

**MSLA Executive Board  
Concord-Carlisle High school  
April 11, 2009**

MSLA Executive Board Meeting was called to order by Sandy Kelly at 4:05. Judi Paradis graciously recorded the minutes for Carol Klatt who was unable to attend. Members present were: Leigh Barnes, Robin Cicchetti, Valerie Diggs, Patsy Divver, Pat Fontes, Gerri Fegan, Sandy Kelly, Diane Libby, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Chris Steinhauser, and Carrie Tucker.

**Minutes of March 18, 2009** meeting were unanimously accepted with corrections

- Corrections to minutes:
  - Janet “Allison” not “Ellison” in statewide PTA discussion
  - in discussion of AASL nominations, Kathy Lowe and Val Diggs will train before the “July Ala annual conference”

**Conference 2009 update:** Sandy updated the group on speakers and programs for the fall conference. Susan Ballard will present implementing AASL standards. Beth Galloway will be presenting uses of board games in libraries. Authors Mitali Perkins and Greg Maguire will speak Sunday night and we will honor Mitchell Chester, Massachusetts Commissioner of Education and Janet Allison of NEASC. There will be an author strand this year with several children’s authors and the Center for the Book. It will be a Green Conference—no binders, no bags!

**Legislative Day** went well Sandy reported. Judi said we made good connections with new legislators on the Education committee and followed up with them by sending informational packets. Judi and Pat got good support and feedback from MLA members. Our hope for next year is that we have one briefing AFTER the bookmark awards. We would also like to move the bookmark award presentation into the Great Hall and briefing out to the Grand Staircase. We agreed that having students appear as part of the event is a very good thing. Kathy suggested that Val’s students appear at the BESE meeting in Chelmsford.

**Bookmark Contest:** Gerri reported there were 453 entries this year which is more than 150 entries over past years. Fifty-six communities sent entries. The enlarged bookmarks were great. Sen. Susan Tucker and other legislators spoke highly about school libraries at the presentation. Bookmarks are going to be traveling to various sites this year as an advocacy initiative. We have received good feedback from parents, students, teachers, and legislators.

**Photo Slide Show:** Sandy suggested an idea of creating a slide presentation to show at MassCUE and other venues. Judi explained that Jackie Rafferty from the MLA Legislative Committee sent word that the NJ Library Association has members spend one day photographing “a day in the life” of a library. We thought this might be an idea we’d want to emulate with MSLA libraries. Sandy and Christine Steinhauser offered to get this going, and will ask MSLA members to send good resolution photos with narrative in jpeg. There was some discussion about the best format for collecting photos. They will try to keep this to first 2 weeks after April vacation.

**MassCUE:** MassCue and M.A.S.S. will be hosting a joint conference this year on October 28 and 29. Sandy reported that this will be at Gillette Stadium and suggested we think about how to have a strong presence at this event. The deadline for submission is May 1 and the focus this year is 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Sandy asked people to think about proposing workshops. She will contact Anna Maria Schrimph at MassCUE directly about presenting. We also thought that it would make sense to put something on our listserv asking for submissions.

**Standards:** Val Diggs reported that edit have been completed and the standards are done! However, the Massachusetts ELA frameworks have been left out as they are going to change next year. Kathy will get them to Bill Meade for layout.

**Lapsed Members:** Kathy mentioned that there are 161 people who haven't renewed their membership this year and there are usually at least 150 each year. Kathy asked us to brainstorm reasons people don't renew and wants to send out a survey asking them why. We came up with these reasons to put on survey:

- No longer employed at this school
- System no longer pays; lack of professional funds
- Forgot; haven't gotten to it
- Joined another organization
- Don't see value of joining
- Retired or left field
- Other (with write in)

**Election results for 09-11 MSLA Board:**

Treasurer: Linda Friel

Secretary: Judi Paradis

Area Directors:

Boston: Rose DiNucci,\* Jennifer Varney\*

Central: Cecily Houston, Linda Kimball\*

Metrowest: Linda Coviello\*, Char Sidell

Northeast: Christine Steinhauser , Katie Cerasale-Messina\*

Southeast: Lynn Weeks, Heather MacPherson

West: Leigh Barnes, Vicky Biancolo

\*new to board

**Awards:** Carrie Tucker discussed revising the Ellen Berne Award. The current thrust of the award is for excellent use of the internet. The awards committee is proposing 3 changes:

- Take the focus of the award off the internet specifically, but recognize a creative use of any new technology
- Nominees can be made by the school librarian, another school librarian, supervisors, administrators, or classroom teachers
- Award is selected not by Awards Committee, but by a committee appointed by the Awards committee and can include school administrators, classroom teachers, library teachers, or supervisors

Sandy also noted that we should change the award language so that the money goes to the school library of the winner. Carrie will post something in writing for the board to review this month. We hope to vote on changes in May.

**Eric Carle Museum:** Leigh Barnes said the museum had an annual day for librarians. She helped organize it this year and had a contest offering a free membership in MSLA. Roxanne Starkin from Marlborough won.

**The Forum:** Patsy said that just recently lots of articles have come through and she will work with Jan over April vacation to put out the next issue. She suggested we think about 3 issues instead of 4. She recommended September, Spring, and Summer issues. She said that there is often a dearth of articles at the end of autumn into early winter when members are especially busy. Patsy also thought it might be good to coordinate Forum issues more closely with the MSLA website where lots of things are posted in a timely fashion. Sandy suggested having a separate meeting over April vacation to discuss this. Ann Perham said she's taken screenshots of past issues (from 2001 on) to add to the webpage.

**BESE Meeting at Chelmsford High School:** The BESE is going to spend the day on April 29 (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) at CHS. The meeting will run from 9:00 am to noon or 1:00 pm. They will begin the day with a tour of CHS. Val will have an opportunity to speak as part of the presentation Chelmsford Public Schools will have. Val will also give a tour of the school. We discussed who would speak during the public presentation portion of the meeting. Kathy thought someone should speak on the stimulus funds and school library programs since these funds can be used to retain staff. Val is going to ask for a student to speak. Sandy will see if she can get Dan Fleming to speak. Val will also see if she can get Senator Fargo to come. Sandy's superintendent from Carlisle (Marie Doyle) will also be asked. Judi gave Val advocacy packets to bring with her to this event. Kathy asked Gerri to contact statewide PTA to get a parent to speak.

**MTA Annual Meeting:** Ann Collins and Heather MacPherson will attend the MTA Annual meeting. They are going to promote a resolution supporting school library programs.

**Policy Language Change:** Bob Roth will have proposed updated policy changes by May to more clearly reflect the new executive director's job description.

**EBSCO Literary Reference Center:** Nothing is happening at this time. Sandy has had minimal contacts with Ann Murdock, who is the EBSCO representative. Ann and Val said there is a competitive product from Gale. Ann asked to have Ann Murdock's contact information to follow up on this.

#### **Announcements:**

**Val Diggs** is going to be invited to speak at the School Library Journal Summit! The Chelmsford High School Learning Commons is also featured in *Teacher Librarian's* April 2009 issue.

**Next meetings:** The meeting in May is changed to May 13 at Concord Carlisle High School. The June meeting is planned for Wednesday, June 17.

**Patsy Divver** is going to present at the ACCEPT educational collaborative to talk about how librarians influence 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. She is also going to the MTA conference.

**March NESLA Conference:** Gerri said it was terrific. Kathy and Sue Ballard presented an outstanding workshop on implementing standards.

The next meeting of the **MSLA Executive Board will be held at Concord Carlisle High School on Wednesday, May 13.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Carol Klatt*  
*MSLA Secretary*