

MSLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Chelmsford High School, Chelmsford MA

October 13, 2010

Attendance: Leigh Barnes, Vicki Biancolo, Linda Coviello, Katie Cerasale-Messina, Val Diggs, Julie Farrell, Gerri Fegan, Linda Friel, Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Carolyn Noah, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Margaret Phoenix, Kathleen Ross, Christine Steinhauser, Liz Vezina, Lynn Weeks

Call to Order at 4:20

Consent Agenda: Cecily Houston moved to accept our consent agenda, including the Secretary's, Treasurer's and President's Report; Julie Farrell seconded; unanimously accepted

One Minute Updates:

Gerri reported on current situation in Bridgewater/Raynham (union is grieving replacing school librarians with volunteers). Gerri drafted a letter to the editor of the Boston Globe in response to this issue. MSLA is working on making contact with Massachusetts Teachers Association and a meeting is in the works with Max Page on the MTA board at University of Massachusetts/Amherst. Gerri suggested that Leigh, Vicki and Julie might meet with him as it is in their area. Date or time has not been established. Gerri is hoping to find out how we directly contact the MTA when advocacy needs arise; if we can have a direct liaison between MTA and MSLA; and we want to counter the idea that volunteers are doing "non-teaching duties." Gerri wants to be clear that collection management is part of our job, as is the proper use of materials. Kathy is working to help set up this meeting.

Julie recommended that we encourage our members to join their local unions as active board members.

There was general consensus that we need to think about how to work around two realities—there are significant budget cuts that are working against staffing and running a good program; the resulting programs that are not so good (limited staffing, limited budget, fixed schedules) are causing administrators to close down programs because they are not especially good.

Gerri recommended that we contact parents in Lexington who advocated for their program and see if they'd be willing to talk to parents in the Bridgewater/Raynham area. Kathy is willing to contact the Lexington parents (and perhaps Winchester as well). Gerri also said that we should reach out to Gloucester, as volunteers there have also asked for help.

Gerri also asked us to consider how to have a common, unified advocacy message.

Val reported that Barbara Strickland is coming to Chelmsford HS to spend the day on November 12.

Kathy keeps an MSLA Google calendar and she encouraged us to add dates of upcoming, important events.

Julie said that Cengage (Gale) will come to your school to redesign your library webpage and add widgets to let you access databases more easily.

Carolyn Noah—Mass. Library System: At conference found out that MLS needs to do better job training people on databases. Susan Babb is in the process of working with regions to set up trainings for week of Dec. 13

Job Descriptions and Action Plans: Action plans are almost all in—still need from Legislation. Judi will help Julie work on this. Kathy recommended comparing all area director job descriptions to see if we can create one standard description.

Bibliography for Common Core Standards: Susan Whettle will be in touch with Val after November 19 to clarify exactly what the BESE will be looking for in terms of a bibliography to accompany the new ELA standards.

AASL Institute: Kathy has not yet heard from them. We had planned to do this in spring, but have not confirmed speaker/dates yet. Sandy said that if the anti-bullying initiative is more compelling right now, perhaps we should hold this until the fall. There was consensus that we should postpone this to the fall.

Professional Development with College Librarians: Gerri is looking for volunteers to develop professional development to partner with college librarians to identify scope and sequence of skills students will require to be successful in college.

Cecily is willing to work on this. Carolyn Noah is also interested in seeing MLS participate and will work on this. Gerri would like to see NESLA involved.

Anti-bullying booklist: Westford Academy library developed a great booklist using the MSLA listserve. Several people suggested we ask about using this for our.....

Anti-bullying workshop: Mass Reading Association is interested in working on that. Sandy Kelly is interested in working on this. There were some exhibitors, such as Rob Preskins (One Fun Teacher) from our conference who might be good to include. Connie Louie said DESE would like to join this effort. We are aiming to hold this workshop in the spring.

Conference: Feedback is that everyone wants more technology. People want more hands-on experiences. There must be interactive components to our presentations and presentations need to be practical. Gerri said survey results are available for those who would like to see them.

Hugh Ahearn from Macklin is our new exhibitor liaison.

Legislation: Julie proposed that we draft a letter similar to that posted by MLA regarding Question 3 on the ballot to cut the sales tax. She checked with the officials at the State House Office of Campaign Finance and they said that we could draft a similar statement without jeopardizing our nonprofit status. It appears clear that support staff will be targeted if Question 3 goes through. There was discussion about how to provide information to our members—ideas included linking to the Massachusetts Municipal Association on our website and Facebook page, sending out information to the listserve.

Broadband: Julie said that federal money is coming to provide a broadband network through 123 Central/Western Massachusetts cities and towns (past 495—beyond Worcester). The anchoring institutions for this will include schools and libraries. They are currently looking for a net operator and then will be looking for providers. This initiative should provide more equity as many areas in western Massachusetts are still using dial-up. School libraries (mostly regional districts) should be anchor institutions and should know this. One person in each town is supposed to coordinate this effort, and it behooves librarians to find out who is coordinating the effort in their towns. Gerri asked Julie to put this out on our listserve.

Bookmark Contest: Deadline is postmarked Feb 3 to Linda Coviello. Judging will be held on February 10 at the Plympton School in Waltham based on a presumption that Legislative Day. Theme is “think...create...share...grow.” This is from AASL L4L initiative (Kathy recommends this as our conference theme too).

Intellectual Freedom: Gerri tabled discussion until next meeting

Listserve Use by Authors: Gerri said that several authors have asked to advertise events/books on our listserve, and asked if we would like to open up the listserve to them. Ann recommended that we add a public Google calendar to the author database as one way to have authors share with people. Judi recommended we ask them to post on Facebook. Decision was made that we will refer authors to our Facebook page, not allow postings on our listserve, and think about working toward a Google calendar on our author database.

MLA Conference: MLA is looking for MSLA sessions at their spring conference (April 12-16). They are looking for something that is high-tech. Kathy has strong reservations about participating in a formal way, as she finds it provides no real advantage for us, and takes our good ideas. We decided to offer the opportunity to provide a session to our membership on our listserve and let members who are interested contact MLA directly.

Forum Update: Ann reported that the Forum is not up yet. She is looking for some editors from our membership to create some regular features for a “new and improved” Forum.

Updated Standards: Kathy had corrected copies of our new standards to distribute to the board and these are now on the board.

Reminders: Update bios on web page and also administrator information so Kathy can send letters to administrators about our work on the board.

Adjourn: Ann motioned to adjourn at 6:15; seconded Chris Steinhauser.