

**M. G. Parker Memorial Library
Board of Library Trustees
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 4:34pm by Chairperson Linda Trouville

In Attendance: Chairperson Linda Trouville, James Nolan, John Dyer, Eric Jackson, Monique Verville and Director Nanci Milone Hill and Senior Reference Librarian Diane Annunziato

Community Input- There was no community input

Diane Annunziato reported for the Friends of the Library

- Ongoing membership drive during the month of February.
- The friends sent home 3,000 copies of membership applications for the Dracut Public Schools to go home with all the students.
- Annual Scholarship Award \$500.00 to high school seniors, applications are due the second week in April.
- Discussion regarding doing a Golf Tournament at the Library as a fund raiser in May of 2018
- Friends Annual Book Sale May 10th to the 22nd in the library community room.
- Book Nook donations have been suspended until June.
- The Friends are working on updating their by-laws.
- The Friends have added additional money to their budget to allow members of the Friends of the Library and the Board of Trustees to attend the Mass Library Conference in May.

Review of the minutes from January 11, 2017 motion to accept the minutes was made by James Nolan with changes and seconded by Eric Jackson, unanimously approved.

Review of Bills and Payroll- Bills from the weeks of, 1/12/2017 to 2/3/17 and Payroll from the weeks of, 1/9/2017 to 2/4/2017 a motion to accept was made by John Dyer and seconded by James Nolan, unanimously approved

Budget and Financial Report – Addendum Attached -

Discussion regarding the library's Materials Budget, library staff is meeting to discuss the budget on February 24, 2017.

Performance Overview- Addendum Attached -

Directors Report - Addendum Attached -

Unfinished Business - none

Continuing Business-

The director will speak with someone about turning the Tercentennial Quilt which hangs in the lobby.

New Business-

Director Reported on the Library Budget after meeting with the town manager

The Trustees presented the Director's Review.

Next Meeting - March 8, 2017

Suggestions for Next Meeting -

Hearing no objections Chairperson Linda Trouville adjourned the meeting at 5:27pm

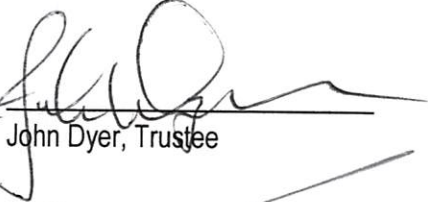
Minutes Approved by:



Linda Trouville, Chairperson



Monique Verville, Trustee



John Dyer, Trustee



James Nolan, Trustee



Eric Jackson, Trustee

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Dracut M. G. Parker Memorial Library

28 Arlington St
Dracut, MA 01826
(978) 454-5474

Agenda for February 8, 2017
Board of Library Trustees
4:30 PM. Director's Office, 2ND Floor

CALL TO ORDER

ATTENDANCE

COMMUNITY INPUT

REVIEW OF MINUTES FOR PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BILLS

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PAYROLL

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REPORT

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

State Budget Update

Annual Building Inspection Update

UNFINISHED OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

Tercentennial Quilt

NEW BUSINESS

FY2018 Budget Status

FY2018 Capital Budget Status

Director's Annual Evaluation

Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible location or format must contact: Parker Memorial Library; 28 Arlington Street; Dracut, MA 01462; (978) 454-5474 so that any necessary arrangements can be made to accommodate each request. It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of the governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice.

FY17 Budget Report

		FY2017 APPROPRIATION	FY2017 SPENT	FY2017 UNSPENT	FY2017 % UNSPENT
5110	Department Payroll	406,446.00	229,077.12		43.6%
5120	Temp. / PT Payroll	120,000.00	65,556.02		45.4%
5140	Longevity	3,100.00	1,175.00		62.1%
5210	Electricity	30,000.00	10,599.14		64.7%
5212	Gas	15,000.00	5,351.90		64.3%
5230	Water Charges	1,900.00	1,446.45		23.9%
5231	Sewer Charges	650.00	260.00		60.0%
5241	Service Contracts	31,000.00	20,664.54		33.3%
5291	Custodial & Housekeeping	4,000.00	2,779.84		30.5%
5340	Telephone	1,500.00	1,031.37		31.2%
5341	Postage	1,000.00	67.79		93.2%
5420	Office Supplies	1,700.00	701.61		58.7%
5421	Computer Supplies	2,000.00	211.88		89.4%
5423	Duplicating Supplies	300.00	-		100.0%
5430	Building Main. Expense	5,800.00	8,150.10		-40.5%
5432	Security Equipment	300.00	-		100.0%
5433	Equipment Maint. Expense	800.00	-		100.0%
5581	Library Supplies	5,000.00	4,049.08		19.0%
5586	Library Programming	1,000.00	475.00		52.5%
5712	Mileage Reimbursement	2,000.00	1,023.21		48.8%
5730	Dues & Publications	130,000.00	90,809.68		30.1%
5884	Machinery & Equipment	1,000.00	-		100.0%
TOTAL APPROPRIATION		764,496.00	443,429.73	321,066.27	42.0%

RESERVE/REVOLVING FUNDS		SPENT
22-3571-0000-5200		4,684.19
22-3571-0000-5400		250.32
TOTAL RESERVE/REVOLVING FUNDS		4,934.51

TOTAL LIBRARY OPERATING	764,496.00	448,364.24	321,066.27	42.0%
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M.G. Parker Memorial Library
FY2017 Performance Overview

	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	TOP 10 - JAN 2017	
First Time Checkout	13,338	14,299	11,086	11,034	10,155	9,321	11,242		
Desk Renewal	861	932	678	859	748	710	760	Adult DVDs	9,119
OPAC Renewal	1,853	2,449	1,888	1,948	1,803	1,698	1,640	Adult Fiction	1,905
Overdrive / Audio	189	192	177	218	228	201	242	JE or JJ Books	1,269
Overdrive / e-Books	393	354	310	460	490	478	531	J Fiction	778
Overdrive Streaming Video	4	3	1	0	5	1	2	Easy Readers	926
Overdrive / TOTAL	586	549	488	678	723	680	775	J Fiction	778
Freegal Downloadable Music	253	319	328	304	274	206	272	Overdrive	775
Freegal Streaming Music	874	797	797	677	490	453	373	J DVDs	680
Freegal / TOTAL	1,127	1,116	1,125	981	764	659	645	Freegal Music	645
Total Checkouts	17,765	19,345	15,265	15,500	14,193	13,068	15,062	Adult BODC	453
Total Checkins	15,894	18,624	14,082	14,345	13,888	12,146			
Requests Placed at mdr	2,387	2,425	2,251	2,323	2,033	1,862	2,324		
Requests Cancelled	357	331	348	322	272	271	308		
Holds Fulfilled	1,802	2,236	1,904	2,006	1,801	1,677	1,864		
Users Added	70	63	60	54	59	36	42		
Copies Added	387	409	550	601	430	362	444		
Bib Records Added	45	67	75	115	40	43	87		
Children's Programs	25	19	15	25	21	21	23		
Children's Attendance	634	372	314	546	357	346	368		
Young Adult Programs	7	1	2	4	4	4	5		
Young Adult Attendance	68	17	11	32	50	27	31		
Adult Programs	9	9	14	12	11	9	11		
Adult Attendance	58	58	124	123	113	65	127		
Community Meetings	1	0	3	6	7	4	0		
Community Meeting Attendance	12	0	193*	87	4212**	179	0		
Quiet Study Use	90	74	65	76	106	94	82		
Quiet Study Room Attendance	162	135	119	106	111	62	134		
TOTAL Adult Volunteers	4	4	4	4	3	3	3		
TOTAL Adult Vol. Hours	24	34	52	49	19	11	22		

Parker Memorial Library
DIRECTOR'S REPORT– FEBRUARY 2017

BUILDING

On Friday, January 20th, ASAP came out to do their quarterly inspection. During the inspection, it was discovered that there is a pipe in the stairwell by the staff bathroom that is dripping. We are waiting to find out when they will be coming out to repair it.

They also replaced a battery in the Emergency Exit sign outside of the Administrative offices.

ASAP, Delta Beckwith, and the state inspector came out on Friday, January 27th to perform our annual elevator inspection. We passed.

Our annual building inspection was held on Tuesday, January 31st. We passed with flying colors. Many thanks to the Friends for helping us prepare for the inspection by cleaning out the basement of old books and to the staff for making sure all areas of the building were ready for the inspection.

Our contract with TNT Cleaning expires on May 1, 2017. We will be posting another RFP by March 2, 2017 that includes the cleaning specifications.

We have three more inspections coming up in the coming months. I will report on them as they happen.

COLLECTIONS

Our Technical Services Librarian, Lydia Gravell, has been working to make our DVD/TV collection more patron-friendly by consolidating single, separated discs from a season into one multi-disc case. The project was completed on January 31st and was a successful endeavor. Lydia consolidated a total of 323 seasons, which removed a total of 1,209 cases from our shelves.

This project accomplished our goal of a more patron friendly collection because there is less clutter on the shelf for browsing, placing holds in the catalog is less confusing, and we have several additional shelves available for growth in the future. Going forward, all TV seasons are kept together and will no longer be separated by disc. The DVD/TV Consolidation Report that Lydia submitted to me is included in your packet this month.

FRIENDS

The Friends held their Annual Meeting on Wednesday evening, January 25th. They are working on revising their bylaws, which are very outdated. Both Diane Annunziato and I have given them suggestions for changes. My budget request, which I presented you with last month, was approved. The Friends will be giving the library a total of \$21,580.00 this year. That money will go towards programs, professional development, our second annual *Dracut Reads* program, museum passes and more. We are grateful to the Friends group for all that they do.

February is the Friends Annual membership drive. Anyone that joins for the first time or renews their membership will be entered into a drawing for a gift basket. The gift basket is currently on display in the Main Lobby.

This year, the Friends of the Library are also participating in the Bruins Pajama Drive. The PJ Drive provides new pajamas to children in need across Massachusetts. The PJ drive is sponsored by the Boston Bruins, Cradles to Crayons, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), the Department of Children and Families, Freihofer's Bakery and Roche Bros. The top three libraries will win prizes, which include a visit from a member of the Bruins, a visit from the Bruins Bear, and various Bruins related materials. Pajamas can be dropped off in the box in our front foyer, through March 15th. Pajamas must be new. Everyone that donates pajamas will be entered into a drawing to win a \$25.00 gift certificate to Mama's Restaurant in Dracut.

The Friends finances, as reported by their Treasurer, Kevin Willet, are as follows:

Beginning Balance as of 1/1/17	\$20,606.78
Deposits as of 1/30/17	\$572.15
Checks Cleared as of 1/30/17	\$546.29
Bank Balance as of 1/30/17	\$20,632.64

The Friends wanted to put together a new membership brochure and application. I offered to create one for them. A copy of it is included in your packet this month. As a special incentive, the Friends are offering membership at \$10.00 for any staff member that wishes to join.

There will be no Friends meeting in February.

FOUNDATION NEWS

Many of our patrons ask us library staff if we have phone chargers that we can borrow. Several area libraries have purchased phone charging stations for their patrons. These stations generally allow 6-8 people to charge their phones at the same time. I have presented the Foundation with three quotes for two charging stations, one for the Main floor and one for the second floor. I am awaiting their response. If approved, the charging stations will be branded. I will then prepare a policy draft and bring it to you for approval.

MBLC NEWS

We all know our patrons love the programs, events, books, DVDs, etc. that we provide them. But in the chaos of everyday life, we don't always take the time to share with one another. MBLC (Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners) wants to make sure that libraries get some LOVE this Valentine's Day and so they're launching a #LibraryLovers campaign. The completed Valentines from our patrons will also be shared with legislators to help raise awareness.

Each public desk (Children's, Circulation & Reference) now has a flyer and a stack of Valentines. Completed Valentines will be sent to Matt Perry at the MBLC no later than February 17th.

On January 25th, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker released his \$40.5 billion FY2018 budget, an overall spending increase of 4.3% over FY2017. The seven line items overseen by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) all received a 1% increase, for a total budget increase of \$251,671. This is the first time since FY2015 that every line item is seeing an increase. The per capita that funds the Library for the Commonwealth was kept at 40.7 cents per resident in the proposed budget.

In its FY2018 legislative agenda (<http://www.mblclegislativeagenda.com/>) the MBLC requested a total increase in all of its lines to prevent reductions in library services.

Statewide delivery through the Massachusetts Library System (MLS), line item 7000-9401, delivers 6.4 million items each year that residents request from other libraries. Without a further increase, delivery service will be reduced at 25 libraries, and Saturday delivery will be eliminated at 75 libraries. Each item is delivered for less than the cost of a postage stamp through this program.

Line item 7000-9506, Library Technology and Resource Sharing, received a \$20,766 increase to bring it to \$2,097,330. This is below the \$3,259,000 requested by the MBLC. The funding is needed to improve infrastructure of the nine automated resource sharing networks in order to increase Internet bandwidth. Currently, 360 libraries in the Commonwealth are below FCC guidelines for bandwidth. It would also go towards offsetting the cost of network membership for 328 libraries. Membership in a network allows residents access to materials from across the state. This is especially important to residents in smaller communities, 162 of which participate in the MBLC's Small Libraries in Networks Program to help offset the cost of network membership.

The MBLC's administrative line, 7000-9101, has been in deficit for 14 months. Despite an increase of \$10,774, the line still falls well below the \$147,569 needed to close the deficit. Funding is currently at 1998 levels, and supports a small staff that runs statewide programs and services, including State Aid to Public Libraries, and the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program.

The House Committee on Ways and Means will now begin crafting their own to be debated by House members in April. Following passage of the House version of the budget, the Senate will vote on their own version in May. A conference committee will reconcile any differences between the two versions, and the FY2018 budget will be sent to the Governor to be put into place by July 1, 2017.

More information on the budget process and a detailed budget chart can be found at (<http://mblc.state.ma.us/mblc/legislative/budget.php>)

MVLC NEWS

Since integrating all of our individual Overdrive Advantage accounts into one MVLC offering, we have had continued success circulating eContent via the joint Overdrive portal. January 2017 was MVLC's highest circulating month since we began Overdrive many years ago. Below are comparisons of the monthly circulation since the merge with the same period in 2015.

	2015	2016	% Increase over 2015
October	16,470	21,479	30.41%
November	16,234	21,129	36.31%
December	16,580	21,239	28.10%
January	18,383	24,359	32.40%

February 1st also marked the update of MVLC's Overdrive OPAC interface. Hopefully, the new interface will streamline patrons' experiences with searching for, streaming and downloading eBooks, audiobooks and videos, and therefore increase circulation even more.

On the new ILS front, Lydia Gravell recently finished up a five-part linked data webinar from SirsiDynix, the company that will be MVLC's new ILS vendor in May. Her report, which is in your packet this month, shows how SirsiDynix, through their relationship with Zepheira, works to bring patrons back to the library by minimizing distractions and highlighting our presence through search engine results.

Knowledge graphs are most recognizable on Google results. The search engine compiles data pulled from various sources to create a summary with what it determines to be the most pertinent information. With BIBFRAME and BLUEcloud from SirsiDynix, we will appear in the knowledge graph alongside top sellers.

At Central site, they are currently engaged in analyzing their data with SirsiDynix and have begun profiling for Symphony (the Circulation module). In essence, what that means is that they are establishing circulation policies and mapping their data to make sure that everything behaves and looks the way they intend it to when we go live on May 18th.

Another feature offered by SirsiDynix is BLUEcloud Commerce, a service that will enable our patrons to pay their fines and fees online using a debit or credit card. We are very excited about this product that will help us rise to the expectations of 21st century patrons, for whom online payments are a way of life! Vanessa Abraham, our Network President, has formed a Committee to establish an e-commerce policy for the Network and we hope to present this at the March Membership Committee Meeting.

The training session for MVLC staff and libraries has been established.

February 7-9: MVLC Central Site Staff will undergo three 6 hour Symphony training sessions in the areas of circulation, cataloging, and authority control.

February 13-15: MVLC Central Site Staff will undergo three 6 hour Symphony system administration training sessions.

Weeks of April 17, April 24, and May 1: SirsiDynix representatives will be on site at the MVLC Offices to train "Problem Solvers." The following Dracut staff will attend these training programs:

- Circulation (6 Hours) – Cheryl Salem & Ellie Szafran
- Cataloging (6 Hours) – Lydia Gravell
- Reports (3 Hours) – Cheryl Salem & Ellie Szafran

April and May: MVLC will offer regional Symphony training classes that will allow staff to do their jobs on day one. Additional classes will be offered after we go live. All staff members that will use the new ILS have been scheduled to attend training. I have listed the dates, times and who is attending them in the "Upcoming Meetings | Workshops | Vacations section of this report.

Important "Go Live" Events:

In order to facilitate final data loads from Evergreen to Symphony, all member libraries will need to abide by the following:

Monday, May 8, 2017: MVLC libraries will stop entering Bibliographic, Item, and Authority records in Evergreen.

Monday, May 15, 2017: MVLC libraries will cease all activity in Evergreen. Libraries will perform checkout transactions using the Symphony offline circulation client. Check-in transactions will be suspended until we go live on Symphony.

We will need to plan for storage space for materials returned to our library during this period.

Wednesday, May 17, 2017: At the close of the business day, offline circulation files will be processed in preparation for go-live. SirsiDynix staff will load those transactions. (We will receive more information about this closer to our go-live date.)

Thursday, May 18, 2017: Symphony goes LIVE!!!

PROGRAMS

Our 2016 Reading Challenge was a huge success, as reported in December. We have now begun our 2017 Reading Challenge, where we are encouraging people to read 17 books in 2017. Everyone that completes the challenge will be entered into a drawing to win a \$50.00 gift certificate to Barnes & Noble. Anyone wishing to participate can register by visiting our website and clicking on the 2017 Reading Challenge link.

- Preschool Story Time (Session I) – meets Thursdays from 9:30 am to 10:15 am on February 9, February 16 & March 2.
- Preschool Story Time (Session II) – meets Thursdays from 10:30 am to 11:15 am on February 9, February 16 & March 2.
- YA Gaming Club – meets from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Mondays, February 13 & March 6.
- Art Night – Monday, February 13 from 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm. Children will learn about Georges Seurat and use his technique to create their own art.
- Bambinos (Session I) – meets 10:00 am to 10:30 am on Tuesdays, February 14 & March 7.
- Bambinos (Session II) – meets 10:30 am to 11:00 am on Tuesdays, February 14 & February 28,
- Junior Friends of the Library – meets 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm on Tuesdays, February 14, February 28 & March 7.

- Pet Day – The Junior Friends of the Library will be hosting a craft and game day featuring pets of all kinds- cats, dogs, hamsters rabbits, chameleons, snakes & more. This program is for children age 2 through 3rd grade. Tuesday, February 14 from 4:30 pm – 5:15 pm.
- Partners Yoga Evening – with Checka Antifornario. For adults. Tuesday, February 14 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- Story Time for 2s – Wednesdays, 10:00 am to 11:00 am on February 15, March 1 & March 8.
- SMASH Tournament – for Teens. Wednesdays from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm on February 15 & March 1.
- Crazy 8s Math Club (Grades K-2) – meets Wednesdays from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Wednesdays, February 15, March 1 & March 8.
- Crazy 8s Math Club (Grades 3-5) – meets Wednesdays from 6:15 pm to 7:15 pm on February 15, March 1 & March 8.
- The Knitting Connection – meets Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 8:15 pm on February 15,
- Crafts (Ages 2-10) – Tuesday, February 21 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm
- Yoga Evenings – for adults. Meets Tuesdays from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm on February 22.
- PJs and Popcorn – for children, ages 3-8. Meets Wednesdays from 6:15 pm to 7:00 pm on February 22,
- Lego Club – meets Fridays from 10:30 am to 11:30 am on February 24.
- Family Yoga Night – with Checka Antifornario. Tuesday, February 28, from 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm.
- Yoga Morning – with Checka Antifornario. Wednesdays, from 9:00 am to 10:00 am on March 1 & March 8.
- Parker Library Writers Group – meets Wednesday, March 1 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- Cupcakes and Stories (Grades K-2) – Tuesday, March 7 from 5:00 pm to 5:45 pm.

STAFF NEWS

I have been asked to contribute a chapter for the forthcoming publication, *Handbook of Information Management* (Emerald Publishing), which is being edited by Professor and Dean Emeritus at Simmons Graduate School of Information & Library Science, James Matarazzo and Professor Toby Pearlstein. Since the last version of this handbook was done in 2001 (reprinted in 2005), they have been asked by the publisher to produce something completely new rather than an update. The new Handbook will be structured around the 4 quadrants of a Balanced Scorecard framework: Customer Metrics, Internal Process Metrics, Learning & Growth Metrics, and Financial Metrics which they believe cover the major challenges facing information professionals entering or already working in our profession today. It is intended to function as both a text and a ready reference with real world experiences grounded in a well-researched context.

Staff evaluations are complete. Next week, I will be meeting with staff members individually to go over their evaluations and goals for the upcoming year. The schedule is as follows (please note that I have already met with Office Manager, Carole Hamilton):

Monday, February 13th

Amy Spence 11:00

Cathy Bence 2:30

Lydia Gravel 3:00

Tuesday, February 14th

Laura Sanscartier 11:00

Melissa Ryan 4:00

Wednesday, February 15th

Amber Bouchard 11:00

Penny Berube 2:30

Thursday, February 16th

Colette Marion 10:30

Cheryl Salem 11:00

Diane Annunziato 11:30

Robin Gadue 2:00

Please note that I have not completed evaluations for the student pages, or the following staff members, that have not been here for a year:

YoungOak Lim

Melissa Ryan

Catherine Cloutier

Richard Kasilowski

Joyce Servente

UPCOMING MEETINGS | WORKSHOPS | VACATIONS

Nanci

- MLA Administrative Meeting – Thursday, 2/9 at 10:00 am at the Worcester Public Library
- Bereavement Day – Friday, 2/10. I will be out for my uncle's funeral.
- Staff Evaluation Meetings – Monday, 2/13 at 11:00, 2:30 & 3:00. Tuesday, 2/14 at 11:00 and 4:00, Wednesday, 2/15 at 11:00 & 2:30, Thursday, 2/16 at 10:30, 11:00, 11:30 & 2:00.
- Webinar – Email Newsletters Made Easy. 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
- Legislative Breakfast – Goodnow Library in Sudbury. Friday, 2/17 at 8:00 am.
- Foundations of Effective Project Management – MLS offices in Marlborough. Wednesday, 2/22 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
- MLA Legislative Committee Meeting – Friday, 2/24 at MLN Offices in Natick. 10:00 am – 12:30 pm.
- Director's Round Table on Email Marketing – Memorial Hall Library in Andover. Friday, 2/24 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
- Massachusetts Libraries' Declaration of Inclusion Planning Session – Joint meeting of MLS and MLA. Thursday, 3/2 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

- Legislative Breakfast – Fitchburg Public Library. Friday, 3/3 from 8:00 am to 9:00 am.
- Library Director's Forum – Fitchburg Public Library. Friday, 3/3 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.
- Workshop on Universal Design for Libraries – Thursday, 3/9 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.
- Massachusetts Library Legislative Day – State House in Boston. Tuesday, 3/14.

Diane

- IF/SRC meeting at MLS Marlborough – Tuesday, 2/28 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.
- Massachusetts Libraries' Declaration of Inclusion Planning Session – Joint meeting of MLS and MLA. Thursday, 3/2 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Penny

- NOBS Meeting on Kindergarten Readiness – Monday, 3/6. Dracut Library. 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

WORKSHOP NEWS

On January 26, Diane Annunziato and I attended an all-day workshop on "Libraries in a Post-Truth World" at Philips Andover Academy in Andover, MA. A pre-conference reading list was given to attendees. It included:

- *Pre-conference one-pager: Solutions for a Post-Truth Era*, by Gosia Stergios
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sGVAfnSDNDz_edyZxGPIETWdqjHXnmYvnoscKVVptl/edit
- *Why America is Self-Segregating*, by Danah Boyd
<http://www.zephoria.org/thoughts/archives/2017/01/10/why-america-is-self-segregating.html>
- *At Sea in a Deluge of Data*, by Alison J. Head & John Wihbey
<http://www.chronicle.com/article/At-Sea-in-a-Deluge-of-Data/147477>
- *The Real History of Fake News*, by David Uberti
http://www.cjr.org/special_report/fake_news_history.php
- *Melissa's List*, by Melissa Zimdars
<http://d279m997dpfwgl.cloudfront.net/wp/2016/11/Resource-False-Misleading-Clickbait-y-and-Satirical-%E2%80%9CNews%E2%80%9D-Sources-1.pdf>

The morning began with a (large!) panel discussion that included the following people:

- Alison Head, PhD, Project Information Literacy, an organization that teaches critical thinking skills for college students
- John Palfrey, Head of School, Phillips Academy, author of *Biblitech*
- Damaso Reyes, NYC Program Manager, The News Literacy Project, creators of checkology.org, free online lessons for middle and high school students (or anyone else, I think it could be used by adults too and I'll be trying it out) on telling fact from fiction
- Mary Robb, Teacher, Media Literacy and Democracy, Andover High School, teaches democracy and media literacy
- Adam Schrader, Former Facebook editor and news fact checker, concerned about robots replacing journalists at Facebook to control "trending" topics
- Ben Sobel, Fellow, Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, Harvard University

- Catherine Tousignant, English Instructor, Phillips Academy, teacher that focuses on the intersection of images and text
- Claire Wardle, First Draft News, amazing speaker on teaching of vetting media sources
- John Wihbey, Assistant Professor of Journalism and New Media at Northeastern University, journalistresource.org
- Melissa Zimdars, PhD, Assistant Professor of Communication at Merrimack College, created the “fake news” list that circulated widely after the election
- Derek Curtis – Content creator for the Philips Andover Library

Here are our notes on the day:

- Fake news is not new. Fake news = propaganda Truth does still matter to lots of people.
- The answer to the problem lies with educators and librarians.
- Facts are facts, truth is truth, what is missing is accountability.
- The difference between bias and untrue is learning how to discern the difference.
- There are more sources of news than 20 years ago. With social media, you no longer have to seek out the news – it comes to you.
- Reach has supplanted authority. Those with wide reach are being seen as authorities.
- Immediacy can lead to a sacrifice of the truth. Pressure on the media to be “the first” leads to media sensationalism.
- Fake news, when shared by multiple sources, lead people to believe it is true because even if they do a “fact check,” if they see it in multiple sources, they believe it to be true.
- We need to find a way to discuss things not through an ideological lens.
- This is not a U.S. problem, it's a global problem.
- The ability to create and disseminate content by almost anyone is a problem.
- Peer influence is exceeding authority.
- Google and Facebook are not neutral sources of information. How do we hold them accountable?
- Facebook has removed ranking for personal preferences. Trending news topics are tied to Wikipedia articles. This creates an echo chamber based on your interests.
- Facebook replaced their human trending news team with robots and the technology wasn't there for them to not select fake news as trending news stories.
- Twittertrails.com - a tool that allows members of the media to track the trustworthiness of stories shared on Twitter.
- Fib for Facebook - <https://devpost.com/software/fib> - a chrome browser plug in created in 36 hours by a group of college students.
- Program idea – Libraries bring in journalists that covered the same event and ask them to talk about how and why they covered the story the way they did.
- John Palfrey, author of *BiblioTech Why Libraries Matter in the Age of Google*. Students don't go to a librarian as a first choice, in fact we tend to be low on the list, professor,

Google.... Librarian. But traffic in libraries is up. Kids go to libraries because they are assigned to. How can libraries reach them were they are?

- Many government websites are not well organized. For example census.gov is very hard to navigate. A group of people created censusreporter.com to make a better interface to access the government data.
- Teaching critical thinking skills has never been as important as it is today.

Diane and I both attended a breakout session with Demaso Reyes, NYC Program Manager for the Literacy News Project (www.newsliteracyproject.org), where we viewed a video on how to know what to believe (<http://www.thenewsliteracyproject.org/file/how-know-what-believe>). We have signed up for checkology.org in order to make it available to our patrons.

IMPORTANT DATES

- President's Day – The Library will be CLOSED on Monday, February 20 in observation of President's Day.
- Professional Development – The Library will open at 1:00 pm on Thursday, February 23, so that the staff may participate in Professional Development.

Respectfully submitted,
Nanci Milone Hill, Library Director