

NOBLE Executive Board Meeting  
February 4, 2009  
@ NOBLE

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

- I. Call to Order --** The meeting of the NOBLE Executive Board was called to order at 2:05p.m. on February 4, 2009 at NOBLE by President Linda Hummel-Shea.
- II. Approval of Minutes –** Lorraine Jackson noted that a change to the Minutes of January 2009 was needed in Section II—Approval of Minutes. Changed to read “approve the minutes of Oct and November 2008.” Martha Holden made the motion to approve the Minutes; Doug Rendell seconded the motion; it was approved unanimously.
- III. Treasurer’s Report –** Doug and Ron reviewed the report and noted that the budget is on track. Doug asked if all members have paid and Ron said that there was nothing flagrant but that some members are behind on their payments. Lorraine Jackson moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report; Karen Pangallo seconded the motion; it was approved unanimously.
- IV. Executive Director’s Report –**
  1. WordPress—Ron reported that all of the NOBLE web site and SIS information is still being converted to WordPress. Elizabeth attended a session on WordPress at Holy Cross.
  2. Telecomm—Melrose has had success with the installation of Comcast Internet service. This will be a model for other installations in NOBLE and Minuteman. Ron is waiting for a report on this from Atrion.
  3. E-rate—Form 471 was filed on January 21. The discount rate increased for FY10 from 48% to 53%, giving NOBLE an additional \$7000 subsidy next year.
  4. Investments—NOBLE’s CDs with DanversBank will mature on Feb. 8, 2009. Ron expects that the APY will be slightly less than 3.0%. Current balance is \$617,795.43 including 11 months of interest. Paula estimates that this month’s interest will be about \$1500.
  5. What’s New with What’s New—Elizabeth will do a session on Web 2.0 for the Boston Region at the Boston Public Library on 2/19/09.
- V. Open Source Investigation Grant and Server Grant Approval –** Ron reported on the current status of the 2 grants and both are works in progress, although the server grant is further along at the moment.
  1. Regarding the Open Source grant—Vendors (LibLime and Equinox) will visit on March 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Ron shared some confusion over need for cooperating group vote and it was agreed that a vote will be done at the February members meeting. Letters of support from NOBLE members may be needed; Ron will share talking points to use in the letters. Paul Kissman will be the MBLC grant contact even though this is considered an open grant. Grant is due postmarked March 3, 2009. Karen made the motion that the NOBLE membership vote to support submitting an Open Source Investigation grant to the MBLC in conjunction with CW/MARS and MVLC in the current LSTA grant round, at the February

meeting. Martha Holden seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Ron will send information to the members.

2. Regarding the Server grant—Current server will be 4 ½ years old when grant comes through. Servers will probably be purchased from Continental Resources with educational pricing. Continental Resources quote was considerably lower than III, although we will still need to pay III \$17,000 for data migration, software install, etc. Continental Resources currently have the maintenance contract and the benefits of using them is that they are more full-line and are local (Bedford). Pat commented that no matter how it goes—whether there is a switch to Open Source or stay with III, a new server is needed. Martha asked about transition of Open Source to new server. Ron clarified the question. New server will arrive in June 2010 and that gives us time to know if we are staying with III or moving to Open Source. Dennis asked about competitiveness of the server grant. Ron thought there was one other application. Ron distributed copies of the Server grant and went over budget details. Pat Cirone moved that NOBLE members vote to approve submission of an LSTA grant to the MBLC in the current grant round to replace the main and training/testing servers for our integrated library system. Martha seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**VI. Library Elf and Courtesy Notices** – Ron Gagnon led discussion about using email to send courtesy notices to patrons from the owning library. This is a capability already in the III system, is generated by the system, and would require flipping a switch to activate. This service would be done in addition to printed notices. Ron shared survey from Minuteman and 90% of patrons are supportive of the service. Pat Cirone likes the option to use the service or not. This will not be used for OCLC ILL. Discussed Library Elf, which does similar service with more sophistication and is costly. 110 NOBLE patrons are using Library Elf. Brian Courtemanche suggested a trial of the courtesy notices. Martha expressed some concern for patrons who do not have email. Linda suggested a vote be taken at the next Members meeting. Lorraine Jackson made the motion that a recommendation be made to the Members to for on the use of the courtesy notices. Doug Rendell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**VII. Effect of State Cuts on NOBLE Budget** – Executive Board members raised concerns of potential loss of members due to the deteriorating funding situation in some cities and towns. Linda noted that the remaining members cannot take up the costs of the missing members. Ron assured the Board that the financial health of NOBLE is not too bad off. For FY10, NOBLE put \$60,000 in as a contribution to capital, which will give a cushion for losing one member. The loss of two members means we could still fund projects out of capital, but there will be less of a cushion. Ron will look at last year's Executive Board discussion around the potential loss of members (Saugus and Montserrat). FY11 would be more difficult; the governor's budget may have a 12% cut. According to Ron, the impact on resource sharing is more of an issue. NOBLE is making some budget adjustments. The question was raised as to the cost of EBSCO and its overlap with the titles in the state-provided databases. Publics could save money if EBSCO were cancelled but this could raise the costs for the academics. The question was asked, what if the state cutbacks on the databases they provide? Some discussion was held regarding the loss of the EBSCO Literature Resource Center and using that database through the e-card on the Boston Public Library site. It was agreed that members need to talk to their reps. Pat Cirone noted that the Legislative Breakfast on March 6, at the Beverly Public Library, would be an opportunity to discuss this with legislators.

**VIII. Interlibrary Loan Center Contract Update** – Ron Gagnon shared a copy of the letter he sent to Greg Pronevitz, in effect stating that the \$80,000 level proposed by NMRLS would not be enough to cover the NOBLE expenses. Greg will take it back to the NMRLS Board and Andover Public Library for discussion. This issue is to be continued.

**IX. Adjournment** -- Motion to adjourn the fastest NOBLE executive board meeting ever was forwarded by Lorraine Jackson, seconded by Martha Holden, and unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

**Minutes respectfully submitted by:**

Karen Pangallo