

## **Massachusetts School Library Association: Executive Summary**

September 18, 2013

Waltham High School

**Attending:** Amy Bloom, Kendall Boninti, Anita Cellucci, Robin Cicchetti, Valerie Diggs, Cindy Erle, Julie Farrell, Laura Gardner, Sharon Hamer, Sam Kane, Leslie Lomasson, Kathy Lowe, Suzanne Mathews, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Amy Short, Carrie Tucker

**Board composition:** The board needs an Area Director for the West region.

MSLA also needs a board member to go to the American Library Association national conference. Limited funding is available to help cover expenses. Responsibilities include 1. attending two ALA national meetings, 2. serving on AASL affiliate assembly, 3. attending NESLA meetings as regional partners, 4. reporting back to the membership in a very detailed manner, which may include presenting, blogging, tweeting, and listserv posting.

**Fall ebook workshop.** Workshop is September 21 at Concord-Carlisle High School. Registration is currently 110 and climbing. Chris Harris is the featured speaker, and he will also moderate panel of ebook vendors and school librarians who have implemented ebook programs. Partial funding is from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

**Legislative update:** On September 10, Julie Farrell and Kendall Boninti met with Cindy Friedman and Max Chalkin, legislative aide to Representative Sean Garballey. Our bill will be heard in the Massachusetts Senate Ethics and Rules Committee. House of Representatives Tourism and Cultural Events Committee heard the bill that morning with Rep. Garballey in attendance. Cindy Friedman contacted Senate president and changed wording from 'shall' to 'may' to facilitate passage. Julie is composing script MSLA members can say to committee members. Judi Paradis said this bill has a chance, and we need to urge membership to call and write legislators and solicit support. Kathy Lowe proposed asking the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to support our bill. The bill's progress with the Senate Ethics and Rules Committee is remarkable, and MBLC may be receptive to supporting it.

**Media literacy bill.** A group approached MSLA last year to ask our support for a media literacy bill. After multiple discussions, the board decided against it. However, a second media literacy bill was recently proposed and has the support of the Massachusetts PTA. Judi Paradis proposed we look into that second bill and try to have library language added.

**MassCUE conference:** Massachusetts Computer Using Educators conference is at Foxboro Stadium on October 23 and 24. MSLA has a reciprocal table agreement with MassCUE. Conversation ensued about possible collaboration opportunities between the two organizations and how to best use our table at the MassCUE conference. Superintendents and principals will be in attendance. Board members attending MassCUE and willing to staff the table are asked to tell Kathy Lowe.

**New England School Library Association:** Sharon Hamer and Judi Paradis attended a NESLA meeting in September; Amy Short and Judi attended NESLA's June meeting. NESLA President Irene Kwidzinski was open to exploring the adoption of a common virtual tool both organizations might use for virtual participation. NESLA will sponsor an AASL preconference to generate membership. NESLA is also hosting a Common Core preconference in Hyannis before the MSLA conference.

**AASL:** American Association of School Libraries highlights 'commendations and recommendations' annually to acknowledge efforts of non-library groups. Amy Short suggested we should find commendation-worthy programs to nominate in the future. Massachusetts Center for the Book's Letters About Literature program was named as a possibility.

**Conference committee:** After site visits by Kathy Lowe, Melissa Lynch, and Gerri Fegan, three sites were presented to the Board for consideration: 1. DCU center in Worcester (formerly Centrum). 2. University of Massachusetts--Amherst 3. Best Western in Marlboro. The conference committee was leaning toward UMASS, as it has a great infrastructure and is reasonably priced. Board voted UMASS as the site for MSLA's 2015 conference.

**Setting priorities:** Board members were asked to rank various MSLA activities in order of importance and value to the profession. Leading the list were the new teacher evaluation tool, quantitative standards, and advocacy. Judi Paradis said these results should shape the direction of MSLA this year.

**DDMs:** TRAILS is an open-source District Determined Measure available to schools. Ron Noble, head of teacher evaluation at Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, said DDMs will be required in the educator evaluation process. Leslie Lomasson suggested a TRAILS workshop might be well received.