

MLA Legislative Committee Meeting
July 20, 2018 - SAILS
Agenda

Attendees

Online

Nanci Hill

James Lonergan

Sharon Shaloo

At SAILS

Charlotte Canelli

Paul Engle

Jennifer Harris

Jamie Viveiros

Steve Spohn

Greg Pronevitz (Recorder)

10:00 a.m. Review Minutes from 6/15/18

Approved. See attached.

10:05 a.m. MBLC update (Mary Rose Quinn)

See written update, "Conference Committee . . ." attached

Working on construction line with A&F to work with Legislature. The current cap of \$20million is limiting. They could use help with this. More to come.

All but two lines were funded at ask of plus 3%

Technology (9506) still got a substantial increase.

Mass. Center for the Book (MCB) was level funded

MBLC Admin Line got almost \$200k after 4 years of level funding

A few earmarks have gotten through. \$490k

Governor has 10 days to approve and/or veto

IMLS funding looks good with a slight increase in Senate. House looking at level funding.

Marrakesh Treaty on rights for vision impaired is looking good.

Sharon asked: Will MBLC advocate for MCB next year? James answered that MBLC advocated for MCB this year. Next year's priorities are not set yet. MBLC will be issuing a survey soon and inviting affiliates to submit info at Sept. Board meeting in Scituate.

10:20 a.m. Candidate Survey Update (Nanci Hill for herself and Krista), see attached draft

Krista has the 2018 primary lists
335 registered candidates
Pulled 2016 info and number was lower
See attached letter and questionnaire
Questions will be reviewed by relevant folks
Is it worth sending with about 40 known folks respond?
Consider the mailing budget.

Message will be sent by Krista and Will Adamczyk.

The group reached consensus to email all incumbents and to follow up after the Sept. 4 primary via email. Committee members will divide up the work of collecting emails from non-incumbents once the candidates are know. However, Krista may be able to gather the emails.

Charlotte is seeking the list of emails for the initial emailing.

Krista will prepare online survey.

Send your comments on the questionnaire to a Google Doc.

Questions will be sent to relevant folks. Due July 31 to Charlotte and Jennifer.

Aug. 15 send to those in uncontested races (including incumbents).

9501 – James

9506 – Eric Graham, MVLC

9401 – Steve and Anna F.

Support for School Libraries – Greg, MSLA

Construction – James

Libraries for the Blind – Kim Charlton--Jennifer will contact her.

MCB – Sharon

9101 - MBLC Admin Line – James

Library Caucus – add names of chairs

Use of Engage to reach out to Governor after Conference Cte. Steve and Susan will work on it.

10:45 a.m. Library Legislative Day at the State House update
(Jennifer Harris/Tressa Santillo)

Thanks to Jaymie for agreeing to co-chair with Tressa on this year after a great year managing the exhibits. Hoping for first **Tuesday in March 5, 2019**. Requests have been for Tues., Wed., Thurs. in the first two weeks of March.

We'll ask Caucus Co-chairs to sponsor the day.

11:00 a.m. Update on MSLA advocacy plans with regard to the Study of the Special Commission to on School Library Services in Massachusetts for this fiscal year. (Greg Pronevitz)

Here's a link to the study: <https://mblc.state.ma.us/programs-and-support/youth-services/school-libraries-study.php>

Greg updated the Committee on the following:

Planning in progress for a meeting of MSLA, MBLC, and DESE on August 1. We hope to establish relationships to seek the implementation of the goals in the Report of the Special Commission on School Libraries in Massachusetts, e.g., explore joint investment in online content to strengthen equity of access statewide and place a School Library Specialist at DESE.

Greg shared a copy of "What is the Commission" as an overview, attached and mentioned a qualitative study of the benefits of school libraries. [School Library Impact Studies](#).

Greg has been contracted as Communications Specialist to promote the study and promote the implementation of its recommendations. He'll be working closely with MSLA's new group of Advocacy Co-chairs, Robin Cicchetti, Amy Short, and Anita Cellucci as well as President, Carrie Tucker and VP, Laura Luker and Executive Director, Kathy Lowe.

Greg will be the MSLA Liaison to this Legislative Committee and looks forward to working together. MSLA is considering an event at Legislative Day to attract school library supporters and will share information as planning proceeds.

Re: Legislative Day:

- Steve mentioned that the Commission update at the last event was informative and well attended. Greg will see if a separate meeting might be planned.
- Jennifer suggested that schools might apply to be part of the showcase.
- Charlotte suggested that MSLA might consider ALA speakers at future events.
- Greg requested that MSLA have a few minutes at lunch for an update.

11:15 a.m. Old business –

- 1) Thank you letter to Library Caucus for Budget Support. Susan and Steve are meeting and will share draft for a thank you campaign.
- 2) GoToMeeting request for subscription to the MLA

(i) Executive Board. Jennifer spoke to Will. It will go to Admin and EB. Sharon suggested Tech Soup.

3) Use of Engage by local groups. 2/3s of states have Executive directors and staff to manage. NYLA allows outside groups to use it because there is admin. support. We don't have this support.

11:30 a.m. New business –

a. Net Neutrality at the State Level – ideas
We should monitor activities in Boston and DC.

b. Engage, Charlotte, Jennifer, and Steve will address the engage issue with Susan.

c. We've lost network representation. Jennifer is reaching out to potential members.

d. Steve brought up new Min. Wage Law – This will have a strong effect on delivery costs. MLS will be reaching out to legislators and appealing to MBLC and MLA Leg. Cte.

e. MCB has app to promote literary walking tours ([Mass. Book Trails](#)) that has gotten good press coverage. There may some advocacy opportunities.

f. Meeting Room Use – Intel. Freedom Cte of ALA interpreted the ALA Bill of Rights in cases where meeting room challenges have been faced and wrote hate group and hate speech into its interpretation/guideline. Local libraries make their own decisions. There is a petition to rescind this and a request for an apology.

12 noon Adjourn

Next Meetings: 10am-12noon on Fridays

September 28 at MLN

October 26 MLS- Marlborough

November 30 MLN

January 25, 2019 MLS-Marlborough

February 22 – MLN

March 5 hopefully Leg. Day

April 26 – MLS- Marlborough

June 28 - MLN

National Library Legislative Day will be in June next year in conjunction with the ALA Conference in DC

June 15, 2018
MLA Legislative Committee
10 a.m. to

Attendance

- In person: Jennifer Harris, Charlotte Canelli, Tressa Santillo, Krista McLeod, Mary Rose Quinn, Susan McAlister, Nanci Milone-Hill, Stephen Spohn
- Via phone: Jackie Rafferty, Kathy Lowe, Sharon Shaloo, Will Adamczyk

Agenda and Notes

1. MBLC update (Mary Rose Quinn)

- Revenues are up:
 - April was \$3.3 billion; 15.7% more than last year but under benchmark.
 - May was \$2 billion;
 - FYTD - \$24.6 billion
- Revenue looks good in terms of funding for next year. It's also an election year, so we are hopeful.
- Budget is in conference committee. Karen Spilka, Joan Lovely, Vinny DiMacedo. Total increase last year > this year (anticipated) = \$1.5 million.
- 9401, 9501, 9506 and 9508 are in conference committee. We are pushing for the House version for 9401 and 9508 and the Senate version for 9501 and 9506. Susan McAlister et. al. sent out an Engage alert on June 14.
- Use Engage to reach out to governor when comes conference committee completes it work. **POTENTIAL ACTION ITEM**

2. Use of Engage by local library campaigns (ALL)

- Greenfield Public Library requested to use Engage for its building project. (NYLA allows it.) MLS Executive Board discussed, was uncomfortable, and has referred to the Legislative Committee. We don't have staff to manage this like NYLA does. **ACTION ITEM**
 - Follow-up with ALA on the use of Engage by other groups
 - Follow-up with NYLA on how it works in NY
 - Follow-up with other state chapters
 - If we do this, there need to be guidelines, processes, etc.
 - Discuss at next meeting

3. Candidate Survey (Krista McLeod)

- In the past, MLA created a questionnaire that addressed each library line item in the state budget. The format was "given this statement... do you support? yes/no".
- Candidate data is available from the state. With emails?
- We sent a paper copy and online version of the survey.

- d. Been four years since we've last done this.
 - e. Dates: All candidates were in by June 5. Primary is September 4. Elections are November 6.
 - f. Mary Rose, Krista and Nanci will own this. Step one is to update the questions. Step two is to determine what contact information is available on the candidates (including emails hopefully). **ACTION ITEM**
- 4. Conference program feedback (Jennifer Harris)**
- a. Over 60 people at the conference program
 - b. Speakers were on target
 - c. Jason Tate from OCPF was good. More time for Q&A next time.
 - d. Maybe French Canadian David from the Ethics Office as well next time.
 - e. Ask for evaluation information and report back at the next meeting. (Only people who had the app evaluated individual sessions?) **ACTION ITEM**
- 5. National Assoc. of Social Workers offer (Tressa Santillo)**
- a. Invitation to us to participate in their legislative agenda. Contact their political director, Sophie Hansen, shansen.naswma@socialworkers.org.
 - b. MLS / MBLC will follow-up and explore potential opportunities and include some public library directors in the conversation. **ACTION ITEM**
- 6. Next meeting date**
- a. FYI MLA Executive Board meetings:
 - i. Admin 7/13; Exec 8/17; Will will send full calendar to mla-legcom.
 - b. MLA Conference May 20-22
 - c. Leg Com:
 - i. **Next meeting July 20**; will schedule additional meetings in time for the next meeting.
- 7. Old business**
- a. Note: Library Caucus is still planning to do a tour of BPL.
 - b. Note: Baker administration has a policy to line item veto any line that receives \$0 funding in either the House or Senate version of the budget. (Implications for 9508.)
 - c. Net neutrality? Any action for us? Ed Markey has a petition in Facebook. Jennifer Harris will follow-up with MLA Exec. **ACTION ITEM**
 - d. Ballot questions are still up in the air. They include a minimum wage increase, a sales tax reduction and a millionaire's tax.
- 8. New business**
- a. Meeting software / conference call system. Request to MLA Exec. Will? **ACTION ITEM**
 - b. Steve / Susan - The Gratitude Committee - report next meeting **ACTION ITEM**
 - c. Last meeting for Kathy Lowe on legislative committee. MSLA is hiring a consultant to work on advocacy for the coming year. That person will come to MLA LegCom. Mr. Greg Pronevitz. His contact information: 978-760-4767 / greg@pronevitzconsulting.com. Greg will be focused on next steps following the school library study commission report. Susan will update list. **ACTION ITEM**

- d. Miriam Achenbach needs to step down from the committee, but is willing to help in other ways. Susan will update list. We thank Miriam for her contributions this past year. ACTION ITEM
- e. MSLA bookmarks may not rejoin Legislative Day. Tressa will keep us in the loop.

From: **Quinn, MaryRose (BLC)** maryrose.quinn@state.ma.us 
 Subject: Conference Committee Report and legislative budget votes
 Date: July 18, 2018 at 4:29 PM
 To: MLA Leg Comm mla-legcom@minlib.net



Hello All,

The Conference Committee budget has been released and the MBLC budget lines received the higher figures from the House and Senate budgets for the lines in conference. Center for the Book received \$200,000 and was level funded in Conference to the current budget amount. State Aid to Public Libraries received the higher Senate number and was also increased \$250,000 to fund 3 earmarks for Stoneham, Salem, and the Hispanic American Library, Inc. There were a number of other library earmarks on line 7008-1116 (not our line) which seems to be a catch all for local projects as well.

The chart below details where we will be once the House and Senate vote separately on the Conference Committee Report. They are only able to vote the budget up or down and are not allowed to add amendments at this juncture. The Governor has 10 days to sign "as is" or sign and line item veto. The Legislature ends formal sessions on July 31. If the Governor vetoes lines, the House and Senate, in separate votes, must achieve a 2/3 vote to override. All override votes start in the House. The Senate can only override items that the House has voted to override.

Please let me know if you have questions. I will be putting together a separate document with all of the earmarks on or related to our lines. I have also subtracted the \$250,000 for the earmarks at the bottom of the chart so that we can see the actual increase to our bottom line (\$1.527 million with the earmarks; \$1.277 million without).

Mary Rose

UPDATE: The House has voted 143-6 to approve the compromise budget. If the Senate follows with a vote today as well and the budget is sent to the Governor this evening, he will have until July 28th to sign.

MBLC	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2019	FY 2019	FY 2019	FY 2019	FY 2019	FY 2019	FY
Item Number & Item Name	Final Budget (after overrides)	Legislative Agenda Request	Governor's House 2 Budget	House Ways & Means	House Budget	Senate Ways & Means	Senate Budget	Conference Committee Budget	Legis Bu
7000-9101 Board of Library Commissioners	\$1,077,431	\$1,275,000	\$ 1,088,204	\$1,275,000	\$1,275,000	\$1,275,000	\$1,275,000	\$1,275,000	\$1,2
7000-9401 State Aid to Regional Libraries	\$9,982,317	\$10,281,786	\$10,082,140	\$10,082,140	\$10,282,140	\$10,281,786	\$10,281,786	\$10,282,140	\$10,2
7000-9402 Talking Book Library	\$491,715	\$454,966	\$441,715	\$454,966	\$454,966	\$454,966	\$454,966	\$454,966	\$45
7000-9406 Talking Book & Machine Learning	\$2,512,772	\$2,588,155	\$ 2,512,772	\$2,588,155	\$2,588,155	\$2,588,155	\$2,588,155	\$2,588,155	\$2,5
7000-9501 State Aid to Public Libraries	\$9,090,000	\$9,362,700	\$ 9,180,900	\$9,090,000	\$9,490,000	\$9,362,700	\$9,362,700	\$9,612,700	\$9,6

Conference Committee Report

7000-9506 Library Technology & Resource Sharing	\$2,097,330	\$3,259,000	\$ 2,115,928	\$2,115,928	\$2,215,928	\$2,615,928	\$2,815,928	\$2,815,928	\$2,8
7000-9508 MA Center for the Book, Inc	\$200,000	\$206,000	\$200,000	\$ -	\$200,000	-	\$ -	\$200,000	\$20
TOTAL	\$25,451,565	\$27,427,607	\$25,621,659	\$25,606,189	\$26,506,189	\$26,578,535	\$26,778,535	\$27,228,889	\$27

Final FY'18 budget includes a \$50,000 earmark on 7000-9402 for a Worcester Public Library Bookmobile; Final FY 2018 budget funds LFC at 40.7 cents per capita.

FY 2019 Governor's House 2 funded LFC at 40.7 cents per capita

** House Budget funds LFC at 42.4 cents per capita

!! House approved 3 earmarks on 7000-9501 State Aid to Public Libraries totaling \$200,000 for Salem and Stoneham Public Libraries and the Hispanic American Library, Inc. organization. Senate budget funds LFC at 40.7 cents per capita.

**Conference Committee funds LFC at 42.4 cents per capita.

***Conference Committee provides \$250,000 in earmarks on line 7000-9501 in addition to \$9,362,700 for State Aid to Public Libraries for a total of \$9,612,700.

Mary Rose Quinn

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 You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "mla-legcom" group.
 To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to mla-legcom+unsubscribe@minlib.net.



Library Users Vote!

Dear Candidate for Elected Office:

The Massachusetts Library Association would like to thank you for your willingness to participate in our democracy by standing for elected office. Public Service is the foundation of our American government. To insure the strength of our democratic society it is crucial that citizens, like you, are willing to participate at all levels of government and that citizens, like us, stay as informed as possible concerning the electoral process and remain committed to sharing that information with our community of library patrons, supporters, and many partner organizations.

As library professionals, we recognize and take seriously our own commitment to public service, especially in our role *“in the development of an information literate populace that can participate as informed citizens in a democratic society. Librarians also uphold and champion intellectual freedom and right to free access to information.”* (American Library Association-Office of Intellectual Freedom)

With our important role as information providers firmly in mind, we are asking all candidates for statewide and legislative office to familiarize themselves with library issues and legislation and to complete the brief questionnaire enclosed.

To complete the survey you may:

Fill in the form online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MAcandidates2010>

Or

Fax completed survey to 978-686-8669

Or

Mail completed survey to:

Krista McLeod

c/o Nevins Memorial Library

305 Broadway

Methuen, MA 01844

According to recent statistics, an impressive 83% of the Commonwealth's residents are registered borrowers in our public libraries. These cardholders use our academic, special, and school libraries as well. Studies show that registered library users are also dedicated voters! A national survey published by Public Agenda revealed that citizens who vote in nearly every local election are also big library supporters.

Although as a non-profit and non-partisan organization, MLA may not endorse particular candidates for office, we will include your responses on our website and in our newsletters for our members, share the survey outcomes with our partner organizations including the Massachusetts School Library Association, the Massachusetts Trustees Association (MLTA)

and Massachusetts Friends of Libraries (MFOL), and distribute the results to our libraries and their patrons throughout the Commonwealth through our numerous social networking sites.

We are confident that you will agree with us that an informed electorate is essential to a strong democracy. We appreciate your participation in our efforts to inform voters. Thank you for taking the time to respond.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Rafferty,
MLA President

Massachusetts Library Association PO Box 535 Bedford, MA 01730
www.masslib.org 781-275-7729



Massachusetts Library Association
State Candidate Survey 2012

Who Needs Libraries?
WE ALL DO!

You may answer this survey by going on-line to:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MAcandidates2012

Or mail/fax completed survey to:
Krista I. McLeod
c/o Nevins Memorial Library
305 Broadway
Methuen, MA 01844
978-686-8669 (FAX)

1 & 2. Your Information

Candidate Name _____

District _____ House /Senate / Other (circle one)

Email address or Web Site _____

3. Keeping Public Libraries Strong

State Aid to Public Libraries (Board of Library Commissioners Account 7000-9501)

More people visit their local library each year than attend entire seasons of the Celtics, Patriots, Bruins and Red Sox combined. Entrepreneurs, students, job seekers, new Americans, children, young adults, adults and seniors, literate and illiterate, all find a path to success at the library. What supports all this? The MA Board of Library Commissioners awards State Aid to the qualifying public libraries in MA cities and towns to assure that residents have free access to all public library resources in the state and to supplement the municipal appropriations of the cities and towns in your district. Will you vote for vital literacy programs, kids' summer reading programs, senior book delivery and internet connection in rural towns? Keep your libraries open, active and strong!

Do you pledge to support State Aid to Public Libraries?

- I Pledge to Vote for State Aid to Public Libraries
I Cannot Pledge to Support State Aid for Public Libraries

**4. Technology: It's What Happens Behind the Scenes That Makes All the Difference
Library Technology & Resource Sharing (Board of Library Commissioners Account 7000-9506)**

For more than 30 years the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has helped make local library automation and technology affordable for local libraries by subsidizing cooperating groups called Automated Resource Sharing Networks. By sharing resources and working together, libraries provide users with the information they seek quickly and efficiently. Public and academic libraries that belong to networks derive huge benefits and cooperatively share costs for services that they could never afford on their own:

- A system that automates basic library tasks like circulation transactions, user requests and orders for new materials and provides an online catalog for users to search.
- The ability to request materials from libraries online for local pick up, providing users access to collections many times larger than their own.
- Access to the Internet.
- Access to downloadable electronic media, such as e-books and e-audiobooks.
- Access to electronic research databases and periodical collections.

Will You Pledge to Support Technology Funding for Libraries in Massachusetts?

_____ I Pledge to Support Technology in Massachusetts Libraries
_____ I Cannot Pledge to Support Technology in Massachusetts Libraries

**5. The "Backbone" of a Modern Library System
State Aid to Regional Public Libraries (MBLC Account 7000-9401):**

This line item funds two essential services for libraries:

- **The Massachusetts Library System**
- **The Library for the Commonwealth at the Boston Public Library**

Funding for these services has been reduced by 46 percent since fiscal year 2009!

The consolidation of regional library systems into the Massachusetts Library System has created greater efficiencies and MLS is working hard to serve 1,700 member libraries statewide. The Library for the Commonwealth has redefined services to meet libraries' needs for digitization and to provide enhanced online access to library materials. However, it is impossible to do more with this much less funding.

Last year over **7.1 million Books, DVDs and CDs** were shared by libraries across the Commonwealth and over **190,000 non-Boston** residents used reference and research services from the Library for the Commonwealth (Boston Public Library). Your support of this budget line allows the State to directly support programs such as delivery of items from library to library, online resources (used more than **29 million times** from homes and offices) and librarian support through consulting and training. MLS provides a statewide purchasing cooperative that allowed libraries to **save \$5.8million** last year. Additionally, over **300,000 children and adults** participated in summer reading program activities which are funded by this budget line and delivered by local libraries.

In recent years the Boston Public Library redefined its state services as The Library for the Commonwealth (LFC), taking responsibility for the creation of a digital repository and portal for the Digital Commonwealth which will put important historical digitized resources at the fingertips of any resident of Massachusetts, 24/7. The LFC has had to rely on grant funding for this project which has been met with astounding success. More than 75 institutions took part in Year One of this project, and approximately 100,000 pages and 25,000 individual objects were digitized for addition into the Digital

Commonwealth's public portal. An increase in funding is essential to continue this much-valued service.

Will you vote to support a significant restoration toward previous funding levels over a three-year period?

_____ I will vote YES to support restoration of funding for our libraries
_____ I will vote NO, and will not support restoration of funding for our libraries

6. Support for Better School Libraries

School Library Support under the Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education

Evidence from numerous studies demonstrates that strong school library programs lead to strong student-learning outcomes. Yet, no comprehensive analysis of Massachusetts school library programs has been undertaken in more than a decade. There is no one at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education charged with overseeing school library programs, and there are no clear standards for school library staffing or resources. There appear to be serious inequities from district to district in terms of school library programs and resources.

Would you support the formation of a special commission charged with assessing:

- Staffing at school libraries in Massachusetts
- School library collections, including access to computers and digital resources (e.g., e-books, audiobooks, databases, etc.)
- Access to the library—days and hours open
- Funding per student

The findings of such a commission could be used to develop a long-range plan for school library programs in Massachusetts to ensure that all students have comparable and adequate access to resources and licensed staff in their school libraries.

Would you support the formation of a commission to study library services to our children?

_____ YES, I would support the formation of such a commission
_____ NO, I would not support the formation of such a commission.

7. Building Better Libraries

Public Library Construction (Capital Budget Item)

Massachusetts is a leader nationwide in offering support to communities for public library construction and renovation projects. In the last 25 years the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program has provided grants for 177 public library construction projects large and small in every part of the Commonwealth. New or expanded public library facilities provide more services, support an educated citizenry, serve as Internet access points, enhance community vitality and contribute to economic development.

Will you support the authorization of new capital funds to continue this program to reach more cities and towns?

_____ YES, I support new capital funds for library construction
_____ NO, I do not support new capital funds for library construction

8. Vital Services for the Blind & Physically Handicapped

Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library (MBLC account 7000-9406)

Worcester Talking Book Library (MBLC line item 7000-9402)

For an estimated 175,000 individuals of all ages across Massachusetts who have difficulty reading standard print due to a visual or physical disability, the Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library and the Worcester Talking Book Library provide vital materials and library services. These libraries are the primary source in Massachusetts for audio, Braille and large print books and magazines. Borrowers can access daily newspapers through Newsline, a computerized speech-output phone service. Audio-described videos that announce the key visual elements of a movie including action, settings or facial expressions are also available. Special players are loaned for the audio books and materials, with items delivered right to a patron's door through the mail, so all services are free, just like the public library. For people with print disabilities, reading is not only a source of information and recreation, it is a critical link to the world and an invaluable equalizer.

Do you support funding for specialized library services for people with disabilities?

_____ YES, I do support funding for specialized library services for people with visual, physical and reading disabilities

_____ NO, I oppose funding for specialized library services for people with disabilities

9. Library Caucus

There is a Library Caucus in the Massachusetts Legislature. If you do not already belong to this caucus, would you join it in order to support libraries?

_____ I am an incumbent and already belong to the Caucus

_____ Yes, I am interested in joining the Caucus, if elected/re-elected

_____ No, I am not interested in the Library Caucus

10. Statement

Please feel free to make a statement of 250 words or fewer, below:

What is The Special Commission on School Library Services in Massachusetts?

This Commission, charged by the Joint Legislative Committee on Education in 2014, set out to use a specific set of measures to determine if school library services and resources were equitable for all students in Massachusetts public schools. The Commission worked with researchers from the Center for International Scholarship in School Libraries (CISSL) at Rutgers University to conduct a rigorous study to assess equity of access in public schools, and was comprised of:

- **Legislators:** Co-sponsors Representative Sean Garballey and Senator Kenneth Donnelly; Representative David Vieira, Senator Donald F. Humason, Jr.
- **Library community members** from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Massachusetts Library System, Massachusetts Library Association, Massachusetts School Library Association,
- **Education community members** including, Charter School representation, the American Federation of Teachers, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Massachusetts Teachers Association, Massachusetts Association of School Committees
- **Broader community members:** Boston Business Roundtable

The study, and the Commission's recommendations based on its findings, was published as *The Massachusetts School Library Study: Equity and Access for Students in the Commonwealth*, and was provided to the Legislature in February 2018.

Key Findings:

Data collected by the Commission demonstrate that **Massachusetts students do not have equitable access to school library programs:**

- **Equity of access to professional staff**
 - 20% of schools have no librarian
 - 61% have no library support staff—librarians are often relegated to clerical duties (half of all librarians report performing non-instructional activities daily)
 - Only 43% of schools have a library or technology director to oversee their programs, and urban school libraries are significantly less likely to have this position
- **Equity of access to the school library**
 - Libraries in urban and rural school districts are closed significantly more often than libraries in suburban districts—most often for testing or due to lack of adequate staffing
- **Equity of access to authoritative digital resources and access to information technology**
 - 40% of students have poor internet access in school libraries, and this is a significant difference in urban and rural districts compared to suburban districts
 - Many schools have limited access to computers in the library
 - Significantly fewer urban school libraries have access to information technology
- **Equity of access to funding and subsidized resources**

- Budgets for school library programs vary widely, but overall funding for library resources is not adequate to provide newer materials or technology in most districts
- Many districts use antiquated audiovisual materials, have limited technology, and outdated print materials
- Two-thirds of Massachusetts School Libraries do not participate in interlibrary loan programs
- Only 66% of school library programs report using state-funded electronic resources available through the partnership of the Massachusetts Library System and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
- 20% of school libraries don't belong to the Massachusetts Library System
- 71% of school libraries don't participate in Commonwealth e-book collections
- **Equity of access to library instruction and help**
 - Instruction in school library programs is not consistent across schools with wide variation in the ability of school librarians to collaborate with teachers, the number of classes taught, and grade levels that receive instruction
 - Only 64% of students have regular and consistent access to school library programs and resources
 - Librarians report issues with inadequate time to teach all students; access to classes, and access to space

Recommendations of the Commission:

Recommendation 1.0. Improve Access to School Libraries and School Librarians

- **Recommendation 1A.** Every public school in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a school library and a certified school librarian.
- **Recommendation 1B.** Establish the position and responsibilities of the School Library Curriculum Specialist at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- **Recommendation 1C.** Support a culture of inquiry in schools that sustains inquiry and resource-based learning, collaborative teaching, and the integration of digital technology to improve access for all students.

Recommendation 2.0. Improve Access to Information Resources in School Libraries:

Information Resources are highly dependent on digital **Information Technology** that facilitates access. Without adequate infrastructure and devices students cannot access the information and support they need to develop digital literacy, ethics, and safety.

- **Recommendation 2A.** Increase access to print resources in school libraries.
- **Recommendation 2B.** Increase access to electronic resources in school libraries.

Recommendation 3.0. Improve Access to Information Technology:

Professional Development for the licensed school librarians emerged as a strong trend in the data. It is critical that licensed librarians are hired to manage the Commonwealth's school libraries. Since the library and information science field is dynamic, school librarians need continuing and high quality professional development to deliver high quality, relevant **instruction and help** to students and ongoing, just-enough-just-in-time training for teachers and administrators.

- **Recommendation 3A.** Improve access to internet and digital devices in school libraries.
- **Recommendation 3B.** Increase access to Information Technology through staffing.

Recommendation 4.0. Improve Access to Library Instruction and Help

- **Recommendation 4A.** Promote best instructional practices in the school library.

Recommendation 5.0. Improve Access to Funding:

Funding cuts across all the dimensions of school librarianship. Guidelines for Budget Allocation and Expenditure should be developed to support Recommendations 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, and 4.0.