

NOBLE Executive Board Meeting  
January 14, 2009  
@ NOBLE

**Attendees:** Linda Hummel-Shea, Doug Rendell, Karen Pangallo, Lorraine Jackson, Dennis Kelley, Martha Holden, Pat Cirone, Brian Courtemanche, Elizabeth Thomsen, NOBLE Ex.Dir. Ron Gagnon

- I. Call to Order** -- The meeting of the NOBLE Executive Board was called to order at 2:10 p.m. on January 14, 2009 at NOBLE by President Linda Hummel-Shea.
- II. Approval of Minutes** -- After reviewing the Minutes of October 2008, Martha Holden made the motion to approve the Minutes; Lorraine Jackson seconded the motion; it was approved unanimously. After reviewing the Minutes of November 2008, Dennis Kelley made the motion to approve the Minutes; Pat Cirone seconded the motion; it was approved unanimously.
- III. Treasurer's Report** – Ron reviewed the report and noted that we are on track halfway through the year. He noted equipment expense for PacketShaper. Office insurance will be paid in March/April. Wages are past 50%, but some hours will be cut back. Lorraine moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Martha Holden seconded the motion; it was approved unanimously.
- IV. Executive Director's Report** –
1. Internet bandwidth – Bandwidth issues dealt with in Salem with installation of PacketShaper. It helped in Salem but not in Melrose. For Melrose, NOBLE installed Comcast business connection in November to provide a separate line that does not include staff access. It will be reviewed on January 22. Minuteman is considering this set-up in Somerville. After review, 7 additional setups will be done in NOBLE. Looking to Gates Foundation for funding. This model of 2 providers is a plus since one system backs up the other should there be a problem. Dennis finds the Comcast system faster. In discussing speed and bandwidth, the question was raised about OverDrive and download stations. Beverly PL will be allowing OverDrive downloads on its Comcast network. Added note, in the continuing soap opera of on again/off again publishing relationships, Recorded Books and NetLibrary are reunited again and iPod compatible. Sigh.
  2. E-rate – Form 470 for voice services was filed on 12/22/08. Form 471, specifying what NOBLE will actually purchase, can now be completed after 1/19/09.
  3. Release 2007 – NOBLE is delaying release 2007 to put efforts into consideration of open source. Release 2007 deemed not worth time and efforts necessary to implement the changes and NOBLE doesn't want to load the new release that hampers hardware.
  4. Tara and notices – Tara Mansfield is now working at the Hamilton-Wenham PL and her position is not being filled at NOBLE. Copy cataloging work of Tara has been curtailed. Martha is working on ways to handle notices. ILL revenue is expected to decrease.
  5. Sick days in 2008 – 2 employees took no sick days and 2 employees took only 1 sick day. 3 of the employees took the cash bonus; 1 employee took the additional vacation day option.
  6. Payroll services – Considering a proposal from Complete Payroll Solutions (now partnered with NOBLE health insurance provider, Mass. Business Association. If percentage of savings is good, NOBLE will consider switching from the current service, Paychex.

7. MOTOR survey – 24 librarians responded to the survey of the 5 NOBLE e-mail groups. Survey attempted to assess usage and determine the service is worth the cost (\$2500/year). Ron brought the results of the survey to the Collection Management Team and they felt MOTOR deserved another few months and will ask librarians to participate in the survey again over the summer. This will determine whether or not to continue the service. Those who love it, really love it. Others don't find it useful at all. Renewal is in January. One consideration is for libraries to purchase MOTOR on their own.

8. Director changes – Alan Thibault is the new director of Winthrop PL. Robert Rice resigned from Revere PL.

- V. MBLC Funding Challenges/Statewide Planning Day** – According to Ron, the rest of 2009 looks difficult financially; 2010 could be as bad or worse. Details as to the percentages of the cuts are not known as yet, but state funding cuts will be happening. One 9C cut was already implemented and another is expected. Local aid accounts currently being discussed in the legislatures and MBLC may be facing 10% cuts; NOBLE expects to be impacted in some way. Saugus PL director called Ron after being called by her city officials and she expects that Saugus will not be able to pay their NOBLE costs next year. A good thing is that NOBLE's state subsidy is put to the next fiscal year. Received in 2 payments; the first payment was about 60% of the money; the rest is expected in May. Some NOBLE expenses came in under budget. Doug Rendell was assured at the Danvers Town Meeting that the NOBLE bill would be paid. Ron shared that at the Open Source meeting, Rob Maier mentioned network consolidations and collaborations to lower costs. Ron sees this as a wake up call.

MBLC is holding a statewide meeting on March 2, 2009 at Holy Cross in Worcester. To be considered at the meeting, statewide planning, changing demands for library service, values that drive the development of services, and to list the core services that libraries need from regions, networks and MBLC. NOBLE has been asked to nominate 7 representatives for the statewide meeting of multi-type mix of libraries. Nominated: Ron Gagnon, Elizabeth Thomsen, Linda Hummel-Shea, Martha Holden, Doug Rendell, Pat Cirone, and Brian Courtemanche. Nominations to be submitted to Nancy Rea by Jan. 30. Participants to be notified by Feb.9.

- VI. Interlibrary Loan Center Contract with NMRLS** – Ron shared that NOBLE has been asked by NMRLS Regional Administrator Greg Pronevitz to make a 10% cut to our annually contracted ILL services. In the past, the contract covered the direct costs of the service and more. Over the years, the contributions have narrowed and in FY09 and FY10 the expenses are more than the income. Ron feels that NOBLE is unable to provide the expected level of service with further cuts, and are prepared to not renew our contract at a reduced level of funding and service. Ron and Elizabeth shared discussions with ILL Librarian Marilyn Graves, the necessity for possible termination, and the feasibility of continuing the service on a part-time basis. The Board discouraged this as there could be a drop in the quality of service when doing the same amount of work in less time. Board members who use the services raved about Marilyn's dedication and ability to fulfill any and all requests. The Board discussed some alternatives that NMRLS could consider—statewide ILL, have the service based solely in Andover, contract the service with another library. Ron feels that NOBLE staff need to focus on ILS and the open source investigation. ILL and the cost of the service is a distraction at this point. Dealing with a string of service reduction plans and discussions with the region isn't part of NOBLE's focus.

Elizabeth noted that the upcoming legal settlement with Google Books may change the entire face of ILL. Now may be a good time to discontinue NOBLE's participation in the region's ILL service.

Pat Cirone made the motion that NOBLE rejects NMRLS current proposal for the ILL contract. Martha Holden seconded the motion; it was approved unanimously.

- VII.** Open Source Investigation Grant and Server Grant – Ron shared letter of intent for LSTA Grant for open source investigation. CW/MARS has taken leadership of this effort and will be the fiscal agent. Ron discussed efforts of the collaboration and the changing of thinking from proprietary systems to migration systems. The grant will allow NOBLE and the other participating networks (CW/MARS and MVLC) to evaluate and contrast Evergreen and Koha, and these two products will be contrasted with the positive and negative features of the proprietary systems now in operation. Networks are looking for the ideal functionality and are considering support models as well.

Elizabeth noted that cost issues and business models are very different in both open source and proprietary systems. The plus side of open source systems is the shared development, code, and incorporation. This is no longer a risky decision as the world is moving to open source. Given the current economy, proprietary systems are vulnerable to being bought, sold, or go bankrupt. Linda discussed the possible move with her staff and they are ready to make the change. They find III to be clunky.

Elizabeth said this is due to an inability to tinker with it and that it is older software.

Implementation of open source may necessitate a step backwards but it can be made up in the ability to control and fix.

Ron noted that MBLC is very interested in this proposal.

Elizabeth mentioned that NOBLE has the most to gain with the joint training, shared documentation. With NOBLE's shared geography with MVLC, patrons will see the same concepts. There will be an inclusive presentation that will get everyone on the same page regarding open source.

Ron will be looking for policy-level people to work on this proposal. In the meantime, NOBLE submitted proposal to MBLC for new Millennium server. Current server is 3 years old. The cost of the old server was about \$100,000 last time; the quote for the new server is about \$200,000. Grant should cover 75% of hardware and 50% of installation.

- VIII. Board Development with NMRLS** – After discussing NMRLS offer to share a Board Development event with NOBLE, METROWEST, and maybe MVLC, it was agreed that NOBLE Executive Board is open to the idea. Board discussed possible topics and felt that “new partners” would be relevant. Ron will get back to Greg and let him know of NOBLE's interest. Although no date has been set, NMRLS is considering late winter / early spring.

- IX. Adjournment** -- Motion to adjourn the meeting was forwarded by Pat Cirone, seconded by Lorraine Jackson, and unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

**Minutes respectfully submitted by:**

Karen Pangallo