

NOBLE Executive Board Meeting Minutes - Hybrid February 11, 2026

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

1. Call to Order - Catherine called the meeting to order at 2:09PM.

2. Approval of minutes for January 14, 2026

Brian made the motion to approve the minutes from January 14, 2026, seconded by Jonathan. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report

Myron reports that nothing is out of the ordinary.

4. Electronic Resources & Database Working Group*

Kathy shared updates from this group:

- ERDWG voted to move forward with Loral.
- The group has been considering how they want to lay out the editions page in Aspen.
- The group reviewed the NOBLE Database Quality Policy in order to add a requirement for cataloging staff to participate in NOBLE training depending on their permission level. This review prompted further revisions from Kathy.

Myron made the motion to recommend the revisions to the policy to NOBLE members for approval, seconded by Anna. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Advocacy Committee

Kathy reminded the board that the Legislative Breakfast is coming up February 27 in Melrose.

6. Resource Sharing Working Group

Theresa shared some policy recommendations from this group, which met on February 4:

a. Recommended revision to Network Transfer Policy

The group recommends that we remove the requirement to "mark clearly in the catalog any material with hold restrictions," because it's not really feasible to do.

Rachel moved to recommend the Network Transfer Policy revisions to Members, seconded by Jonathan. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Recommendation to Rescind NOBLE ILL Code

The NOBLE ILL Code was adopted in 1985 and is an adaptation of ALA's ILL Code at that time. The network did not have patron-placed holds at that time and there was more ILL activity between libraries. The network transfer policy has essentially superseded the ILL Code.

Brian moved to recommend that Members rescind the NOBLE ILL Code, seconded by Theresa. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Marketing Working Group

Jonathan shared that the branding kit is coming together. He has been having some difficulty with the process of transferring some templates in Canva, but hopes to have the toolkit out soon.

8. Executive Director's Report

Kathy reviewed her report:

- Aspen implementation: Member Services is working on rolling out new permissions.
- Systems met with Equinox to work on the issues caused by overnight indexing.
- Loral is now being used for book cover jacket images in Aspen.
- eRENEW should be launched soon.
- Application period for the Member Services Associate position has closed. Received 27 applications which are being reviewed now, and hope to schedule interviews next week.
- Nahant is scheduled to go live the week of June 15.
- Testing of Evergreen's new circulation interface is underway with six volunteers.
- Ad Hoc Committee to Assess Services for Academic Libraries needs more volunteers.
- NOBLE Filtering Project: NOBLE office is filtering at the firewall level and it seems to be going well. May want to push it out to pilot libraries. Won't be able to disable at the site level. MBLC may have an e-rate incentive for networks.
- Massachusetts Data Privacy Act: Kathy met with legislative caucus leaders in the house to discuss concerns with the act as it pertains to libraries. They were receptive and gave guidance on who to reach out to next to explicitly exempt libraries from the provisions of the legislation.
- Kathy is running for a seat on the Evergreen Project Board. Massachusetts Evergreen networks have traditionally committed to having at least one rep on the board and CWMARS Executive Director Jeanette Lundgren's term is about to expire.
- Four NOBLE staff members (Elizabeth, Michele, Chris, and Kathy) have had proposals accepted for the April Evergreen conference in Seattle.

9. New Member Policy Subcommittee Report

The New Member Policy Subcommittee met to consolidate multiple policies into one new member policy, of which Kathy shared a draft. The subcommittee is still considering the question of how much to charge a small library member. The idea is to use the current formula, but potentially charge a percentage of the flat fee that is assessed to larger members. Once Kathy works out some example spreadsheets, there should be a policy to present at a future meeting.

10. Nahant and Small Libraries in Network Grant

Now that Nahant is joining NOBLE, NOBLE will be receiving the Small Libraries in Network (SLIN) grant via MBLC. NOBLE will be required to use the funds to lower Nahant's assessment. NOBLE's practice is to use MBLC grant funds in the year following the one in which we receive the grants. This practice protects the network if there are 9(c) cuts from the governor, giving us more time to put funds in place to recoup any losses from those grants.

Five of the six other networks receiving the SLIN grant hold the funds to the new year and Kathy asked the Executive Board to consider adopting this practice, which helps with budget planning for small libraries and allows the network to know at the beginning of each fiscal year how much the invoice should be credited.

Allison made the motion that NOBLE absorb Nahant's FY27 SLIN offset in order to apply any SLIN grants in the year after those funds are received, seconded by Anna. Motion passes unanimously.

11. ECDI Rules of Governance

The Evergreen Collaborative Development Initiative has finally approved new governance rules for the project. Because NOBLE is the fiscal sponsor of the project, the NOBLE Board has ultimate responsibility for the proper handling of ECDI funds. As such, the proposed rules require that the NOBLE Board approve the new rules and any modifications to these rules. The Board's approval is required because it is important that the Board knows there are the right people and processes in place to ensure the funds are spent appropriately.

Myron made the motion to approve the ECDI Rules of Governance, Jonathan seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

12. NOBLE Reserve Funds / Contingency Budget

Robert Guimond, NOBLE's CPA, to come in and review reserve funds.

13. New Business

Kathy reminded the Board that next month in-person attendance is encouraged.

14. Adjournment

Brian moved to adjourn. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 3:21PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Babin
Clerk