

MSLA Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 18, 2009
Concord Carlisle High School

The MSLA Executive Board meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm. Carol Klatt was unable to attend the meeting and Judi Paradis graciously offered to take notes from the meeting. Members present were: Barbara Andrews, Leigh Barnes, Linda Friel, Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Diane Libbey, Kathy Lowe, Heather McPherson, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Linda Picceri, Char Sidell, Christine Steinhauser, Carrie Tucker, Lynn Weeks and guest Mary Ann Stewart, president-elect of the Massachusetts PTA.

Statewide PTA

Mary Ann Stewart, president-elect of the Massachusetts PTA, joined our meeting. She lives in Lexington and has done some work to try to keep school libraries in her community. She has heard MSLA supporters speak at the BESE. She reminded us that Ruth Kaplan is the PTA nominated parent representative on the BESE.

We expressed the hope that the Massachusetts PTA would work with us to help advocate for school libraries. We are hoping the PTA can help us recruit parent supporters for MSLA Friends and that PTA can assist us in bringing advocacy programs to local schools. Approximately 120 communities (1300 members) have PTAs in Massachusetts. Kathy Lowe suggested providing Mary Ann with our Parent Power book and asked if we could present at the PTA statewide conference. Sandy suggested we submit something to the PTA electronic newsletter. It was also suggested that someone from the PTA state board speak at the BESE meeting to help us advocate for a library professional at the DESE to oversee library programs in state schools. Mary Ann will report to their state board on March 27. She is going to ask to have someone attend the BESE meeting and would like talking points for parents. Janet Allison (NEASC) was recommended as a person to testify before the BESE (NEASC official). Judi Paradis will follow up with this.

Minutes of February Meeting

Corrections to Feb. minutes:

- Chris Steinhauser and Jessica Sherlow were present.
- Nominating committee: take out Cecily's name, and Heather McPherson's name
- Teen Choice: Sue-Ellen said "she would send" most recent information
- Executive director salary increase: "During January **2008** meeting"
- Information Literacy Standards: add "ed" to word review; last sentence—like "the Forum" not logo
Also BESE not DESE meeting in first sentence of second paragraph
- Mass CUE: BESE not DESE
- Legislative Day Advocacy Packets: Kathy Lowe 'suggested" not "stated" we provide

A motion was made and approved to accept the minutes as corrected.

Executive Director's new agreement for annual review

A job description was developed and is posted on the MSLA Board-only website. This is an update of a former description and the current wording reflects what Kathy Lowe reports are the current responsibilities of the job. The new job description covers general responsibilities, membership efforts, annual conference work, and finances. Sandy also reported that a performance assessment rubric was developed based on the new job description. Sandy evaluated Kathy's work based on the new rubric and her review was highly favorable. Sandy reported that the rubric greatly helped with the evaluation. Kathy worked 857 hours during the past year.

Sandy proposed that we retroactively increase Kathy's salary to \$12,000 annually. Sandy noted that Kathy has brought MSLA into the 21st century and has done enormous work for MSLA on the national level. Members suggested some corrections to Kathy's review that Sandy will make.

Barbara moved that we retroactively increase Kathy Lowe's salary to \$12,000 effective January 2009. Heather seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

Constitution and Policy Chair discussion of new language for future boards hiring an Executive Director

Sandy will contact Bob Roth to update the policy language for hiring the Executive Director to reflect the newly updated job description.

Nominations for upcoming election

Kathy presented the nominees to date for the 2009-2010 MSLA Executive Board. Kathy spoke highly of Barbara Andrews who will be leaving following her current term as our treasurer. Judi is stepping down from the Advocacy Committee and Carol Klatt is stepping down as secretary. We still need one person to fill a vacancy in the Boston area. An online ballot will be available on April 1 and will be open for a week and participating members can send email ballots. The new terms will begin June 2009 and are all 2-year terms. Ann Perham recommended sending out a notice to the listserv that elections are coming. Nominees to date include:

Treasurer: Linda Friel

Secretary: Judi Paradis

Area Directors

Boston: Jennifer Varney

Central: Cecily Houston, Linda Kimball

Metrowest: Linda Coviello, Char Sidell

Northeast: Christine Steinhauser, Katie Cerasale-Messina

Southeast: Lynn Weeks, Heather McPherson

West: Leigh Barnes, Vicky Biancolo

Conference update

Sandy reports that the Conference Committee met and things are in place for October. Gerri Fegan, Kathy Lowe, and Melissa Lynch went to the Southbridge Conference Center to look at it. The conference center belongs to Dept. of Defense and is open for other groups to use. Kathy reported that facility is beautiful but not large enough for our membership. Melissa suggested we consider holding a one-day spring conference there. Kathy suggested that with implementation of standards, we might want to think about that. Char thought that a spring advocacy conference might be appropriate as school budgets are being determined. Judi recommended bringing in some stakeholders—MTA, AFT, university programs in library, parents, administrators, school boards, Stand for Children, PTA. Diane and Sandy both talked about how well people respond to things such as “job alike” and “Your high school senior is my college freshman.” Kathy also reported that the fall conference theme is “MSLA Now More than Ever.” We don’t know what our membership will look like this year. Consequently, we will charge last year’s early bird rate. Only walk-ins will have higher charge. We are planning to get registration out to people before school ends. The committee is planning a “green conference” by eliminating bags and possibly binders while making sure WiFi is available. Some of these measures may also help us keep our costs down.

Legislation Day

Judi Paradis reported that the potential attendance seems to be up. The details for the day are posted on MSLA website. Kathy reported that some of the federal stimulus money could be spent on school libraries to preserve positions. She felt that we need stay abreast of what is going on with this in the coming weeks to craft an accurate and up to date message about it.

Bookmark contest

Ann reported things are under control, printed, and ready to go.

Forum follow up

Sandy said the deadline for the next issue was extended to April 19 to get more information.

MTA Annual meeting

Sandy noted that May 1 - 2 is the date for the annual meeting and MSLA can send 2 representatives. Sandy is looking for 2 MTA-MSLA members who would be willing to go representing MSLA. Kathy said that Ann Collins from Brookline went last year with a resolution and she is willing to go again and present for us. Heather McPherson might also be willing to attend. She hopes to know by Monday.

Meeting with Mass CUE president (Anna Maria Schrimph)

Sandy and Anna Maria are going to collect all the documents for both associations and try to develop a “vision statement” to present to the Commissioner of Education, Mitchell Chester. They will meet again on March 30 to try to move this forward. Sandy reported

MassCUE is joining forces with the Superintendents' Association for their next conference. This could be an opportunity for us if we present at the conference. The MassCUE Conference is set for October at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro.

April Meeting

Sandy Kelly proposed meeting face to face at Concord HS in lieu of the previously scheduled virtual meeting.

Update on EBSCO Literary Reference Center

Sandy asked Rick Atkins at EDCO to include EBSCO as an EDCO vendor. Person at EBSCO will coordinate with Ann Perham.

BESE April 28th

It is highly likely that the April BESE meeting will be held at the Chelmsford High School new Learning Commons. The meeting is open and anyone who would like to can leave written testimony. Judi reported that Arlington public librarians are testifying in March about why public librarians cannot provide services for schools.

Certification issues

Sandy is hearing that DESE is making it difficult for those seeking re-certification as library teachers. Sandy is looking for contacts at the DESE to find out who is supposed to have expertise at the DESE for certifying school library teachers. Sandy suggested we create a school library teacher job description that principals could use to evaluate and judge for re-certification. Chris Steinhauser is going to get the job description from her district as a starting point. We had lots of anecdotal evidence about licensure difficulties.

AASL Nominations

Sandy Kelly suggested Valerie Diggs and Kathy Lowe attend training for implementing standards on the day before the July ALA annual conference. It will cost \$109 if they are accepted but we will receive \$200 from AASL if Val attends.

NESLA Conference

Kathy said this will be a prelude to AASL and she and Susan Ballard will talk about how to implement standards. This conference is slated for March 28 in Bedford, NH.

AASL Election

The AASL Election will be taking place soon and Valerie Diggs is on the ballot for the position of Director-Elect of Region I

Announcements:

- MBLC newsletter features Gerry Fegan's award from the license plate committee.
- Carrie Tucker has been selected for the library leadership institutes.

- On April 8, Deb Owens and Diane Libbey are going to do a presentation before teachers of US history (History At Your Library) and will contact Patsy Diver

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 6:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol S. Klatt