State Aid Review Task Force
Meeting #1

September 22, 2016
Worcester Public Library
10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

Things to consider:
- Use your own library experience but think broadly in terms of statewide program and impact for discussion and decisions
- Notes will be posted on LibGuide established for the original State Aid Review
- Dianne Carty-Small group process will be for members of the TF not staff or commissioners
- The waiver and MAR discussions will focus on possible changes to policies and procedures
- The MBLC will not be opening statute to make any changes to the current law
  http://mblc.state.ma.us/mblc/laws/laws.php
- For the sake of clarity, we will be keeping separate MAR and Waivers
- Today’s meeting will focus only on the MAR and the calculation with and without the “Policy”

Background:
http://guides.mblc.state.ma.us/state-aid-review
State Aid Review Project – Overview of initial project
History- white paper prior to the committee for State Aid Review
- Collins Center (UMB) work is posted on a LibGuide
- Report of the recommendations is available through the MBLC website
- 7 recommendations passed on to the Board followed by surveys and hearings
Final recommendations:
- Hours more flexible for the hours open requirement
- Materials requirement to include a percentage for equipment for patron use
- Revolving funds no longer included in the MAR
2-items generated a great deal of discussion without resolution ----

The MAR calculation and Waiver process

Charge for the State Aid Review Task Force:
The Task Force will study recommendations from the State Aid Review Committee regarding the Waiver process and the MAR calculation. Both require additional input from the library community, more focused research on current program elements, and a closer analysis of relevant data before a final determination about possible changes can be presented to the Board.
Review of the Municipal Appropriation Requirement Options

Two elements unresolved from the original State Aid Review

Review of the Waiver chart document: MAR v TAMI (whichever is higher Policy)

Options:
J: column amount that the library would lose if TAMI only
K: column if TAMI only were used the libraries are still not able to meet the MAR
e.g. Haverhill $1.5 m for MAR received $1.2 actual ; need funds
Carver (col 1)
Somerville-plan to meet the MAR; goal-to meet the MAR-3 year plan; not a good thing because I lose leverage; bad for libraries overall
3 options to talk about.
1 leave the MAR as is
2 use the TAMI as is (in statute)
3 use statute only but the municipality cannot give you less than the current TAMI

Waiver process

Discussion of Options for the MAR

Table 1: pretty quickly ruled out eliminating the policy -#of libraries meeting
-Intended consequences
-if we give municipalities a way to reduce funding they will take it
-municipal funding decisions and libraries at risk
Fox in charge of the chicken coop-you make the municipality the arbiter of the funding
Advocacy is essential

Table 2: unintended consequences- decision to keep the Policy
-without strict rules, municipalities appropriate funds but then charge back or take back money at the end of the year
-Waiver year after year
- reciprocity is the key
-even with new buildings, having a dollar figure to reach is powerful/helpful in defending budget
-Have a financial goal to shoot for
-Not enough-the MAR does not go up enough each year

Meeting Consensus: Option 1:
From a statewide perspective, best for everyone to keep the policy and the statute as is; In favor of preserving the current requirements.
Statewide consequences – unintended
e.g. Mendon – would lose funds and it would take several years to get to the point of having the funds available that met the prior MAR
Somerville 3-year plan

Policy was put in place in 1991 when it became clear that municipalities were reducing funding in various ways around the statute MGL Ch78 Section 19b, “the Bulger Bill”

Wrap-up and Work for Next Meeting