

Member Update April 2018



Executive Board Activities – March 19, 2018

Search Committee Update

Melinda Webster Loof, Bowman School, Lexington, Search Committee Chair, announced that the Committee was finalizing preparations to announce the opening for Executive Director which would be posted shortly. In addition, the library community is encouraged to send input to the Committee through a dedicated email address: searchcommittee@masslibsystem.org.

Position Opening Announcement (*applications received by April 18th will receive first consideration*)

Delivery Cost Sharing Policy begins July 1, 2018

MLS has just signed a long-term agreement with Optima for delivery services. Unfortunately, this contract will create an imbalanced budget. To help balance the budget, the Board approved a cost sharing policy to allow MLS to continue core services at current levels, while asking members who will benefit from a service with limited availability to share costs. We have notified the 51 member libraries who have the special hold/return sorting service by which holds are delivered in one set of bins and returns are in separate bins. This allows a library to quickly process holds to meet patron needs.

Beginning July 1, 2018, libraries that wish to retain this service have been asked to share costs of \$1,000 per year. Should a library decide not to participate, delivery will continue without this special sorting. If libraries decline, MLS will offer the service to new libraries with high-volume delivery service at the same cost to utilized existing sort-to-light capacity.

Long-Term Sustainability Task Force Formed

Now that the future costs of delivery are fixed, with the exception of fuel costs and increases in minimum wage and healthcare, the Board will examine opportunities to develop long-term sustainability over a ten-year period. A small task force has been

formed to bring recommendations to the Board. As our thinking on this important topic is forming, we would like to encourage member participation in evaluating our options. Please contact greg@masslibsystem.org if you would like to join this discussion.

Special Commission on School Libraries in Massachusetts *Report Issued, recommending equity for school library services in Massachusetts.*

The Commission, chaired by Representative Sean Garballey, was established following the passage of Bill S.1906 in 2013. This legislation included eleven data points for investigation to measure the status of school library programs. The Commission included members of the library and educational fields in Massachusetts, including those with extensive knowledge of school library programs. The Commissioners authorized an academic study conducted in concert with The Center for International Scholarship in School Libraries (CISSL) at Rutgers University and distributed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to examine the Commonwealth's school library programs. The research was conducted by two respected academic research experts in the library and information science field, Dr. Carol A. Gordon and Dr. Robin Cicchetti.

[News Release](#)

The [full report](#) has been posted on the MBLC website.

Directors' Forums

March 30, 2018 at 12-2pm at Hopkinton Public Library

Join your library director colleagues for this informal brown-bag lunch discussion. It is a great opportunity to network and visit a newly renovated space. [RSVP](#)

April 12, 2018 at 10-12 noon at Boxborough Public Library

This roundtable had to be rescheduled several times. We hope for spring weather and that you can join us to discuss preparing your library, trustees, and staff for your retirement. We'd love to hear from people planning retirement and from new directors who can say, "I wish that my predecessor had . . ." Please bring outlines or documents to share. [RSVP](#)

April 20, 2018 at 10-12 noon at the Sturgis Library in Barnstable

Topic: Strategic planning. This forum was scheduled to allow library directors to share information about their own planning efforts. [RSVP](#)

Please let us know if you have any questions or if you would like to host a future forum at your library.