

NOBLE Executive Board Meeting Minutes - Hybrid March 11, 2026

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

1. Call to Order - Catherine called the meeting to order at 2:08PM.

2. Approval of minutes for January 22, 2026

Brian Courtemanche made the motion to approve the minutes from January 22, 2026, seconded by Anna Sarneso. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of minutes for February 11, 2026

Anna Sarneso made the motion to approve the minutes from February 11, 2026, seconded by Brian Courtemanche. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report

Myron reports that everything is pretty much the same. One line is over due to a monitoring service. This has been canceled for next year so it will not be an issue in FY27.

5. Advocacy Committee

Abby thanked those who attended the Legislative Breakfast. Kathy suggested that we might consider doing more smaller breakfasts next year in part to gain more attendance of legislators, and to engage more local municipal officials like Select Board Members and Mayors. Abby thanked Shilpa, Rhea, and Kathy, as well as the Melrose Public Library for hosting.

6. Executive Director's Report

Kathy reviewed her report:

- Book jacket cover images: Content Cafe is still mysteriously working. Evergreen has a unique way of pulling cover images from Content Cafe. Might require some development to integrate with Loral.
- Bid Process: Tara Mansfield will coordinate the bid process with the City of Salem.
- eRenew: System got updated Monday night. Just need to test and should hopefully be live by next month.
- Member Services Associate position: Hiring process was delayed by blizzard. Hoping to make an offer to a top candidate this week.
- Nahant Public Library: Elizabeth, Martha, and Kathy visited on March 10 to talk through the implementation/migration process. NOBLE will be coordinating training in Aspen, circulation, and cataloging.
- Circulation Testing: Six staff members from member libraries volunteered and caught some bugs which NOBLE has submitted.

- Ad Hoc Committee to Assess Services for Academic Libraries: Kathy has still only heard from one potential volunteer. She will reach out directly to some individuals as a next step to create this committee.
- Filtering Project: Swampscott Library has volunteered to try the firewall-level filtering once NOBLE has customized the block message.
- Massachusetts Data Privacy Act: Kathy reached out to Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier (2nd Berkshire) requesting that she consider filing a friendly amendment to exempt libraries. Alex Reczkowski, director of the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield, is trying to set up a meeting with the representative. She has indicated that she doesn't like exempting organizations, so Alex and Kathy will try to work another angle.

7. Nominating Committee for FY27 Officers

Catherine is appointing herself, Theresa, and Allison to serve as the nominating committee for FY27 officers. The committee will need to appoint a treasurer and clerk. Catherine requested that any feedback regarding interest in positions and board membership be shared with her. Jonathan expressed willingness to serve as treasurer.

8. NOBLE Reserve Funds / Contingency Plan

Kathy will be scheduling a meeting with the auditor to ascertain why there are some discrepancies between his report and NOBLE's accounting.

Kathy reviewed the different types of funds and target levels. The board discussed the risks and possible contingency actions. This will be revisited at the next meeting.

9. New Member Policy

The New Member Policy was nearly complete at last month's meeting, but needed further discussion about the assessment level for small member library members. The subcommittee wanted to consider using the formula for small libraries, but reducing the flat fee portion of the formula. Kathy reviewed some data and estimates to come up with example figures for a range of small libraries. The revised policy removes a special membership for small libraries, which would require that smaller libraries pay an assessment using the same formula as other libraries.

Anna made the motion to recommend to members that they accept the New Member policy as written, and revoke the existing Associate Member, Small Libraries, and School Systems Policies. Jonathan seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

10. MBLC Grant Opportunity

The MBLC has additional IMLS funds and it is offering grants to networks of up to \$100,000 for special projects. Many networks are using the grants for improving access or increasing patron privacy. The project NOBLE staff would like to implement falls in the camp of improving access: proposing that NOBLE work with Backstage to catalog member libraries' backlog of materials in non-English languages. NOBLE is preparing a survey to go out to members to get more information about their non-English language collections. This would require shipping books to Backstage.

11. MLA Conference in Danvers & Sponsorship Opportunities

Kathy proposed that NOBLE consider a sponsorship opportunity to welcome the Massachusetts community to Danvers, in part to provide some financial support to the organization. The board discussed a number of options.

Myron made the motion to sponsor a charging station (\$300) at the MLA Conference in Danvers this May. Jonathan seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

12. New Business

Endicott College has a new president, Bryan Cain, who had been serving as interim president for a number of months.

13. Adjournment

Myron moved to adjourn. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 3:54PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Babin
Clerk