

Board Meeting Executive Summary

Massachusetts School Library Association

September 14, 2011

Attending: Amy Bloom, Nancy Boutet, Kim Cochmal, Valerie Diggs, Julie Farrell, Gerri Fegan, Linda Friel, Rochelle Garfinkel, Susanna Hall, Sharon Hamer, Laura Hibbler, Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Kathleen Porter, Eleanor Rogers, Amy Short, Christine Steinhauser, Maureen Tannetta, Caroline Tucker, Liz Vezina, Lynn Weeks,

Legislation: Julie Farrell and Judi Paradis met with Rep. Sean Garballey this summer. He offered to help us draft a bill or resolution to ask for a study to evaluate the status of school libraries in Massachusetts based on similar legislation approved in Pennsylvania. As this legislation is completed, we need to actively pursue setting up a meeting with the Legislative Caucus through Rep. Kate Hogan's office.

IT Cohort: Lynn Weeks is setting up an IT cohort (to offer a program for school librarians to obtain a second license in instructional technology). She is hoping to offer something through Bridgewater State University in Spring 2012. Simmons College is also planning to offer a dual certification for library/ITS as part of their graduate program.

P21 Institute: This event with speaker Pam Berger held at Chelmsford High School on August 17 was very well received. Thanks to great sponsors (Glogster, Mackin, Capstone), we made \$5012 profit.

Partners in Advocacy: Strategic Storytelling: Nancy Dowd will present at a program on November 5 at Worcester State University co-sponsored by MSLA, MLS and MLA. Cecily mentioned that school librarians might want to invite a public librarian to accompany them to this event. The cost for the program is \$25.00.

Conference: Our conference will be held in Hyannis on March 4-5, 2012 with the theme Literacies and Our Future. Speakers include Ross Todd, Alan November, author Tim Green, Susan Ballard, Joyce Valenza, Chris Harris, and Buffy Hamilton. The conference will also feature the MIT Scratch Project, Universal Design Contest, Bookmark Contest Judging, Author meet and greet. Valerie encouraged people to think about registering now and to encourage others to do the same.

AASL Conference is being held in Minnesota at the end of October. Valerie said a contingent from MSLA is attending. She encouraged members to consider going as it is completely geared toward school librarians. MSLA's Rochelle Garfinkle is presenting a workshop on her school's new summer reading program. MSLA is displaying information about our bookmark contest at the Exploratorium.

Membership Brochures: Kathy updated these and asked us to share them with colleagues. Ann will put a PDF for the brochure on our website.

Liaisons: Valerie took some time to explain the role of liaisons to organizations such as MLA and the Massachusetts Reading Association to the MSLA board. Liaisons are members who represent other organizations and convey our mission and works to other like-minded organizations. Valerie asked us to let her know if there are other organizations that we may want to include in the list of organizations that we have affiliations. Liaisons do not have a vote on the board.

One of our strong affiliations is with the MLS. Valerie and Kathy are going to try to meet on a regular basis with Greg Pronevitz, Susan Babb, and Carolyn Noah to have common planning time.

Action Plans: We began to share action plans for the coming year.

Forum: Feedback from the board for this last issue was good. The Forum comes out four times each year—approximately September, November, pre-conference (February) and just after conference—late spring. Only the September issue is printed, the others are only available online. The total cost of the print issue is \$2292.32. We are hoping to survey members to determine their feedback so that we can tailor The Forum to be especially useful in order to justify this cost, and to determine if we need a print issue.

Massachusetts Snapshot Day: Massachusetts library advocacy committee that planned a very successful event last April. We are looking for a member to join Maureen Tanetta on this committee to plan for next year.

Creativity Index: Valerie shared an article published in August regarding new legislation that recognizes schools that teach, encourage and foster creativity in students. Valerie and Kathy are going to meet in October with Professor Dan Hunter at Boston University who proposed this legislation to talk about how MSLA might be involved in this effort.