

Massachusetts School Library Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Westborough High School
June 18, 2014

Attending: Amy Bloom, Ellen Brandt, Anita Cellucci, Cindy Erle, Julie Farrell, Sharon Hamer, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Kathleen Porter, Amy Short, Carrie Tucker

Called to order 4:15

Consent agenda: Approved unanimously.

Teacher evaluation: Judi Paradis reported that she made a last line-by-line read of MSLA's supporting rubric. Kathleen Porter agreed to do a final proofread. Valerie Diggs intends to submit to DESE before July 1, 2014. This document supports the new teacher evaluation by outlining proficient exemplars for school librarians. Board hopes this will be a useful document for school librarians and their evaluators.

Budget: Linda Friel submitted budget for board consideration. Kathy Lowe explained that some categories show budget line items less than expenditures this past year. Discussion included:

- Legislative Day--food budget modified
- Mileage--line item amount for executive director raised from \$1,200 to \$1,600
- Reg online--line item amount raised from \$1,300 to \$1,500
- Conference Coordinator--line item amount raised from \$700 to \$800
- AASL conference--removed from budget as there is no conference this year
- SLJ Leadership summit--removed from budget as nature of event has changed

Board discussed leaving latitude to revisit budget over the coming academic year. Board voted unanimously to amend budget to reflect these line item changes.

Better Together workshop: MSLA is co-hosting an event with MassCue at Newton North High School on September 20. Some points:

- 20 confirmed sessions
- good balance between elementary, middle, high school presenters
- 4 vendor sponsors
- need 1 high school session
- 9 registrations as of June 18

Board members were asked to promote the workshop over the summer.

MSLA conference: Conference committee is planning a "Fill up your tool box" theme. Plans include:

Saturday:

- Literary tour of Amherst area (passport at checkpoints for bonus)

Sunday:

- well known speaker in the morning
- unconference
- author event
- awards only at dinner
- Walden Media-style event after

Monday :

- Read across America day

- focus on librarians promoting reading in our schools
- suggestion: author skyping with students at school
- practical tools

Next conference committee meeting is at UMass Amherst on Monday, July 21, 2:00. All board members are welcome to attend.

Legislation: Julie Farrell is stepping down as chair of the legislative committee and becoming director of the central region. Our bill will pass once budget passes. Legislative co-chair position is open.

Membership: Jennifer Reed reported on results of membership survey. Highlights:

- Listserv is primary reason members belong to MSLA
- Members want professional development opportunities
- Members prefer web page over other social media
- Members value the *Forum*

Judi Farrell would like to see membership, advocacy, and legislative committees give year-end reports to membership. Board voted unanimously to extend free MSLA membership to current school library students who either reside in Massachusetts or are enrolled in Massachusetts programs.

Advocacy: Amy Bloom reported that Norah Connolly has agreed to serve as advocacy co-chair. Suggested advocacy slogan is “School libraries: what can we help you discover today?”

State of the profession: Board discussed the shortage of school librarians in Massachusetts, the districts struggling to fill positions, and the districts cutting professional librarians. Of interest was how MSLA can best intervene and advocate for the profession.

Assorted business:

- Kathy Lowe drew raffle for free conference registration. Winner is Elaine Mokrzycki.
- Board held a moment of reflection in honor of Sharon Hamer who is retiring and leaving the board. Congratulations, Sharon, and thank you for your many years of service.
- Board unanimously approved the following appointments to the board:
 - Julie Farrell, central area director
 - Kathy Dubrovsky, liaison to retiree special interest group
 - Norah Cluny, advocacy co-chair

MSLA Unconference: Laura D’Elia is organizing an EdCamp-style professional development event on August 21 at Westborough High School. At an unconference, participants choose topics and create their own professional development.

Museum of Science: Judi Paradis discussed the possibility of working with the museum to forge connections about innovation space, makerspace, and STEM activities.

Massachusetts Library System: MLS Youth Services librarians April Mazza and Sarah Sogigian want to make a LibGuide of resources for school librarians broken down by grade level. Board questions included whether this would be a virtual makerspace or a tool for advocating literacy.

Forum: Editors Kat Steiger and Jennifer Dimmick are considering Joomag as a newsletter production tool. Judi Paradis proposed we start collecting ideas for *Forum* articles via Google document.

Meeting adjourned 6:09.