

Attending: Amy Bloom, Kendall Boninti, Ellen Brandt, Robin Cicchetti, Chani Craig, Valerie Diggs, Cindy Erle, Linda Friel, Sharon Hamer, Alida Hanson, Sara Jauniskis, Leslie Lomasson, Kathy Lowe*, Suzanne Mathews*, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Kathleen Porter, Michelle Raczkowski, Jennifer Reed, Amy Short, Carrie Tucker
(virtual participation marked by *)

Meeting called to order at 4:10.

Consent agenda: Unanimously approved

Conference update:

- Sharon Hamer reported that vendors voiced concern about other events in progress during exclusive vendor time. Kathy Lowe stated that this was a misperception, as no events or activities were scheduled during exclusive vendor time.
- Judi Paradis proposed gifts for Richard Curran, conference photographer, and Gerri Fegan, stand-in awards coordinator, to acknowledge volunteer work above and beyond. Board agreed to Judi's proposal of \$100 Amazon gift cards.
- A conference attendee expressed concern about perceived racism in National School Library Program of the Year panel session. Specifically, use of visual slides left the concerned person feeling that one presentation equated minority status with poverty. Board members attending the session did not sense racism. After discussion, Board decided that Judi Paradis would share attendee's concern with the presenter without forwarding the attendee's email.

Teacher evaluation: Ellen reported that work on the teacher evaluation library rubric is progressing. Committee will add content to document then edit for common voice. Target date for draft is March 31.

Advocacy: Amy Bloom reported that the committee met at the MSLA conference. Carol Kelly offered to crosswalk old standard to new rubric. Kathleen Porter knows of Emerson College students possibly willing to produce advocacy material for MSLA, though concern was expressed about the semester ending soon. Amy will plan advocacy meeting before June.

Legislation:

- Legislative Day at the Massachusetts State House is March 31. Kendall Boninti reported that State Senator Ken Donnelly is available to speak. Bookmark winners and their families will be present. Bus from western Massachusetts is available. Judi Paradis urged board members to encourage library volunteers to attend, as they are good advocates.
- Kendall and Amy Bloom are working together to combine Advocacy and Legislation wikis.
- Sharon Hamer reported that 40 people attended the March 7 legislative breakfast, and it was nicely done.
- Board discussed that MSLA should have a subcommittee ready to move when school library bill passes. A plan is needed for designing the data-gathering instrument and evaluating responses.

Better Together: Board members are asked to consider presenting at the MSLA/MassCUE joint conference at Newton North High School on September 20. Call for proposals is out for instructional technologist and librarian collaboration presentations. For more details visit <http://bettertogetherconference.weebly.com/>.

Virtual participation: Discussion about tools for virtual participation at board meetings included Go-To-Meeting and Google. Judi Paradis said we will use Google Hangout for next board meeting.

Sheltered English Immersion: Judi Paradis said school librarians need 15 PDPs to meet DESE's requirement for SEI endorsement. Karen Sekiguchi and Carol Kelly are investigating ways MSLA can offer professional development to help school librarians meet the requirement.

Awards: Kathy Lowe proposed we strike from the policy manual awards descriptions to give cochairs flexibility in administering the program. The policy manual will list only the names of the awards. The handbook will contain awards criteria. First vote unanimously approved. Second vote will follow at the April board meeting.

Conference attendance by board members: Policy language on who attends meetings on behalf of MSLA with MSLA support was discussed. MSLA normally sends five board members to national conferences. It was proposed that conference travel policy be amended to include 1. president, 2. executive director, 3. past president or president elect, and 4. two other persons acting on behalf of MSLA at the discretion of the president with approval of the board. First vote unanimously approved. Second vote will follow at the April board meeting.

National Library Legislative Day: MSLA will pay \$800 toward travel expenses for Julie Farrell to represent MSLA at NLLD in Washington DC in May.

MSLA research grant: Deborah Froggatt, MSLA research grant recipient, requested an additional payment of \$305 as part of that grant. She is defending her dissertation at Simmons College on Tuesday, March 25. Approved with one abstention.

Area director: Judi Paradis proposed Chani Craig as new area director for the western region. Unanimously approved. Welcome, Chani!

Membership: . Judi Paradis reported that membership--currently at 637--is declining. Discussion followed about ways to recover members. Carrie Tucker suggested free membership for Simmons College, Salem State University, University of Rhode Island, and SUNY Albany school library students and Massachusetts residents during student tenure and first professional year after graduation. MSLA could send a welcome-to-the-profession letter and include recognition in listserv and at the annual conference. Sharon Hamer suggested bulleted list of membership benefits. Regional meetups were also discussed.

New England School Library Association: Irene Kwidzinski and Judi Paradis are defining how NESLA can add value in the region. Platform for virtual conference participation and webinar hosting are two possibilities. NESLA purchased both Instant Presenter, a web conferencing and webinar service, and Wild Apricot, membership management software.

President elect: Nomination committee selected Anita Cellucci as candidate for president-elect of MSLA. Details for administering an April election were discussed. Unanimously approved.

Forum: Alida Hanson discussed Wikipages and Wordpress using themes from Gabfire as possible tool for Forum production moving forward. Alida will come to the April board meeting with exact pricing and links to examples. Board will vote on production tool in April.

Massachusetts Teachers Association: Leslie Lomasson and Chani Craig expressed interest in attending on behalf of MSLA.

Massachusetts Library Association: Annual conference is in Worcester on May 7-8. Cindy Erle and Amy Short expressed interest in attending.

Motion to adjourn unanimously approved at 6:08.

Next meeting: Needham High School, Wednesday, April 16, 4:00.