

## **MSLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes** **Wednesday, September 23, 2009 - Westborough High School**

The MSLA Executive Board Meeting was called to order by Gerri Fegan at 4:00 pm.

**Members present were:** Maureen Ambrosino, Leigh Barnes, Katie Cerasale-Messina, Linda Coviello, Rose DeNucci, Valerie Diggs, Gerri Fegan, Linda Friel, Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Linda Kimball, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Doc Roth, Charlotte Sidell, Carrie Tucker, Jen Varney, Lynn Weeks

### **Consent Agenda – VOTE**

*Secretary's Report*—amendments to June 2009 minutes as follows:

- change figure at bottom of treasury to 9075;
- typo to Ellen Byrne “winner MUST” not much;
- add Judi Paradis to June minutes
- Also add Linda Friel to summer minutes from virtual meeting (Judi asked people to sign in with first and last name on Chatzy)

*Treasurer's Report* - Amended Curriculum Line

*Thinkfinity*—waiting to hear from Kathy Dubrovsky for amount

*President's Report*

*Executive Director's Report*

*Committee Reports*

Doc Roth moved and Sandy Kelly seconded that we accept the consent agenda; unanimously approved as amended

**Board Member Information:** Kathy Lowe asked all board members to update contact information.

**Conference:** Kathy Lowe requested that board members sign up to help with registration desk and with helping to introduce speakers. Gerri Fegan announced that UMass/ Amherst next fall will not be available when we can consider having our conference, so we are most likely back in Sturbridge next year.

**Advocacy:** Gerri said that advocacy includes building awareness and public relations; evolving from for legislation committee. Her plan is to align MSLA with organizations such as MLA, PTA, MTA, etc. She reported that at workshops at ALA summer conference advocacy was described in terms of building coalitions to support your work. The advocacy committee will include Legislation Day (bookmark contest); legislative initiatives, etc. Judi Paradis will coordinate Legislation Day again. Sandy recommended that someone work with Judi to learn how this is coordinated. Bookmark committee this year includes: Laura Harrington, Nancy Kellner, Nancy Snow, Eileen Aldrich, Kelli Depin

**Calendar, refreshments:** Gerri reviewed meeting dates and sign-up went around for people to bring refreshments. Gerri asked all board members to have access to Skype so they can participate in meetings from distance. Meeting dates, places, and refreshment sign ups include:

- October 21, Westborough HS: Jen Varney, Bob Roth, Lynn Weeks
- November 18, Westborough HS; Leigh Barnes, Carrie Tucker, Linda Kimball
- January 13, Virtual
- February 10, Virtual
- March 17, Westborough HS: Sandy Kelly, Linda Coviello, Char Sidell
- April 14, Westborough HS: Maureen Ambrosino, Rose DeNucci, Cecily Houston
- May 19, Westborough HS: Linda Friel, Judi Paradis, Valerie Diggs
- June 16, Westborough HS; Food Fairy

**L4L (Learning for Life):** Kathy Lowe and Val Diggs attended one day training for implementation of new AASL standards in each state; building “brand awareness” and how to use standards in school libraries. Val and Kathy have since met to plan 4 monthly webinars. They are also discussing a full-day workshop in summer. Kathy and Val are proposing that L4L be theme for next year’s conference. More in-depth planning will be done in January with plan to roll out monthly webinars starting in February.

**Action plans** from ED, Regions, Committees are due in October and should be aligned with Strategic Plan—lots of new people who will need coaching through this. There will be a work session in October to finalize these. Gerri asked people to come prepared. Sandy said examples are on website

**Standards Request for use** – mentioned in Kathy's director's report; Betty Morris at Linworth asked to use our standards in book they are publishing; Gerri says standards being printed

### **New Business**

**Commissioner's Interview** – Gerri asked us to read the interview with Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester in the recent issue of Media Forum. She asked us to think about what it means for us. Gerri said that we need to be able to address the Commissioner's concerns. DESE is now revising website and turning it into a searchable database. Our standards should be embedded into the English/Language Arts benchmarks.

**Committee work:** Gerri asked people to serve on committees for next year, especially the conference, and advocacy committees. Volunteers included:

- For Legislative Day committee: Judi Paradis, Leigh Barnes, Doc Roth, Jen Varney, and Ann Perham
- For Conference Committee: Sandy Kelly, Lynn Weeks, Carrie Tucker, Char Sidell, Linda Coviello, Cecily Houston, Katie Cerasale-Messina, Linda Kimball, Rose DeNucci, and Ann Perham.

We need one more person to work with Carrie Tucker on the Awards Committee.

**Organizational liaisons** - MLA, MTA, MPTA, MBLC, NEAISL (independent school libraries); Gerri wants to identify people who have connections to each of these groups; Sandy will be coordinating this effort. We have Katie Baxter as our liaison to independent schools and she is mentoring someone. Sandy also proposed a higher education link and is looking for a connection in that community—Bob Roth and Carrie Tucker are interested in working on this. Kathy Lowe suggested Mike Somers at Bridgewater State College as a possible contact; he works with council of academic librarians.

**Standards printing** – Kathy asked if 1,000 copies are enough. Who gets the extras? Kathy reports that 1000 are being printed now and wants to know what to do with extra. She is planning to bring some to Mass CUE. She also wanted to know how to handle ongoing requests for this document, and thought we should at least charge for postage and handling. Gerri commended the committee that developed the standards for great work.

**Deb Owen's proposal for a collaborative effort with university librarians.** Gerri endorsed this idea and wants us to discuss in detail next month.

**National Advocacy Day** – Bob Roth announced that the National Legislation Day is combined with annual conference this year (conference is in Washington, D.C.) and will be held on Monday of conference June 26. Bob said we need a huge AASL turnout. Bob is hoping to include a school library teacher in every lobbying group. One of the messages Bob proposes we bring is that without strong school libraries, student drop-out rates rise as kids are lacking in research skills. Sandy and Gerri encouraged people to think about attending, and Gerri said there is money available to go from a variety of sources

Kathy Lowe said that ALA midwinter is in Boston this year January 15-17, and if you register this month there is a discount. NESLA is sponsoring a leadership conference at the beginning of the conference in Boston with Val Diggs, Ross Todd, etc. and some will be held at Chelmsford HS.

**Government Relations Advisory Committee** meets on Friday mornings throughout the year and Kathy said she would love to see someone from MSLA on this. Kathy would like us to push to have something on board for an all-inclusive library (school, academic, etc) initiative this year.

**Regional Library initiative:** Maureen Ambrosino reported that Rob Maier of MBLC is looking at ways to cut the budget for FY11 based on projected reductions from the state. Now looking at 28% reduction to regional library services (which Maureen thinks would make current 6 regions unsustainable). Rob is looking to reduce number of library regions. Val is concerned that our library databases may be endangered by these cuts. Gerri said loss

of regional staff would be very difficult. Maureen says no real details yet about what this means, but expects big changes are coming. She will keep us updated.

**New ideas for Website (CASL design)** . Ann Perham said there are new ideas for putting Forum online. We tabled discussion of this until after the conference.

**Massachusetts Book Festival** – Kathy Lowe attended meeting about this and said that Jackie Rafferty from MLA and Sharon Shaloo from Mass.Council for the Book, NE Independent Booksellers, and other interested parties met to talk about statewide book festival. All those participating were asked to brainstorm ideas. Sharon Shaloo is thinking on large scale. It was determined that an author-focused book festival might be worth pursuing. There was an idea for having this at Gillette Stadium and getting some of the New England Patriots involved. This is not likely to occur for a few years, but group wants to know if we would be interested in staying involved with this initiative. If we stay involved, we should think about what we would like to contribute in terms of activities, etc. Kathy is waiting to hear what might come of this.

## **2009 Awards**

**Area Director Awards:** Gerri read qualifications for regional area awards and asked regional directors to ensure that their nominee met these. Qualifications included--one award per MSLA area (6 per year) to practicing Massachusetts library teachers with professional degree or state certification who have been MSLA members for 3 years. Nominees include—Central region, Diane Libby; Northeast, Mary Melaugh; Southeast region, Laurie Berlanger; Metrowest, Robin Cicchetti; West—no candidate; Boston—no candidate. Gerri Fegan moved to accept these names for Area Director Awards, unanimously accepted.

**Linworth LMC President's Award:** For library teacher with 3 or fewer years, must be professional and MSLA member. Carrie Tucker asked people to send her email nominations for this award before Friday at [ctucker@sailsinc.org](mailto:ctucker@sailsinc.org)

**Ellen Berne/Gallagher Legislator Awards**— no nominations were made for these awards.

**Library Innovator Award** will be presented to Mitchell Chester, Massachusetts Commissioner of Education

**Library Advocate Award** will be presented to Janet Allison of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges

**Audrey Friend Scholarship** will be presented to Alexis Brown, Simmons Student

**Web Seal of Excellence:** Carrie and Ann Perham are the committee selecting this award and reported 7 applicants for this with 4 viable applicants and they will select someone.

**Administrator Advocate** will be determined by top executive board

**Lifetime Achievement Award:** Valerie Diggs, Doris Smith and Carolyn Markuson were nominated and unanimously approved.

**MSLA Service Award:** Kathy Lowe was nominated and unanimously approved.

**Motion to Adjourn** by Gerri, seconded by Doc at 5:59 p.m.