

MLA Legislative Committee  
Meeting Minutes - 1/18/19

Meeting Start: 11:10am

Present: Nanci Milone Hill, Jayme Viveiros, Will Adamczyk, Greg Pronevitz, James Lonergan, Tressa Santillo, Steve Spohn, Margaret Cardello. Paul Engle, Mike Moran, Charlotte Canelli, Jennifer Harris

- 11/30/18 minutes were approved.

**MBLC Update** (James)

- All of the FY2020 Legislative Agenda materials are now available on the MBLC website (see additional MPLCP materials in the Awarehouse)
- Priorities are State Aid to Regional Libraries & Library Technology & Resource Sharing Networks AND Mass Public Library Construction Program
- MBLC has contacted Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance, and legislators of waitlist libraries
  - Will also draft a “Dear Colleague” group letter for legislators to sign
  - Also asking local officials to urge Mass Municipal to make libraries a priority
- Mary Rose is attending ALA “fly-in” to meet with national legislators

**Candidate Survey Update (now welcome letter)** (Nanci)

- Candidate survey didn’t go out but going to do “welcome” notes instead
- Committee will review text and needs to respond by January 25
- Welcome notes will be mailed Feb. 1 (Krista)

**Library Legislative Day Planning Update** (Tressa & Jayme)

- Review and assignment of speakers and tasks
- 15 proposals with a good mix of libraries represented
- Tressa will send Legislative Day schedule and speaker slots to be filled in

**MSLA Update** (Greg)

- The MSLA Advocacy Committee has been busy promoting legislative breakfasts and Library Legislative Day. The web site has been updated to include:
  - Legislative Breakfast information including a checklist for those considering hosting. - [LINK](#). A couple of schools are considering hosting.
  - We’ve updated our site to reflect the upcoming Legislative Day - [LINK](#)
- We have established 2019 legislative priorities with the long term goals of implementing the recommendations of the Special Commission on School Library Services and including school libraries in future revisions to Chapter 70 and ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) - [LINK](#)

- 1. We endorse the key recommendation for the appointment of a School Library Curriculum Specialist at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). This appointment will provide a much-needed high-level liaison between the education and library communities to facilitate communications among all stakeholders to strengthen school library services in support of excellent education for Massachusetts students including work with the library community on implementation of the Special Commission recommendations and incorporating school libraries in revisions to Chapter 70 and ESSA; and
- 2. We support conducting a thorough, detailed census of public school library programs to determine exactly where the inequities lie with regard to student access to a school library, librarians and staffing, funding, information technology, physical and electronic resources, and other factors related to school library services in the Commonwealth.
- We are meeting with DESE in March, along with James Lonergan from MBLC to discuss DESE's and our priorities.
- We are staying in touch with Sue Doherty, a school librarian active with the MTA (Mass. Teachers Association) in keeping school libraries in mind for future funding efforts for schools.
- We hope to arrange a meeting with the Joint Committee on Education once it is appointed for the year to share our perspective on the Special Commission recommendations. We also plan to present the Joint Committee with a Commendation from the AASL (American Association of School Librarians) at Library Legislative Day.
- Related - Mass Teachers Assoc. has noted the importance of school librarians in recent advocacy efforts at State House for education

#### **Legislative Breakfasts (Steve)**

- Start a new discussion about planning legislative breakfasts post leg day (April?)
  - Improve the toolkit
  - Review logistics
  - Try to centralize the breakfasts (this year there's five on the same day)
  - Related: Mashpee lunch was hugely successful and had great feedback from legislators and participation was high

#### **Engage Update (Tressa)**

- Megan Cusick & CQRC tech team are aware of our database issues (advocates in the database that shouldn't be there due to ALA's unprovoked advocate list dump into our account)
- They're going to take a look now before Steve and Tressa can look more closely at this after Legislative Day to determine the real and active advocates
- In the meantime, we can still create engagements and promote as we have been doing on the listservs
- Can also use search criteria to determine advocates to contact

- Mary Anne Cluggish is promoting the “Contact your legislators anytime” engagement at Leg breakfasts using shortened URL that Roland Ochsenbein created: [bit.ly/engageletter](http://bit.ly/engageletter)

## **Old Business**

### **MLA Conference Program**

- 5/20 Mon 10:30-11:30 (all committee members should plan to attend)
- In Framingham at the Sheraton

## **New Business**

### **Construction Bond Alert (Steve)**

- Tressa sent out Engage alert to PubDir discussion list
- Steve will extend the deadline on the Engage alert so James and Mary Rose can figure out the exact timing

### **Library Lobbyist (Steve)**

- MLS staff member started a list of states that do or do not have lobbyists
- Perhaps for future discussion?
- Chapter leaders meeting at ALA Midwinter - Charlotte to get more info
- However, legislators want to hear from constituents

### **FYI & Other**

- Library caucus co-chairs are going to ask legislators to “re-up” for the new session so we can find out who the caucus members are
- Invitation only meeting scheduled with key national legislators (Mary Rose attending) that’s happening outside of National Library Legislative Day
- IMLS base funds are increasing to 1M (won’t impact MA too much); COSLA also pushing for \$1/per capita (right now it’s around 3 cents)
- IMLS not impacted by partial shutdown as of now but the JFK Library IS impacted
- MLA manager left back in the fall; please be patient

### **Possible Future Agenda Items**

- Improving legislative breakfast planning & logistics
- Planning for National Library Legislative Day at ALA
- A lobbyist for MLA?

Meeting Adjourned: 1:00pm

Next Meeting: February 22 from 10am-12pm at Minuteman.