

MSLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes: February 16, 2011

Chelmsford High School

Attending: Hugh Ahearn, Linda Coviello, Valerie Diggs, Julie Farrell, Gerri Fegan, Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Dolores Krasner, Kathy Lowe, Sarah Marks, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Kathleen Porter, Kathleen Ross, Charlotte Sidell, Christine Steinhauser, Carrie Tucker, Liz Vezina, Lynn Weeks

Consent agenda: Amendment to Central Area Director Report: Cecily Houston attended the legislative breakfast in her district and was pleased that an MSLA handout was there. Kathleen Porter moved and Linda Coviello seconded that we accept and approve the consent agenda as submitted and amended. Unanimously approved.

One minute Updates:

Snapshot Day: Massachusetts Snapshot Day will be cosponsored by MLA, MSLA, MBLC and MLS on April 13. It is a day to capture what goes on in school libraries through photos and videos. This is part of a national ALA initiative and goes along with school library month. Kathy Lowe urged people to join this advocacy initiative through the MLS website by posting photos, etc.

Standards for the 21st Century in Action: Kathy Lowe was on the task force for this book published by AASL. Now AASL is going to set up an online site based on this work with searchable lesson plans that will go live in April. AASL is looking for librarians at elementary, middle and high school levels to submit lessons, as well as for librarians to moderate the lessons. Kathy will be the moderator for this project nationally. Kathleen Porter wondered if there were some possibilities for working with the Thinkfinity project, which already has some lesson plans cached.

Awards co-chair: Margaret Phoenix has resigned and we are looking for a person to assist Carrie Tucker on this committee.

Legislative Breakfast: Judi Paradis worked as part of the planning committee for the Metrowest Legislative Breakfast. She reported that Amy Bloom hosted a very good breakfast at Wilson Middle School in Natick, and she hopes that MSLA will continue to push for breakfasts to be held at school libraries and to provide handouts for legislators.

WGEE: MSLA is now officially part of the Working Group for Excellence in Education according to Sandy Kelly. She will keep us updated about what the group is doing.

ACRL-NELIG: Sarah Marks announced a call for proposals for their April 15 meeting exploring information literacy before higher education. They are looking for MSLA members to submit proposals. They are particularly interested in hearing about what do we do to foster transferrable information retrieval skills. The meeting will be at Westfield State University. ACRL-NELIG would love MSLA board members to be on hand for discussion. It appears that many college librarians assume students have had no prior training in information literacy, but some research could be conducted to see if/how students are coming prepared. ACRL might like to do some information literacy assessment with incoming college students to find out what their past training has been. Sarah said it may be worth having MSLA members collaborate with ACRL to design such an assessment, perhaps through UMass/Lowell.

Job Description for School Librarians: Julie Farrell will spend time February vacation to work on this and will contact Paul Toner at MTA. She is looking for assistance with this project.

Southeast Region had fun area meeting at Borders where they played with e-readers, ipads, and other devices. Librarians talked about what they were using, how they were using their various devices, played with these and led into discussion about what people are currently doing.

Anti-Bullying Summit: Gerri confirmed that Commissioner Mitchell Chester is going to come for keynote speech. Nora Mann, the Assistant Attorney General will be speaking as well. Seventy people have registered so far, and it appears that the predominant group attending are guidance counselors. There appears to be a nice spread of K-12 teachers. Groups will run presentations throughout the day. We need group discussion leaders for the afternoon about different areas. Sandy has set up wiki with discussion questions to assist group leaders and serve as a resource. The collaborative piece sets this summit apart from other approaches to this topic. Sandy Kelly suggested attaching a PDF flyer to another reminder email that people could share at school. Sandy will send this.

DESE Striving Readers' Grant: Gerri expressed thanks to Laurie DiGisi for her work on the Striving Readers Grant. Unfortunately, this initiative was not funded in the budget just presented by the Obama administration.

Fall Conference Possibilities: Gerri presented some possibilities for fall conference topics. She said that we need to get a going by April to work on this. Timing will need to be coordinated with national AASL meeting in October.

- *AASL P21 Conference:* Gerri said that while Massachusetts is a P21 state, there has not been any recent initiatives coming from the DESE about this. Instead professional development is coming on “new literacies” according to Gerri and Valerie. Julie expressed that because Massachusetts is not focusing on P21, we may want to move on. Sandy recommended that instead we focus on the Common Core standards. Valerie asked that we contact Connie Louie at DESE to get a definitive answer about where things stand with P21. We determined we are not going to pursue the AASL P21 Conference.
- *MLA/MSLA/MLS Advocacy Conference:* This is in the works and more information will be coming soon.
- *AASL Online Guide/Rubrics with Common Core Standards:* This conference would cover common core standards with Empowering Learners and the new online searchable lesson database on Standards for 21st Learning. Several people thought this sounded worth pursuing.

Advocacy: We are still waiting to hear from Paul Toner at MTA about who will be appoint as a liaison to MSLA.

Marketing Campaign: Gerri asked for feedback on developing a strategic plan for MSLA. Valerie proposed a day-long or weekend-long retreat with the board to develop a plan. She recommended that we think about using a professional facilitator to assist with this. She thought that we could not do a marketing plan without a strategic plan. Sandy and Hugh both recommended we bring in some outside people to sit on the group—Fran Zilonis from Simmons and Chris Harris from New York. Valerie suggested we take a poll to see when people could come, and she recommended a non-school site. Christine Steinhauer thought that Susan Babb would be a good person to contact about who might be a good facilitator. It was also suggested that those awarded “super librarians” be included. Sarah Marks recommended a group called SOLINET in Shrewsbury to come in and work with us. Several people said we don’t necessarily need a librarian, but someone who can facilitate and ask the right questions. Char recommended we think about a weekend-long retreat as one-day seems rushed. Valerie recommended that we send recommendations for facilitators to Gerri and her. Valerie also said she would create a survey about when, where, how long the retreat should be.

Lapsed Members: Gerri asked that area directors use the Google doc that Kathy created to contact lapsed members and ask them to renew their membership. Kathy said that we lose about 150 members each year and often make it up with new memberships, but there is some backsliding lately. Julie wondered if we could offer “gift memberships” in someone’s name. Kathy said occasionally this has been offered, and perhaps we could promote this. Carrie recommended we put out a “welcome to new members” list in the Forum or listserv to acknowledge those who join for the first time.

Vision Tour: Judi is working with administrators in Waltham to prepare for the AASL Vision Tour visit to Massachusetts by Nancy Everhardt. She was disappointed that the Massachusetts visit will not be a full day, but rather just on the morning of May 13. A wiki was set up in Waltham to plan and gather ideas. Judi is particularly interested in focusing on using this as an advocacy piece that talks about equity of library services in the state and hopes others will provide some ideas for how to best do this. Gerri recommended that she invite Representative Kate Hogan and other library caucus members. A few people had potential contacts with members of the press that they will pass along to Judi.

Nominating Committee: Terms expire this year for MSLA Secretary, Treasurer, and Area Directors. The Nominating Committee includes Sandy Kelly as past-president, and 4 other board members she will select (none of whom can be currently holding the positions up for nomination). Nominations have to be in to Sandy within the next 2 weeks. The slate needs to be approved at March meeting. We are planning to open up nominations to the membership. Sandy will ask current board members if they would like to continue in their positions. Those interested in applying for positions should submit a brief biography. All are 2-year positions and we can send brief descriptions of responsibilities from our handbook. Those who have appointed positions can let Valerie know if they would like to stay in their appointed positions.

U Start Reading: Gerri, Kathy and Valerie spoke to Sherri Galego from MEFA/UFund who are offering school-based literacy programs and that tie into curriculum. Their focus is preschool and Kindergarten, but they will work with other groups. The U Start Reading programs are typically aimed at parents of incoming Kindergarteners, last 15 to 45 minutes, and would be run in conjunction with school library. The program is free. They can only accommodate about 10 schools at present. They have been working with public librarians and now are hoping to branch into school libraries. Sandy and Ann Perham said that we need to be aware that MEFA if funding this, we need to know how they present themselves (advertising, approaching parents, etc). Hugh recommended that we view one of the programs prior to signing on to ensure we actually approve of this collaboration. We want to find out if they are looking for an endorsement or just a distribution venue. Kathleen Porter motioned to adjourn and Julie Farrell seconded at 6:05 p.m.