

Massachusetts School Library Association: Executive Summary

March 20, 2013

Chelmsford High School

Attending: Amy Bloom, Robin Cicchetti, Valerie Diggs, Julie Farrell, Linda Friel, Rochelle Garfinkel, Kathy Lowe, Lucas Hall, Sharon Hamer, Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Ann Perham, Kathleen Porter, Amy Short, Carrie Tucker, Lynn Weeks

PR/Advocacy: Amy Bloom reported that Bridgewater State University Professor Jim McCormack has two student cohorts working on an MSLA branding project. MSLA's mission is not about revenue, but promoting the value of school libraries to stakeholders. Judi Paradis adds that we could encourage supportive principals to think about what they might do to promote the value of a strong school library to peers.

At ALA midwinter Judi Paradis saw Eileen Kern, President of the Pennsylvania School Library Association. Judi would like to see MSLA do what Pennsylvania does, including branding, presenting at national conferences, and facilitating a statewide study of school libraries. Also discussed was the proposed DESE school position of 'instructional leader'; the job description dovetails with many of the things a good school librarian does.

Robin Cicchetti asked about existing data on Massachusetts school libraries. Not much exists. Judi says if Massachusetts passes a bill authorizing a school library study, then the onus is on MSLA to collect the data or to fund the collection of data.

Legislation update: Julie Farrell reported that she has been in email contact with State Senator Ken Donnelly's Chief of Staff, Cindy Friedman. Bills in the House and the Senate were referred to different committees that seem at first unconnected with the bill. Cindy explained that the bill was referred to the committee chaired by Senator Donnelly. Judi Paradis asked if we might make a presentation at the State House to Senator Donnelly and Representative Sean Garballey of a book donated to a school library in a show of appreciation for his work on behalf of Massachusetts school libraries. This was generally agreed to be a good idea. Valerie Diggs also called for a committee to work with Julie on legislation and advocacy.

Legislation day: It is March 26 at the State House in the Great Hall from 9:00 to 1:00. MSLA and Massachusetts Library Association will share the space. Breakfast is at 9:00 and student bookmark contest recognition is at 10:00. MSLA will distribute American Association of School Libraries pamphlets to legislators.

Teacher evaluation rubric: Samantha Warburton and Sam Noble of DESE came to Chelmsford to discuss development of good district determined measures. Valerie Diggs pointed out that failure of students to meet district goals through testing is not enough to adversely affect professional status. MSLA can add language to existing indicators, but a new

rubric would have to be tested.

MLA/YSS joint statements: Valerie Diggs requested a committee to review joint statements. Sandy Kelly agreed to contact Nancy Boutet and Sharon Colvin to begin revision work.

Quantitative standards: Valerie Diggs asked how we might proceed with developing quantitative standards (seating, square footage, collection size, etc.) to support new school building projects and overall funding issues in Massachusetts. General discussion ensued, and it was suggested Hugh Ahearn could possibly help.

National Library Legislative Day: NLLD is in Washington DC on May 7 and 8. Julie Farrell would like to attend as MSLA legislative chair.

Rethinking Equity and Teaching for English Language Learners: School librarians are not included in the new RETELL initiative from DESE. How will librarians know how to build collection for these students without this training? School librarians are often asked to help differentiate learning for these students, yet are left out of the training. Lucas Hall adds that we have trainings in our schools, and we are not included. Judi Paradis will write a letter to DESE asking that school librarians be included.

Conference report: The conference committee meets April 4 to review feedback and make initial plans for the 2014 conference. Kathy report in detail at the April 10 board meeting.

Bonus for Melissa Lynch: Kathy Lowe reported that during the recent conference, Melissa Lynch, MSLA conference coordinator, addressed certain situations with venue management immediately. As a result of Melissa's intervention, Sturbridge Host Hotel waived room rental fees, wifi charges, and the cost of 15 additional dinners, saving MSLA over \$5,000. Kathy proposed a bonus for Melissa. A motion passed to pay Melissa a bonus of \$400.

Survey Monkey: A motion passed to upgrade MSLA's Survey Monkey account. The \$100 upgrade includes text analytics, which will help conference committee better assess the conference evaluation surveys.

MSLA election: Judi Paradis, nominating committee chair, reported that the election will run from Monday, March 25, through Monday, April 1. A link to proposed changes in the language of the Constitution and a second link to candidate biographies will accompany the Survey Monkey ballot. The slate of candidates is as follows:

Candidate
For Treasurer: Linda Friel

For Secretary: Caroline Tucker
For Boston Area Director: Suzanne Matthews
For Boston Area Director: Amy Short
For Central Area Director: Anita Cellucci
For Central Area Director: Cindy Erle
For Metrowest Area Director: Amy Bloom
For Metrowest Area Director: Robin Cicchetti
For Northeast Area Director: Ellen Brandt
For Northeast Area Director: Sharon Hamer
For Southeast Area Director: Laura Gardner
For Southeast Area Director: Kathleen Porter
For West Area Director: Rochelle Garfinkel
For West Area Director: Leslie Lomasson

Membership recruitment contest: A second drawing was held at the board meeting because the first name chosen was that of a lifetime member. Winner is Jennifer Thomas of Bishop Stang High School.

Delegates to Massachusetts Teachers Association annual meeting: MTA annual meeting will be held at Hynes Auditorium on May 10 and 11. Valerie Diggs asked if anyone could arrange time away from school to attend.

MSLA fall workshop: Potential fall workshop topics were discussed, particularly AASL Standards for the 21st-century learner lesson plan database. Amy Short suggested tying in AASL lesson plan writing with professional SMART goals. Because SMART goals need to be approved by administrators, Robin Cicchetti suggests we might tie in rubrics instead. A workshop participant would develop a lesson plan to submit to AASL. Lesson plan submissions are coached by AASL committee members (including MSLA's Kathy Lowe) and revised by submitters to assure consistently high quality. Lesson plans are vetted, rather than accepted as is. Kathy also proposed collection genrefying and ebooks in libraries as fall workshop ideas. Election ballot will include questions about preferred workshop topics and locations.