leg. Day

Breakfast Toolkit on website/members only

Attendees bring materials to swap and offer as new items for toolkit

Beverly and Susan will work to finalize this agenda.

State House Tours: Katie will work on sponsorships. There is an opportunity to develop Legislative Leaders through this program, possibly using NELLS participants. Katie emphasized that tour guides should be with the groups before going to the State House. Deb suggested this be done on Legislative Day. Buses would be provided and tour guides would be buddies for attendees.

Snapshot Day: Nancy Rae has stepped down as chair, but will see if someone else from the committee is willing to become chair and which members are willing to continue. Kathy will try and find a school representative. It is important to have a tech person too. The committee should begin their work in September. Will shoot to have the day take place in late March so photos can be used for Legislative Day.

Legislative Day: Dates: March 25 or 26; or April 1 or 2. Judi Paradis has arranged for Rep. Sean Garballey to be our contact for booking the space. Susan said it is important to send email at midnight the first day of the month 6 months before to request the space. There was a lengthy discussion about how to get more members to attend.

MLA Annual Conference: The Committee decided to have a booth with Capwiz demos, Snapshot Day slideshow, "Take Action" materials/members only. Katie will work up a draft for requirements for the booth.

Future meeting dates: September 27 1pm, November 22 10am, January 31 (snow date February 7) 1pm, March 21 10am, May 30 at 10am, July 25 10am. All meetings will be at the Minuteman Network in Natick. If Julie Farrell can't commit to 1pm meetings, they will all be 10am.

ALA National Legislative Day. May 6, 2014: Cindy requests that MLA works to identify someone to attend.

Adjourned at 1:00pm