

NOBLE Executive Board Meeting Minutes - Hybrid December 10, 2025

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

- 1. Call to Order** - Catherine called the meeting to order at 2:06PM.
- 2. Approval of minutes for November 12, 2025***

Anna made the motion to approve the minutes from November 12, 2025, seconded by Jonathan. The motion passed unanimously.

- 3. Treasurer's Report** - Myron reports that nothing is out of the ordinary.

Kathy pointed out that a couple of lines are over: Bibliograph by \$1,499 because NOBLE added academics this year, and Legal fees by \$5,494 because of the attorney's work on data privacy. This is a bit misleading, as NOBLE paid the full invoice and got reimbursed by the other networks except for our contribution of \$1,000.

- 4. Electronic Resources & Database Working Group***

Kathy shared updates from this group:

- NOBLE is now receiving MARC records with AI generated data for missing subject headings. (AI is disclosed in the catalog when present.)
- Discussed developing training requirements for cataloging staff who enter records.
- Voted to recommend to the board to add two highly selective new vocabularies (Homosaurus and Backstage's Indigenous Peoples Thesaurus) to our MARC records, which currently only have Library of Congress subject headings.

Myron made the motion to adopt the Homosaurus and Backstage's Indigenous Peoples Thesaurus in the NOBLE bibliographic database, seconded by Anna. The motion passed unanimously.

Myron shared that EBSCOhost titles are finally in Aspen and acknowledged Christine's work on this.

- 5. Marketing Working Group**

Jonathan reports that the group met and the consensus is they are still working on creating a staff toolkit. Their next step will be to send out a survey to libraries to help the Marketing Working Group develop their priorities.

- 6. Advocacy Committee**

Kathy reports the "Save the Date" for the 2026 Legislative Breakfast has been shared for Friday, February 27, at the Melrose Public Library. The group is still finalizing speakers and is planning to do another collaborative video like last year, with this year's theme focusing on libraries as resources that bring communities together.

7. Collection Management Team

Catherine reports that this team, which was created 30+ years ago, is going to look at collections in a whole new way. It may sunset as is and transform to a roundtable. Going to conduct some focus groups, maybe a survey. They aim to make a decision in February 2026

8. Executive Director's Report - Kathy reviewed her report:

- Aspen: Continue to iron out issues. There was a big issue with the create date not carrying over properly; this is now resolved. EBSCO ebooks finally loaded. Finished removing Hoopla records from Evergreen and now starting on Kanopy. The big challenge now is that certain changes trigger an overnight reindex which takes a really long time. This can affect item statuses at libraries in the morning. Doesn't take as long for CW MARS despite them having a larger database of print materials, so investigating if there is a way to reduce the reindexing time. Scheduling training in January for staff to customize Aspen items like hours, banners, etc.
- Content Cafe: Trialing Chilifresh, evaluating image quality. Syndetics' quote was higher than ContentCafe. Aspen-support company Grove is working with Inram to go live with a new product in January. . Grove will include professional reviews eventually; Chilifresh won't.
- eRenew: Making good progress over the past couple months. Martha has it running on the trial system. Should roll out early in 2026.
- Massachusetts Data Privacy Act: The network administrators have passed on their concerns to the MLA Legislative Committee and the co-chairs plan to bring it up with a meeting they are scheduling with the House library caucus leaders.
- Salesforce: Implementation is going great. All NOBLE staff had an opportunity to provide feedback on the current prototype.
- CW MARS: Met with them last month. OCLN is moving to Evergreen and Aspen. Looking to increase the frequency of meetings on Zoom.
- ECDI: The ECDI Program Director and Kathy met with the Executive Director of Equinox for introductions and an opportunity to discuss concerns from the ECDI interim governance committee about Equinox development, the loss of one of their developers, and billing concerns.
- MLA Legislative Updates: The Freedom to Read legislation passed in the Senate last month in a bipartisan vote with just three dissenting votes. The ebook bill passed unanimously on the same day.

9. Vote to Accept FY25 Financial Statements, IRS Form 990 and State Form PC*

Kathy presented two financial statements. As the fiscal sponsor, ECDI funds are reflected on these statements. ECDI costs are broken out. Kathy suggested she will share annually with the board how the ECDI funds are spent.

Myron added that the Auditor reviewed the documents closely with Kathy.

Anna made the motion to accept the FY25 financial statements and IRS Form 990, seconded by Theresa. The motion passed unanimously.

10. New ECDI Membership Model

The ECDI interim governance committee has approved a new membership model based on benefits rather than consortium size. The FY27 budget allocated \$23,000 in the Evergreen Software Support line: \$22,000 for ECDI membership and \$1,000 for a Silver membership in the Evergreen project. NOBLE's FY25 contribution to the project was \$22,076. The minimum ECDI

membership level that allows for a seat on the ECDI Oversight Committee is the \$23,500 level. Given NOBLE's strong history with this project and the fact that NOBLE is the fiscal sponsor, Kathy recommends membership at the \$23,500 level.

Myron made the motion to participate in the Evergreen Collaborative Development Initiative starting in FY27 at the level currently represented by a \$23,500 contribution, seconded by Anna. The motion passed unanimously.

11. New Member Policy Review

Kathy presented the current New Member Policies for School System Members, Small Libraries, and Associate Member Libraries. After some discussion, the board decided to form a subcommittee to review the policies and bring recommendations forward at a future meeting. Theresa and Anna will serve on the subcommittee.

12. Systems account policy and under-18 employees

A question was raised by a member recently about whether an under-18 employee's signature on the systems account policy form would be legally binding. After some discussion, the board's consensus was that there is no concern with having minors sign this agreement, as it is more for HR than legal purposes.

13. New Business

Stoneham's override passed.

14. Adjournment

Allison moved to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 3:44PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Babin
Clerk