

Massachusetts School Library Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
October 16, 2013  
Waltham High School

**Attending:** Amy Bloom, Kendall Boninti, Ellen Brandt, Kim Cochrane, Valerie Diggs, Cindy Erle, Julie Farrell, Alida Hanson, Samantha Kane, Leslie Lomasson, Kathy Lowe, Sharon Hamer, Ann Perham, Jennifer Reed, Amy Short, Carrie Tucker

Meeting called to order at 4:10.

**Consent agenda:** Approved.

**MSLA annual conference:** Registration opens November 1. New England School Library Association is offering a preconference the day before our conference. MSLA will offer the option to register for NESLA preconference along with MSLA conference.

**Bookmark contest:** Theme is: Libraries - something for everyone!

**Awards:** During Sandy Kelly's illness, Gerri Fegan will step in to help Chris Steinhauser administer the awards program. Concerned board members can check the site Lotsa Helping Hands to help Sandy and stay updated.

**MSLA field trips:** Chris Gonsalves, a book fair vendor, has offered to organize field trips for MSLA. Judi Paradis asked board if this is something useful to MSLA. Discussion follows. Judi will tell him we think his idea is interesting, but not something MSLA wants to pursue at this time.

**Teacher evaluation:** Newly formed committee (Ellen Brandt, Valerie Diggs, Robin Cicchetti, Sandra Roby, Chris Swerling, and Carrie Tucker) met in Carlisle in October to discuss ways to produce librarian-specific teacher evaluation resources for inclusion on the DESE web site. Survey to gather examples of evidence was shared with membership to solicit feedback. Committee is creating a resource addressing the question: What does this [indicator] look like in a school library? Tool is intended both for librarians to plan programming and collect evidence and also for administrators to use in evaluating school library programs. Discussion followed about whether to keep previously submitted SMART goals on our site. Board decided in favor, but with a disclaimer. Exemplar SMART goal generated during a May 2013 DESE meeting in Malden is online as well.

**Virtual meetings:** Platform for virtual participation at board meeting is needed. Chatzy, Google Hangout, GoToMeeting were among no-cost options tested. Judi Paradis suggests we subscribe to a product and wants a subcommittee to help choose an appropriate one. New England School Library Association may partner with us on such a product. Digital Commonwealth was mentioned as another potential partner.

**Legislative committee update:** Julie Farrell and Kendall Boninti reported on the rewording of the bill. Aides believed it was more likely to pass if wording was tweaked. Wording of the bill appears here: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/188/Senate/S1906>

Kendall discussed the value of school librarians involving themselves in the planning and hosting of legislative breakfasts. Kathy Lowe recommended legislative breakfast support as a great use of area director funds. Lexington High School will host a legislative breakfast in February. Judi Paradis says it is important to get school librarians on the agenda and in the printed programs. Legislative breakfasts planned for 2014 appear here: <http://mla.memberlodge.org/breakfasts2014>

**Media literacy bill:** The board discussed the possibility of MSLA writing a letter of support for a media literacy bill currently in the state legislature. Julie Farrell is in favor of such a letter. Ideally, language describing the essential role of school libraries in media literacy education should be included in the bill. Judi Paradis will draft a letter for board review at the November meeting.

**MSLA Forum:** Alida Hanson and Emily Tersoff produced a very nice web-based *Forum*. It will be announced to members via the listserv.

**Advocacy:** What do exemplary school library programs look like? What do outstanding school library programs have in common? Amy Bloom reported on the advocacy committee's first meeting October 1 in Natick. Area directors can help identify and showcase excellence, which is useful for presentations advocating strong school library programs, such as the upcoming one in Swampscott. Furthermore, identifying exemplary library programs enriches the field of potential awards candidates.

**Swampscott:** On October 22, Judi Paradis will make a presentation to the Swampscott School Committee on the role libraries play in student success in an effort to help Swampscott schools restore its library programs. The Swampscott Patch interviewed Judi and ran a positive article on October 16: <http://swampscott.patch.com/groups/schools/p/why-school-librarians-matter>

**Masscue conference:** Chris Steinhauser, Kathy Lowe, and Sharon Hamer will attend and staff an MSLA table featuring bookmarks with QR codes linking to a dropbox of member submissions on how technology in school libraries contributes to student learning.

**Sheltered English Immersion:** Carol Kelley at Salem State University may be helpful in encouraging DESE to include librarians with this new training and licensure requirement. SEI is part of a DESE initiative to close proficiency gaps in English language learners.

**Twitter chat:** Amy Short and Judi Paradis will co-host a Twitter night Tuesday, November 12, at 8:00 pm. Planned as the first of many, this chat will focus on District Determined Measures, educator SMART goals, and educator evaluations.

**Quantitative standards:** Judi Paradis' survey in September indicated that teacher evaluation, advocacy, and legislation were top results. Board members, however, feel quantitative standards are important for new school projects. These standards include seating, collection size, technology, and more. According to Judi, the task of developing quantitative standards is embedded in advocacy committee. Members will be asked to help.

**Heading:** Sharon Hamer suggested that procedures manuals and annual reports could be collected and shared on the MSLA web site. Sharon is retiring; leaving a procedures manual is one of her educator goals.  
Meeting adjourned at 6:00.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, November 20, 4:00, Weston High School