

**MSLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
Chelmsford High School, Chelmsford MA  
Wednesday, April 14, 2010**

**Attending:** Maureen Ambrosino, Leigh Barnes, Linda Coviello, Valerie Diggs, Rose DiNucci, Patsy Divver, Gerri Fegan, Linda Friel, Cicely Houston, Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Ann Perham, Jamie Phillips, Margaret Phoenix, Bob Roth, Char Sidell, Sarah Sogian, Carrie Tucker, Jen Varney

**Meeting Minutes from March 17:** Unanimously accepted

**Treasurer's Report:** Unanimously accepted

**One-Minute updates** from committees:

- Carrie Tucker reported that Deval Patrick was at her library this week and listened to her concerns about school library programs
- Kathy and Sandy said that conference planning is in very good shape. Conference committee is meeting again in May
- AASL affiliate assembly takes concerns from regions and discusses so that AASL executive board can take up appropriate issues; Ann Perham said they are in the process of collecting these. One idea was to push for a national "job description" for school librarians.
- We discussed how to report our status with no one in charge of library programs at the state level. Sandy will contact Jen Hayworth(?) to find out who is in charge of libraries in each state.

**Webex:** We held our meeting with some participants using Webex. It worked relatively well with Linda Friel, Patsy Divver, Bob Roth, and Maureen Ambrosino meeting with us online. There is some hope that NESLA will purchase a webex account that all New England school library associations can use. Those attending remotely said that there were issues, but they preferred this to Chatzy.

**Awards:** Carrie said that for a number of reasons, it might be nice to announce the winners in May. Carrie has nominees for awards this year, though not as many as she would like. There are nominations from 3 regions so far. We are still waiting to hear from Central, Northeast and Metrowest with nominees. Carrie said that the qualifications for each award are on the MSLA website. Carrie and Gerri pointed out that our awards are a great advocacy tool. We decided that winners for the coming year will be announced at the May board meeting and presented at our conference in October.

**MSLA/AASL:** Kathy and Val met to discuss how to organize workshops to train people for implementing new AASL Learning for Life standards. They learned from AASL that they are going to be doing this with a searchable database which will include rubrics for evaluating programs, lesson plans, etc. Based on this, Kathy recommends that we hold off on developing our own materials until we see how the AASL materials look.

**AASL Visit from Nancy Everhardt;** She is visiting library in each state during the 2010-11 school year and will visit Judi Paradis' program at the Plympton Elementary School in Waltham.

**NESLA meeting** on June 6 in Bedford NH. Several people said this was worthwhile and they would be attending.

**Learning for Life:** Webinars to support training for this are going on now according to Kathy. They will be available online for those who did not take the webinars this spring.

**Evidence-Based Wiki:** Deb Owens asked Judi Paradis to ask the board about how we might go about setting up an evidence-based practice wiki. Deb and Judi thought that it might be useful to start with a one-day summer workshop where people got PDPs for participating in setting up some projects to collect data. Val said that if this is going to work she thinks some examples need to be on the wiki. Val uses Google forms to keep track of what she is doing in Chelmsford. Kathy said that perhaps Deb could contact some people to have some material already in place before we met with people this summer. Sandy suggested that we think about getting some professional development for librarians to help them figure out how to collect data, as many of us do not have any formal training in this. Gerri thought NESLA might be a good place to do some training. We discussed some people who might be available. We think Deb has a good idea, but not sure if we can support this right now without having professional development. We are going to see about contacting NESLA to get someone to do some training first.

**MRA Technology and Reading Chairperson:** Gerri went to MRA conference and was said she believes that there are really good opportunities for MSLA and MRA to work closely together. Gerri would like a board member to sign on to become their technology and reading chair. They would like guidance from us about any technology tools we might have to help them with communication tools, reading instruction, etc. Sandy is interested, and Gerri encouraged anyone else who is interested to get in touch with her and she will pass interested parties along to MRA.

**Transportation and Travel Costs:** We currently budget \$800 for board members to travel to national conferences and events around the state. Gerri said that this is no longer sufficient for airfare and mileage reimbursement. Kathy suggested we propose raising the amount to \$1000. Gerri will bring this back as part of our next annual budget proposal.

**Voting, Attendance and 2011 Board Reorganization:** There have been three meetings this year when we have not had quorums and could not vote. With regions being changed, Gerri is wondering if we also restructure our board. She also is hoping for a way to have better statewide representation.

There are some changes that have been announced for next year, including the Forum and PR committee. We've had lots of struggles with PR. Kathy said that one of the issues is that the PR person doesn't always know exactly what they are promoting. Perhaps it would work better to have someone on specific committees to work on the promotion for that event. So perhaps instead, we could have a PR person for conference committee, legislative committee, bookmark committee. It would be useful to develop a list of those outlets we contact each time we have an event that we need to promote. Kathy suggested that we take some time to look at all the ways we communicate—letters, listserv, pamphlets and brochures, Forum, etc. to see what might just come under the Executive Director's post as routine tasks. Kathy will do an analysis of ways in which we communicate and get back to us.

There was also some discussion about whether we need a curriculum chair. Another suggestion was to have just one region required to vote instead of the current system of one vote for each region. Our current area director structure is aligned with the regions. If regions are being consolidated in the state, does it make sense for us to reduce the number of regions we recognize? Bob also said that we could redefine quorum size, but that might be problematic in terms of the process.

Kathy also said it would be worthwhile to train the new board members each year. We determined that our June meeting would be a good time to review job descriptions, etc. Kathy also suggested that we think about requiring attendance to be part of the requirements for being on the board. It might be helpful to have a policy for dismissing members who do not ever participate. Right now we are often postponing important votes for one or more months if we don't have a quorum. Val offered to investigate Maine's manual for school library association board members. For May meeting Ann suggests we have a board removal proposal (board members who miss more than 3 meetings will be asked to leave board). Gerri asked Bob to draft this proposal.

Our May 19 meeting will also be at Chelmsford HS.

**Mass PTA Conference:** Gerri attended annual conference at an indoor playground in Plymouth. People there were interested in working with us. Gerri said she was very clear about our issues with volunteer-run libraries and this message was well received. It makes sense to continue this relationship and try to organize some joint initiatives with them.

**Legislative Library Caucus:** Gerri met with Representative Mark Falzone (chair of library caucus) to fill him in on our situation. Rep. Falzone suggested we hire a lobbyist.

Adjourned at 6:00 p.m.