**NOBLE Executive Board Meeting**
**August 12, 2026 at 2:00 PM**
**Minutes**

Members Present:Theresa Hurley, Brian Courtemanche, Anna Sarneso, Allison Babin, Morgan Yeo, Abby Porter, Jonathan Nichols, Catherine McDonald
NOBLE Staff Present: Kathy Lussier

**Call to Order/Welcome**

- Theresa called the meeting to order at 2:07 PM

**Approval of Minutes**

- *Abby moves to approve the minutes, and Brian seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.*

**Reports**

Treasurer's Report – Jonathan Nichols

- NOBLE came in under budget for FY26.
- Most of the overages in the line items came from the travel/mileage line item, which was due to a glitch in the timing. NOBLE has changed their process for this, so it won't be an issue moving forward.

Executive Director's Report - Kathy Lussier

- Nahant Public Library's migration is complete and implementation is live. The NOBLE staff met with the library staff through the month of July to discuss any issues. Currently, the biggest concern is the number of duplicate bib records, which should be addressed once the Backstage deduplication process is complete.
- Loral is now integrated into Evergreen. Some images are having issues due to local customizations, which they are troubleshooting.
- NOBLE staff are still working on a project from last year to customize what fields display on the staff catalog page.
- This year, the development focus will be on Aspen.
- NOBLE upgraded to Evergreen 3.17 this week. The only issue is that the client function keys aren't working, but there is already a fix, which should be applied soon. The same day we upgraded, there was also an unrelated problem with Equinox that impacted Aspen performance, but it was quickly fixed.
- The Salesforce implementation has made a lot of progress. Support requests now go to a ticketing management system, and libraries are now in the customer relationship management portion. We came in under budget on Salesforce last year, but there is still work to be done, so we will need to budget for this again next year.
- The Deduplication and Authority Control Project should be completed soon. Martha sent them a final MARC record file. This is a one-time authority control project.
- Backstage is also working on our grant project (MBLC-funded) to catalog materials in non-English languages. We are hoping to reduce the number of books that would need to be physically shipped to them for cataloging.
- Montserrat uses Overdrive, but years ago we stopped charging them, due to low usage. They are looking at getting an Advantage account, which means they will

be back in the OverDrive assessment. We are waiting for the new OverDrive formula to determine the amount.
- OverDrive is updating their reciprocal lending arrangement to make it easier to borrow from other libraries through LEA. Anyone who signs up through NOBLE will automatically have access to collections from other networks.
- The Evergreen Community Development Initiative is piloting a new initiative to give ECDI partners the chance to do the work of a new project at their network or library and then they will be reimbursed for their time. NOBLE is proposing to work on three small projects.
- Governor Healy signed the Freedom to Read bill earlier this week! The bill to establish a commission to study the e-book licensing issue is still sitting in the Ways and Means Committee.

**Business**

Board Liaisons for Working Groups - Kathy Lussier
- Theresa will stay on the Resource Sharing committee.
- Jonathan will stay on the Marketing committee.
- Anna will be on the ad hoc Academic Libraries working group.
- Catherine is out sick, but Kathy has reassigned her to the Collection Management working group.
- Morgan will be on Electronic Resources and Databases Working Group
- Abby will be on the Advocacy Committee
- Brian will be on Software Development Working Group

Vote to Approve FY27 OverDrive Allocations - Kathy Lussier
- Elizabeth has proposed shifting some subscription plans, focusing more on getting the holds ratios down. She is also trying to buy more audiobooks because they are so popular.
- *Allison makes a motion to approve the FY27 Overdrive Allocations and Jonathan seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.*

Preliminary FY28 Budget Discussion – Kathy Lussier
- Jonathan, Catherine, Theresa, and Jonathan met with Kathy to discuss FY28 budget challenges.
- The largest challenges are the departure of Merrimack College at the end of FY27 and the possible departure of a public library at the end of FY28.
- Additional challenges are local budget cuts, concerns around state funding,and ongoing Consumer Price Index issues.
- At the meeting, the largest challenges (the library departure/potential department) were identified as the ones that should be presented to Membership.
- The Board suggests that we also mention the difficult budget situations that most libraries are in, but stay focused on the concrete.
- At the meeting, the officers agreed that only the first step of the contingency plan would be a necessary step: using the unrestricted funds to help stabilize assessments. They also suggested that Kathy and the Board will prepare alternate budgets with different amounts of the reserves in use and the amount of spending for new spending.

- The Board decided it would be good to just focus on Merrimack leaving and the contingency plan and to have a formal way for membership to give feedback to alternate budgets.

FY27 Executive Director Goals - Kathy Lussier

- This year. Kathy's proposed goals are to create an investment policy, to revise the NOBLE employee handbook, work with the Ad Hoc Academic Libraries Services committee, and revise the NOBLE Privacy policy.
- *Allison makes a motion to approve Kathy's proposed FY227 Executive Director goals and Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.*

New Business

- Kathy will add a Board orientation to next month's meeting.

Adjournment

- Brian makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Meeting is adjourned at 3:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Sarneso, Clerk