

MSLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Chelmsford High School, Chelmsford MA
May 19, 2010

Attending: Leigh Barnes, Katie Cerasle-Messina, Linda Coviello, Rose DeNucci, Valerie Diggs, Patsy Divver, Gerri Fegan, Linda Friel, Sandy Kelly, Linda Kimball, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Linda Picceri, Charlotte Sidell, Sarah Sogigian, Christine Steinhauser, Carrie Tucker, Jen Varney, Lynn Weeks

Meeting was called to order at 4:10

Meeting minutes from April 14: Unanimously accepted as amended at meeting. Amendments: Correct There IS a national job description; Add Jen Habley for one minute updates; AASL—first sentence—Add Gerri, Sandy and Carol Holley met to develop a rubric to evaluate school library programs based on AASL standards. Change date to June 5 for NESLA

One Minute Updates:

- **Regions:** Chris and Katie Cersale-Messina are taking over blog developed by Susan Babb for Northeast Region

Authors as Advocates Database: Chris Steinhauser has approximately 7 volunteers from MSLA (not board members) Gerri asked if Chris could develop an action plan for this group.

General Information Database: Gerri met with Leigh Barnes and Jennifer Dimmock to begin gathering information about school library services across Massachusetts. They have confirmed information that number of public schools from DESE is accurate. Now going through unnamed librarians (indicated by hours—1.0; 0.5 etc). Group is going through to try to pair names with those hours to identify individuals and see if they are certified librarians. Doing this by phone contact to schools. Will need to make approximately 400 phone calls to do this. Will ultimately add independent schools and parochial schools

Online or Webex meetings: Some audio issues with Webex. Val said head sets might help and so doesn't think it is worth disregarding yet. Web ex is \$49 per month. Val also said that going to Web-ex or another online meeting format might change how we operate—for example, would we go to all online, or some meetings still in person. Sandy said that the decrease in funds for mileage might offset this cost. Gerri said that we also need to determine where we are going to meet next year, and is looking for some place central. Gerri noted that we lost many hours to poor weather this year. Linda will find out if Westborough Middle School is available; good access to highway and has wireless capability. Gerri took a vote and found that Chelmsford was more accessible to members. Gerri recommended that we hold our meetings at Chelmsford HS next year, and will work toward an online meeting source for September (possibilities include Webex, U Stream, chatzy). Next meeting is June 16

NESLA meeting June 5 in Bedford NH for New England school librarians to do job-alikes; Gerri will send out information as it appears

Mass Reading Association: Sandy Kelly applied to be the WHAT to this group and position has focus on technology. Will attend their June 6 meeting in Framingham. Sandy would like to see MSLA offer more with reading and literacy, but right now emphasis seems to be more on technology for us. Their group is not just school-based but also some university people. Sandy will serve as our liaison and will report back to us.

Digital Commonwealth Executive Board—met Monday May 17, Linda Friel, who is our liaison to this group, said they have mini-grants and they were pleased with proposals they received and funded. Linda will post new call for proposals within the month and will share information about this with Patsy for the Forum.

Databases as benefits for memberships: Ann advocates that we offer a discount on databases (Proquest and Gale) as a benefit for our members. These databases are not currently offered through the regions. The actual discount would be about 25% with Proquest, and less clear exactly what discount would be with Gale because it would vary over time and may depend upon how many schools participate. Proquest is a one-year subscription; Gale is a three-year commitment. The subscriptions are expensive, so she is not sure how many members can afford this. Would only be available to MSLA members. We would make the offer and advertise it through the listserve. Kathy asked that we ask for guarantee that they won't give anyone else a lower price. Gerri also asked that we think about whether making an agreement with these vendors would shut out any other vendors. Ann stated that we did get good prices using competition among vendors. Gerri asked if we had evidence that our members have taken advantage of previous arrangements such as this. Ann said the only downside may be perception that we are endorsing particular vendors. There was also discussion that we may be replacing service that has been provided by regions, but no longer.

Ann moved that we endorse these offers as a benefit of MSLA membership and to list this on the MSLA listserv using terms that have been negotiated. Sandy seconded it and it was **unanimously approved**.

Budget for 2010-11: Linda is still waiting for some receipts and requests from some members and is hoping to get these within the next two weeks. Linda reviewed what was budgeted against what was spent. In some areas, such as area directors, not all allocated funds were spent. Specific items discussed:

- Awards: Discussed if we needed to add funds to cover the actual awards (plaques, certificates, etc). We recommended adding \$400 to the awards budget.
- Eliminate constitution and policy line item
- Legislative Day: we went over budget on Legislative Day expenses
- Bookmark contest: This will remain about the same using Ann Perham's connections for printing at Needham HS
- Kathy asked if we could add a line item for a liaison to the National Legislation Day in Washington DC. We have sent Bob Roth in the past to represent MSLA. Kathy said it would be useful to have a line item in place to ensure we are represented at this annual lobbying event.
- Gerri asked that we changed the AASL Conference listing to AASL/Fall Forum to account for changing events every other year.
- Linda made several changes to the conference budget items to reflect spending in the past year.

Budget items voted:

Carrie made motion that we put up to \$800 in an account to be used to defray the costs of an MSLA member attending and participating in the annual ALA Library Legislative Day. Seconded by Linda Kimball and was **unanimously approved**.

We will postpone votes on additional budget items to the June 2010 meeting.

Reorganization of Board: Gerri said that a reorganization of the board may lead to better accountability. For the coming year we are going to keep the regions as they are, but Gerri is proposing that we look at other options for coming years. Changes to board positions that are being recommended include:

- Forum: will be absorbed by webmaster and become an online presence
- Public relations: This will be absorbed into each committee's work; may also prevent unclear overlap with advocacy
- Constitution and policy: Largely clerical and duties will be taken up by Executive Director
- Standards and curriculum: Not especially active at this time; Val and Kathy believe a task force can be established when needed
- Youth Services: Sarah Sogigian and Maureen Ambrosino have been our liaisons from Youth Services Division of MLA; neither can commit for next year. MSLA would like the position to continue but no one is in the position at the moment
- Independent Schools Liaison: Katie Baxter has done this in past, but there is no one in this position now. Char thought that it might make sense to incorporate this into the Area Directors. However, Sandy said it might be important to keep this voice on the board.
- Retirement SIG: Not active at moment, Gerri recommends removing position
- Mass Teen Book Award: will remain as a liaison position
- Student SIG: should be a liaison position, not a voting position

We are looking for:

- Boston area director co-chair with Jen Varney

- Southeast region: co-chair with Lynn Weeks

Gerri is also proposing that there is just one vote for all the area directors to aid in reaching quorums. Discussion about this included concerns that we might send message that area directors are not as important as other board members, or that those at geographic distance are not as valuable or included. There was a proposal that perhaps we could change the number of people required for a quorum instead of limiting votes to area directors. By eliminating other positions, including an electronic option and penalizing those who do not attend (e.g. members would be off the board if they miss 3 meetings).

Advocacy: This position needs to be defined. Gerri said duties include National Advocacy Day, Legislative Day, bookmark committee, general outreach to promote MSLA; Kathy would also like to see this position renamed Legislative Committee Chair and to attend MLA Legislative Committee; Patsy suggested using lists of those who attend Legislative Day to recruit committee chairs and members. Judi agreed with Kathy and suggested that this position also include having the committee chair meet with any policy leaders at the state level (DESE, BESE, legislators, etc).

Gerri wants job descriptions that incorporate the following items:

- whether liaison or voting
- definition
- supervises
- collaborates with
- reports to and how
- recruits how
- needs money for
- PR and advocacy initiatives

Gerri asked that we write job descriptions and action plans for the next meeting.

Patsy moved we adjourn, Judi seconded at 6:15 p.m.