

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

November 14, 2012

Chelmsford High School

**Attending:** Amy Bloom, Nancy Boutet, Valerie Diggs, Julie Farrell, Rochelle Garfinkle (hangout), Sharon Hamer, Cecily Houston (hangout), Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Amy Short, Carrie Tucker Lynn Weeks (hangout), Robin Cicchetti

**Legislative update:** Julie Farrell is approaching Representative Sean Garballey about refiling bill now that the general election has passed. Also, Kathy Lowe will attend a December 7 legislative committee meeting in Plymouth.

**Standards update:** Amy Short reported that according to an email from Julie Walker of AASL, the question to consider is what 'counting' means in 21st century. AASL is not pursuing national quantitative standards at this time. Amy suggests we need to reexamine bigger issue.

**Advocacy:** Judi Paradis reported that she and Amy Bloom met and talked about getting in touch with academic world to help with a marketing plan for MSLA. Judi wants examples of good library programs to give potential marketing planners.

**Awards:** Sandy Kelly reports that awards program is progressing well. Sandy will explore developing google forms for application submission. Sandy needs all nominations by Thanksgiving.

**Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners--grants and support:** Marlene Heroux wants to offer programming for school librarians. Ann Perham suggests it may be a good idea for MBLC to sponsor a speaker or presentation at our conference.

**Policy samples on MSLA website:** Valerie Diggs said members are interested in the possibility of member-shared policy samples. Ways MSLA could collect and share this information were discussed. Judi Paradis asked how we might curate, maintain, and store this information and also ensure it doesn't become static or dated. Discussion ensued about how to collect and share this kind of information, especially SMART goals. Ann Perham will develop a sample google forms submission tool.

**Friends of MSLA:** A Friends-of-MSLA listserv was established a couple years ago in conjunction with a new membership category for Friends and supporters. Reenergizing this group may be worthwhile, especially in conjunction with a forthcoming new MSLA advocacy message. Furthermore, this could be a good source of support if legislation is filed this year. The listserv has 24 people now.

**New England School Library Association:** NESLA will meet in Litchfield, New Hampshire, on December 8 Amy Short agreed to attend this.

**SLJ Summit:** Three Forum articles cover the Summit report. Ann Perham liked the collaborative role of vendors. Brain Hive, an ebook vendor, might be worth pursuing as a vendor attendee at the MSLA conference. Brain Hive offers a pay-for-what-you-use service, much like Netflix.

**New teacher evaluation and SMART goals:** Valerie Diggs discussed SMART goals from her perspective as an administrator in Chelmsford. Member SMART goals could be collected via Google form that drops responses directly into a spreadsheet for easy sharing among MSLA members. Samantha Warburton and Kat Johnston of the DESE may be responsive to adding 'look-for's or indicators based on MSLA recommendations. Valerie appointed a committee (Robin Cicchetti, Sandy Kelly, and Carrie Tucker) to consider this.

**Massachusetts Library System's high school to college transition program:** Rochelle Garfinkle reported that MLS is planning an event connecting school and college librarians. 'My high school senior is your college freshman' was a successful program offered several years ago. It is being resurrected on May 31, 2013, at Mount Wachusett Community College and will include keynote and breakout sessions. MSLA can promote the program through the listserv. The program needs school librarian attendees.

**Twitter sessions:** Amy Short and Carrie Tucker propose hosting random Twitter Mondays. They will ask members for topic ideas and also ask Alida Hanson to serve as guest moderator.

**MLA conference panelist:** Sharon Colvin of the Massachusetts Library Association is planning a session on the value of professional memberships. Sandy Kelly or Kathy Lowe may serve on the panel. MLA also wants a session for public librarians on the Common Core.

**'Why I need my library.'** Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has a page inviting people to post 'why i need my library'. School libraries could be well represented here. It's best if these testimonials come from Friends, students, parents, other people instead of librarians. Kathy Lowe will post this on the Friends listserv to promote participation.

**Next Board meeting is January 16, 2013:** No meeting is planned for December.