

## Massachusetts School Library Association Meeting Minutes

Chelmsford High School, April 13, 2011; Meeting called to order at 4:15 p.m

**Attending:** Valerie Diggs, Julie Farrell, Gerri Fegan, Cecily Houston, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Kathleen Ross, Charlotte Sidell, Christine Steinhauser, Lynn Weeks

**Consent agenda:** Cecily moved that we accept the reports submitted for March and April, Chris Steinhauser seconded. Unanimously approved

### One-Minute Updates:

**Regional reports:** Reports from Central, Northeast and Southeast regions about recent regional round table meetings were that their recent meetings went well.

**Forum:** Ann Perham reported that Forum articles are due over vacation for issue in early May and one more issue will be out in June.

**Legislation Day:**—Julie Farrell reported that we had more legislators staying for lunch this year. She said one benefit of the joint MLA/MSLA day is that it was good to have MLA people advocating for us. MSLA attendance was hurt by the MCAS schedule. Board members agreed that we would prefer to switch Legislation Day to earlier in March or April (as it is library month) and the budget process is still underway. Gerri said people in MSLA are getting angry that we schedule Legislation Day during MCAS. Julie will bring up at next Legislation Day that we really cannot do MCAS days. Gerri commended Julie for making a good connection with Rep. Kate Hogan, who is the chair of the Library Caucus.

**Learning for Life Database:** Chris Steinhauser is submitting lesson plans to the Learning 4 Life database. She found the process of submitting lessons valuable. Once the database is up and running, Chris will submit an article about this experience to the Forum,

**Feasibility Study:** Gerri reported that she will be conferring with past MSLA presidents to plan how to proceed with the request from MLA to conduct a feasibility study to look at the pros and cons of merging organizations. She said that drawing on the experience and historical memory of this group would aid in crafting questions that should be put to the board.

**Election of Board Officers:** The election is complete and we will ask Sandy to post the results to the listserv.

**AASL P21 Institute:** Gerri said Pam Berger is secured for the AASL P21 Institute for Wednesday August 17 at a cost of \$2250. We need a subcommittee to plan the details—venue, food, photocopying, other materials. Gerri said she is hoping for a venue that will not cost anything. We also need to determine cost to membership for attending. Chris Steinhauser said she would see if her school might be available. Gerri recommended that we open the event to members in other states to increase attendance and will send a query to the NESLA listserv. Chris Steinhauser and Valerie Diggs volunteered to help with this.

**Job Description for MTA:** Julie organized and edited the school librarian job description developed by AASL. We discussed the changes that were made and Board members discussed some additional changes we could make. Julie said that one key change was to move the role of teacher to the top of the list of responsibilities. We agreed that this was an appropriate change, as the purpose of this document is to provide teachers' unions (e.g., the MTA) with a job description they can cite when library jobs are eliminated. Valerie said that we may want to move leader from the bottom of the list of responsibilities, as this speaks to our role in collaboration and instructional partnership. Valerie also recommended that we move the language about maintaining a selection policy from leadership duties to instructional duties. Other recommendations included Char asking that we switch the order of items 2 and 4 under instructional partner. Ann recommended that we move "promoting instructional technology to improve learning" to item 5 under Instructional Partner. Ann will make recommended changes, post them and then have a second review by the Board via email. Once this is finalized, we will let Julie know and she can submit it to Paul Toner at MTA. MTA can then make additional changes.

**Strategic Planning Meeting:** The Executive Board will meet on Saturday, May 21 at 8:30 a.m. at Needham HS to develop a strategic plan. Gerri said we are going to ask Susan Ballard to facilitate. We will ask Susan about an honorarium and vote on this in May. Gerri and Valerie will send out information ahead of time with directions, information about plans and food.

**Awards Committee:** Gerri said the awards committee is working to establish a parent organization advocacy award that will recognize parent-teacher organizations that support their school library programs. We will meet to delineate what the criteria will be and it will be competitive. Do we want to look at what the differences are between elementary and secondary and what about community enrichment organizations. Gerri asked that we create a small group to plan this.

**Legislation Day in May:** Leigh Barnes has agreed to attend the AASL National Legislation in Washington, D.C. in May. Gerri asked Valerie to call Leigh's administrator in Pittsfield to explain that Leigh is representing Massachusetts in May so that she has permission to attend

**AASL Vision Tour:** Judi is working with her principal and program director to plan for Nancy Everhart's Vision Tour visit on Friday, May 13. There is a planning wiki for this event, and MSLA board members are welcome to join the planning process. Judi said invitations to guests are going out this week with the goal of maximizing advocacy. Board members said to make sure there is parking. The follow up will include something for the Forum, some sort of presentation at conference. Judi is going to get a list of all those who have won awards and include the spotlight schools to highlight the many strong programs in the state. Ann has list on website going back to 2007.

**Executive Director Annual Review:** Kathy Lowe completed a self-evaluation. A subcommittee reviewed this and offered comments. Kathy is on vacation this month. The Board will need to accept her evaluation and we will have this posted for review in May

**ALA Elections:** Gerri asks that we vote in the ongoing election, and pointed out that there is a candidate from New England running for AASL president.

**Online Databases:** Sarah Sogigian from MLS reported that legacy databases from previous regions will be eliminated in June (databases provided by former regions). What you received depended on which region your library was in. Every region had different databases and all contracts were extended for one year when regions were merged. Sarah Sogigian said a group was put together to determine what would be continued. This group agreed to fund Gale Databases, but not others. Greg Pronevitz at MLS is negotiating with World Book and Grolier so that MLS members would be able to purchase these at a reduced rate as part of a cooperative. Sarah said Greg is in negotiations now and is looking for offers from all legacy vendors. Chris Steinhauser was part of the committee trying to determine what to maintain, and there were only 25 members and just 4 members were school librarians. Consequently, there was not a loud school voice, but Chris said they were listened to in the discussion. Sarah said they want to have something in place before the current databases expire, and the hope is to have some news in the next couple of weeks.

**Mass Teen Book Award:** Gerri asked Sarah to update us on the award proceedings. Voting was extended for a week due to low participation, and now closes on April 14. MLA and MSLA cosponsored this event and we need to determine how to have this go forward well. We had a discussion about the lack of our sponsorship being posted on the award website and we have not heard from committee members in past 3 months and have not been informed about promotional efforts. Gerri expressed great disappointment with how this went forward.

**Rep. Kate Hogan, Legislative Library Caucus Chair:** Gerri said this was a good connection at Legislative Day. Hogan said she wants us to present to library caucus. Gerri said that we need to define what we are asking for and plan our presentation. Gerri recommended we invite some new voices to work on this and try to set something up by the end of May. Judi recommended including an administrator, and noted that Amy Bloom's principal was excellent at the Natick Legislative Breakfast. Christine also suggested some information from the Vision Tour might be helpful. Julie said that Kathy is our official liaison to Kate Hogan's office, and she will work with Kathy to help organize this.

**Mass Library Association** Gave MSLA their public relations award for the bookmark contest. Kathy will go to accept this.

**MTA Conference.** Julie Farrell will attend May 13-14 on behalf of MSLA with an eye toward making another connection with Paul Toner.

**AASL Conference Committee:** MSLA sends members to the AASL Conference and will be looking for someone to attend in October 27-30 in Minneapolis. We need MSLA conference committee members to attend. Gerri said that will be discussed at May 4 conference committee.

**Commonwealth News Service:** Kathy sent information about a news service that sends out information 6 to 8 times a year to news sources throughout New England. There is a \$2000 fee and they do the work of drafting PR and sending it out. Gerri is going to ask Kathy to talk in detail about this in May.

**Bookmark Committee Recruitment:** Gerri is proposing we recruit new members and that we talk about hosting the judging at our conference. Gerri is retiring from the committee as chair. Gerri said this is a good opportunity to increase the size of the committee.

**MLA Conference:** Sarah said that at the MLA Conference there is a program called "morning with a specialist" and they are focused on the idea of a school and public library collaborative effort.

Ann Perham moved to adjourn at 6:00, Char seconded