NOBLE Executive Board Meeting Minutes - Remote
May 13, 2026

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

1. **Call to Order -** Catherine called the meeting to order at 2:02PM.

2. **Approval of Minutes for April 15, 2026**

Jonathan made the motion to approve the minutes from April 15, 2026, seconded by Abby. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

Myron reports that there is one item of note - Kathy flagged one overage on equipment due to the replacement of a staff laptop - other than that, there is nothing out of the ordinary. Kathy will be reviewing the budget closely as the end of the fiscal year approaches.

4. **Marketing Working Group**

Kathy reports the group had their final meeting for the year. Have a toolkit ready to share, including a nice sharable graphic about being a fine-free network. Just need to develop some usage instructions.

5. **Executive Director's Report**

Kathy shared her report:

- Nahant: Been busy with training, everything is going very well. Turning off holds in MassCat this week. Migrating ComCat to MassCat. For OverDrive, moving them from SAILS to NOBLE.
- Development projected: Contracted with Jason Stephenson to integrate Loral (provider of cover images) in the Evergreen catalog. Other development priority was to improve Aspen's integration with the EBSCO API. This remains a challenge.
- Salem bid: The City of Salem has awarded its contract for automated network library services to NOBLE.
- Library Expo: May 28. Elizabeth is lining up speakers and Kathy will run a brainstorming activity for development ideas.
- Evergreen Upgrade: Monday, August 10.
- Aspen Upgrade: Possibly May 25, but TBD. Thinking of doing updates quarterly.
- Network Administrators Meeting: Met last week in Hyannis. Rob Favini has retired and they are splitting his role into two new positions. Going to continue funding the e-rate consultant. There are no plans to increase the cap on telecom grant. Some discussion around the problems with serving non-certified libraries.

- EBSCO Meeting: EBSCO reps visited the NOBLE office last week. KL voiced displeasure over having to get MARC records from OCLC. Discussed the possibility of adding BlueCareer to core collection.
- ECDI: Today is the deadline for ECDI partners to vote for projects they would like to prioritize with this year's funds. Ann Arbor and OCLN seem like they will join next year.

6. Proposed Revisions to FY27 Action Plan

Kathy talked about the challenges of developing an action plan so far in advance, particularly this year with a number of staff challenges, and proposed making a May review a new part of the annual process.

Kathy reviewed a number of changed and removed objectives.

Allison made the motion to recommend to Members the proposed revisions to the FY27 Action Plan, seconded by Anna. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Proposed Revision to Network Transfer Policy

RSWG recommended at its April meeting that the network adopt a 500-hold limit for users. This hold limit is necessary due to technical problems to retrieve all of the holds in Aspen and in the Evergreen patron record. This limit will only impact three patrons, but they will not lose any of their current holds when the change is made.

Theresa made the motion to recommend that Members approve the recommended revisions to the Network Transfer Policy, seconded by Catherine. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Authorization for FY27 Working Groups

Kathy recommends that the Board authorizes the following groups for FY27:

- Electronic Resources and Database Working Group (ERDWG)
- Resource Sharing Working Group (RSWG)
- Marketing Working Group
- Software Development Working Group*
- Advocacy Committee

*This group would be new to NOBLE, and would serve to gather member-driven feedback for Aspen, Evergreen, and mobile app development.

This year, NOBLE will hold off on convening a Collection Management Working Group, as it seems to be a better fit for a roundtable.

Discussed how to move forward with Advocacy. Maybe move toward a Northeastern breakfast targeted to senate districts.

Catherine made a motion to authorize the listed working groups, seconded by Jonathan. The motion passed unanimously.

9. MBLC attendance at NOBLE Members meetings

While MBLC has a standing invitation to attend NOBLE Members meetings, they recently offered to give regular presentations at these meetings going forward. Executive Board declined this offer, but expressed their appreciation for MBLC's willingness and reachability and will certainly invite if needed.

10. Regular Policy Review Discussion Items

The Collection Management Policy and Privacy Policy are due for review, but there were no new revisions proposed. Both need to be worked on, with the latter requiring a total rewrite and to be reviewed by a lawyer. Kathy might tackle it this summer.

Kathy also notes that NOBLE needs to develop an AI policy.

11. New Business

Wakefield is investigating questionable content in hoopla and seeing if the vendor can restrict items from new publishers. Catherine will share the outcome with other NOBLE directors.

12. Adjournment

Allison moved to adjourn, Jonathan seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 3:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Babin
Clerk