

Midwest Collaborative for Library Services
Board Meeting Minutes
Online - Zoom
February 21, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. EDT

I. Call to Order

A. Roll Call and Accountability of Meeting Preparation

Board President Lisa Waskin called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Present: Boruff-Jones, Garrison, Hawthorne, Lake, McNeil, Merida (arrived 12:00 p.m.)
Patton, Petrusa, Riley, R. Smith, T. Smith, Speer (left 12:30 p.m.), Tuite, Waskin,
Zalghout

Guests: Megan Dudek, Kalyn Huson, Pam Seabolt

B. Agenda Approval

Motion: approve agenda as amended (move 1.E.2. to III.B.). *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

C. Board President brief remarks

President Waskin thanked Board members for doing their monitoring and evaluation work, and reminded them of some elements of standard Board practice.

D. Operational Consent Agenda

1. Monitoring Report for Policy 2.5 – Financial Condition and Activities (November)
2. Monitoring Report for Policy 2.10 – Facilities/Landlord

Motion: approve Operational Consent Agenda. *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

E. Board Consent Agenda

1. Review of Policy 3.2 – Board Job Description
2. Review of Policy 3.6 – Officers Roles
3. Approval of Minutes of November 22, 2024

Motion: approve Board Consent Agenda. *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

II. Executive Director and Operations

A. Executive Director report

Garrison informed Board members of his approach to the FY2026 MCLS budget and planning. The group discussed known and potential changes in federal government priorities, how those changes may impact libraries, and how to be proactive and adaptive in light of the changes to protect MCLS's relationships, funding, and interests.

III. Board Operation

A. Monitoring Report for Policy 2.7 – Ends Focus of Contracts

The Board discussed terminology in current policy, its original and current intent, and how/whether that terminology and MCLS's values influence MCLS contracting practice.

Motion: modify Policy 2.7 to read “may not enter into any ongoing contract arrangements...” *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

Motion: accept Policy 2.7 monitoring report as submitted. *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

B. Review of Policy 3.3 – Board Members' Code of Conduct

President Waskin noted a January uptick in Board members doing their policy evaluation work. Staff may inform Garrison of any inappropriate engagement from Board members.

Motion: affirm Policy 3.3. *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

C. Receipt of Monitoring Reports; Challenges to Monitoring; Vote on Compliance

The Board discussed the appropriate flow from Ownership Linkage to creating values and maintaining the Board Policy Manual, and the Executive Director's processes. Staff can support the Board in doing Ownership Linkage. The Board should re-adopt its Policy Manual regularly.

D. Operations Updates

No additional updates were discussed.

E. Next Monitoring Assignment

The next monitoring report is for Policy 2.5 in February.

F. Review of Policy 4.5 – Executive Director Compensation and Benefits

Motion: affirm Policy 4.5. *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*

IV. Board Development

A. 2025 Board Calendar

- i. Meeting schedule

B. Board Education

- i. What topics does the Board want to learn about in 2025? Examples:
 - Characteristics this Board wants its members to have
 - How to practice as a Board member
 - What the Board is seeing in MCLS's states and across the country
 - Other

The Board discussed using a Padlet to collect information on specific topics. Members also raised points about expectations, recruitment, support from staff, accountability, and onboarding. Other discussion included how Board members could represent MCLS at conferences, DEIJA in the current time, how to proceed with Ownership Linkage, the different services MCLS offers in Indiana and Michigan, and reviewing and updating the Board Policy Manual (including Ends) and Bylaws. Questions included whether to invite member libraries to speak about current projects or share stories about the impact MCLS makes, at future Board meetings.

C. Committee Updates

i. Ownership Linkage

The Board discussed how to create a plan to reestablish an Ownership Linkage rhythm in 2025 in a way that aligns with the staff's coming engagement plan and so that MCLS does not "overengage" with members.

ii. Board Policy Manual Review

A committee has started working on language, and asked Board members to add their comments to a Padlet page by March 7.

iii. Dashboard

A committee has started meeting to discuss metrics/statistics MCLS has and that the Board could use in conjunction with Ownership Linkage and Board Policy Manual review work. Their next meeting is March 3. They will use a tab in Padlet.

iv. Audit

Treasurer Hawthorne and Patton have held an initial meeting with Kyle Schafer at Maner Costerisan ahead of the FY2025 audit and will confer with President Waskin.

v. Nominating

The committee plans to start work in April. The Board discussed the difficulty of recruiting School and Special Library Representatives, and possible action to take.

vi. Officers

The 2024 and 2025 Board Officers met to discuss the transition. Topics included Board engagement with Owners, what the Board wants to see in Executive Director monitoring reports, and how the Board can practice Policy Governance well. Other discussion centered on the current political environment and Board makeup, representation, and roles. The group reminded Board members to complete their tasks on time.

V. Ownership Linkage

A. Communication with the External Environment Related to Board's Annual Agenda

Topics included Clarivate's changing eBook model and its intentions and impact, the "unwinding" of DEI in much of higher education, current federal impacts on schools, library funding in Indiana generally, and impacts of these and other issues on library workers.

B. Ownership Communication

Board members noted difficulty recruiting skilled library directors (e.g., for private institutions), how to continue pursuing DEI work, limits on what statewide library boards can do to support their organizations, how to engage with incoming legislators, and coming challenges in terms of legislation and funding.

Garrison attended the Legal Landscape of Librarianship Forum (February 18-20) and gained useful information.

VI. Announcements

A. Planning for May Board Meeting (at MCLS Office, Lansing, MI)

Huson reminded Board members of May Board meeting logistics details.

VII. Comments for the Good of the Order

Group members expressed thanks to the Board and staff for their work, frank conversation at the meeting, clarity around how to coordinate staff engagement and Board Ownership Linkage work.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion: adjourn at 1:46pm. *Moved and seconded. Motion passed.*