

**Minutes: Executive Board Meeting  
Massachusetts School Library Association  
November 16, 2011**

**Attending:** Hugh Ahearn, Amy Bloom, Nancy Boutet, Christine Brown, Kim Cochrane, Valerie Diggs, Linda Friel, Rochelle Garfinkle, Sharon Hamer, Laura Hibbler, Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Kathleen Porter, Amy Short, Christine Steinhauser, Maureen Tannetta, Carrie Tucker, Lynn Weeks

**Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.**

**Consent Agenda:** Kathleen Porter moved and Cecily Houston seconded that we accept the consent agenda. Unanimously approved

**Reports:**

**Treasurer:** Linda Friel asked for advice about costs exceeding budget for AASL meeting. Kathy Lowe will work with her to make necessary adjustments.

**Area Directors:** Cecily Houston reported that Central Region is holding a workshop on December 1 open to all at Littleton High School with Rick Levin discussing databases.

Kathleen Porter reported that the Southeast Region held its first meeting on November 14.

Sharon Hamer and Christine Steinhauser reported that Northeast Region is planning to hold a meeting along Route 1—possibly at Panera or Barnes and Noble; they are thinking about promoting a one-book read and perhaps a high-school specific idea

Rochelle Garfinkle said that the Western Region is planning an event on Dec. 5 and have heard that 14-15 librarians plan to attend. They are going to provide a promotion for the MSLA conference and hold job-alike conversations. They also are planning a new books workshop at the Whatley MLS office with Pat Keogh on November 17

Amy Bloom reported that Metrowest region is making a list of towns in the region and listing the nonmembers in their region. They are also planning a meeting at the Natick Public Library. Amy asked if part-time aides could be included in MSLA events, and Kathy Lowe responded that they can join the organization as paraprofessionals.

Amy Short said that Boston is hoping to organize workshops open to the whole state.

**WGEE:** Sandy Kelly reported WGEE is working on teacher evaluations, and other efforts to improve education. Stand for Children, headed by Jason Lewis, who is part of WGEE is supporting a ballot initiative that addresses teacher evaluations. MTA and other groups within WGEE are opposed to this ballot initiative because they believe it is not in the best interests of teachers and students to change educational policy using ballot initiatives. MTA is very opposed

to this initiative. Sandy asked us to provide feedback. We are concerned that this effort may undermine current revisions to the evaluation process coming with the new Race to the Top initiatives. The majority of our membership belong to the MTA, and as such, we support their stand on this issue. Sandy will report back to WGEE that we do not support this effort by Stand for Children.

### **Action Items:**

**Conference discussion on listservs:** People have been writing about the conference on the MSLA listserv, and Kathy notices a real uptake after each post—especially if it has link to the conference registration. She reported that board members have volunteered to write about all speakers coming to the conference.

**Area Director Job Descriptions:** Kathleen Porter said that only the awards description piece may need to be updated. Once this is added, this work will be complete. Kathleen will follow up on this.

**Awards Committee** completed all action items

**Conference Committee:** has not met yet—will need to meet in January to discuss action items

**Legislative Breakfasts:** Amy sent request to listserv, but only Debbie Owens at Hudson HS (Central Region) has responded; Amy Bloom can do Metrowest again. Kathy said it remains difficult to organize this as there is no clear group setting these up.

### **Strategic Planning for Massachusetts Library System:**

Vicky Biancolo and Kathy Lowe attended this. Kathy said there were about a dozen school librarians out of about 300 people. Kathy said they used a process called SOAR (strengths, opportunities, aspirations, results) to conduct an evaluation. Kathy said school librarians determined that MLS was strong in personnel, databases, professional development. The group also expressed that MLS has an opportunity to engage and involve more school librarians and to advocate more for school libraries. Kathy also said there was a good presentation based on an OCLC survey about how people are using libraries, and that the results found that no one reported starting at library websites. We had a discussion about how we respond to this with people wondering about how we address this. Kathy recommended school librarians attend the MLS annual meeting.

**Legislative Update:** We spoke to Rep. Sean Garballey by phone. He has agreed to our revisions to his proposed legislation creating a special commission on school library services. He said next step is to file this bill. He is hoping that Rep. Kate Hogan will file with him and has given her the bill to read this week. He doesn't see her being opposed to this. We will ask Julie Farrell to send email to her to let her know we would appreciate her support, and would be happy to answer any questions she might have. Sean said that as soon as files this bill, he will let us

know. From there, it he expects it would be helpful for us to work to get support from additional legislators.

**Awards:** Carrie reminded us that awards deadlines are coming. Carrie asked area directors to look for good programs and ensure they are excellent.

**December Meeting:** Valerie said she'd like us to meet online alone to vote on awards to replace a regular December meeting. She met no resistance!

**Legislative Day:** Now scheduled for Monday, April 30, 2011 and we are hoping for good attendance.

**Recognition for Nancy Jones:** Amy Short explained that Nancy Jones was director of school libraries for Boston Public Schools and passed away within the last year. She was a long-time member of the MSLA executive board. Kathy said that based on her long-time affiliation with the board, it would be nice to do something more involved to honor her memory. Hugh Ahearn said she was a wonderful librarian—using technology and being in the forefront of the profession, and Kathy noted that she was a leader in the field. Carrie wondered if we could rename one of our awards for her. Ann suggested a posthumous life-time achievement award in her honor. Carrie suggested we consider this over a longer time and develop some criteria for naming awards. Carrie also suggested that Valerie submit a nomination for Nancy Jones to receive a lifetime achievement award.

**Snapshot Committee:** Maureen Tannetta attended meeting with this committee, and Snapshot day is scheduled for April 12. They asked if area directors would consider possible Flickr training as a way to ensure members can participate. The committee is also hoping that area directors can help promote this event. The website for this will be available starting in January.

**Collaboration with ACRL-New England:** Laura Hibbler of ACRL said that they have regular meetings that we could attend. Meetings are coming up at various New England colleges/universities. Valerie said that we could publicize these meetings on our listserv. [New England ACRL website](#) has links to a number of events. Valerie thought that it might be good to have a joint statement from our organizations describing our support for one another. Kathy believes that Gerri Fegan and Sarah Marks may have worked on such a document, and Kathy and Laura will find out where things stand.

**Standards Revision:** Amy Short asked about the facilities recommendations in our program standards. Valerie noted that these were very outdated (at least 10 years). Valerie would like to revise our program standards and to make this our work this year. Valerie thought that there may be MSLA members who might like to work on this.

**Kathleen Porter moved to adjourn at 6:12**