

MSLA Board Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2013 at Chelmsford High School

Submitted by Carrie Tucker, Secretary

Attending: Amy Bloom, Kendall Boninti, Ellen Brandt, Robin Cicchetti, Kim Cochrane, Valerie Diggs, Cindy Erle, Julie Farrell, Linda Friel, Laura Gardner, Rochelle Garfinkel, Sharon Hamer, Alida Hanson, Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Leslie Lomasson, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Amy Short, Chris Steinhauser, Carrie Tucker

Meeting called to order at 4:00.

Consent agenda

Uniformly approved.

MSLA fall seminar

Valerie Diggs reported that the MSLA fall program would take place on Saturday, September 21, at Concord-Carlisle High School. Chris Harris will present on ebooks and libraries, followed by a panel yet to be determined. Pricing discussion followed. MSLA wants to keep it under \$100; \$95 was suggested. A representative of the Massachusetts Library System could present on the statewide ebook program. Kathy Lowe suggested we pull together a panel of people within MSLA who already have ebook programs. Valerie suggested forming a small committee to confirm the program. Virtual participation via webinar was discussed. Ann Perham suggested that free remote participation wasn't a good business decision, as it would cut into paid participation. Last year, in fact, paying attendees expressed concern that they weren't offered the free option, which was established after enrollment reached capacity. Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Robin Cicchetti, and Ellen Brant volunteered to form a committee to finalize the program. Paul McInnis from Sebco and Hugh Ahearn from Mackin could be approached for sponsorship. Ann Perham will supply a list of vendors to the committee

Lapsed member survey

Kathy Lowe reported that 61 (out of 201) lapsed members responded to our survey about discontinued membership. About a dozen people renewed as a result of the survey. Reasons for nonrenewal included: 1. no longer working as librarians. 2. district no longer pays 3. dues no longer rolled in to conference fees 4. forgot, and 5. retired. Kathy brought to the board's attention one response from a paraprofessional, which raised the question of whether we as an organization value the contributions of paraprofessionals or do we push them to get the license. The concern is paraprofessionals used in place of professional librarians. Julie Farrell pointed to the MTA resolution supporting school libraries (B27 and D5). Kathy Lowe wants to see paraprofessionals welcomed and encouraged. Judi Paradis wants the board to explore the paraprofessional issue moving forward.

MSLA conference

Board discussed conference survey results. Some respondents indicated conference content seems repetitive. Discussion ensued on the following questions: Should we give members a link to survey results? Are the results too long and would a summary be more helpful? It was generally agreed that transparency with membership is mutually beneficial. At the last meeting we discussed president and executive director sending email to members about what MSLA does. We could start with these survey results. Valerie Diggs and Kathy Lowe favored the idea. Kathy Lowe talked about contacting Reg Online about having conference registration and dues wrapped back together in one form.

Treasurer's report

Linda Friel reviewed the budget in detail. The board will finalize the 2013-2014 budget at its June meeting.

Board positions 2013-2014

Judi Paradis proposed a new position--advocacy chair--to be filled by Amy Bloom, who will resign her current position as MSLA Metrowest area director. A new area director will be appointed at a future meeting. Judi also proposed separating webmaster and Forum editor into two positions to be filled by Ann Perham and Alida Hanson, respectively. Also, Kendall Boninti was proposed as Legislative cochair (to serve with Julie Farrell). Uniformly approved.

Grant proposal--research on school libraries

Valerie Diggs explained that Simmons College GSLIS doctoral candidate Deborah Froggatt is studying the degree to which the lack of school libraries impacts students. Ms. Froggatt presented her research proposal at the April MSLA board meeting and sent a thank-you letter, which appears on the board member's page. Ms. Froggatt requested a research grant of \$2460. Deborah's dissertation will compare the test results of students from urban schools *with* librarians to that of urban schools *without* librarians. In addition Ms. Froggatt will work with Amy Short to survey ninth grade students who never had librarians. Simmons College institutional review board has approved the project, and Deborah's next step is to communicate the concept of informationally underserved. Uniformly approved.

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners executive director interviews

Amy Short attended interviews with MBLC executive director candidates as MSLA's school library representative. Our question was: "School library programs are not directly under the governance of MBLC, and there is no one within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education overseeing school library programs, and there are no state standards for school library programs. How would you remedy this?"

DESE SMART goal workshop

Valerie Diggs, Robin Cicchetti, Carrie Tucker, and Sandy Kelly will attend a SMART goal workshop in at Malden High School on May 22, hosted by the Mass Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The purpose of the workshop is to write exemplar smart goals for specialized teaching areas (guidance counselors, librarians, nurses, reading teachers, administrators, etc) for inclusion on the DESE website. Valerie will report back to the membership after the workshop.

AASL commendations and concerns

AASL Affiliate Assembly is gathering the following information: 1. concerns from school librarians about the school library profession, and 2. programs and organizations we would like to commend as an organization. Michelle Luhtala from Connecticut is serving as the chair of our Region 1 group. Valerie Diggs asks board members to contribute ideas for discussion.

MSLA leadership web page

Ann Perham encouraged new board members to send her a short biography and a photo for inclusion in the web page for 2013-2014 MSLA leadership. Ann also encouraged continuing board members to review their information and send along any revisions and updates.

Changing of the guard

Valerie Diggs passed the president's gavel to Judi Paradis and also presented gifts to board members in appreciation of their service. Judi gave Valerie a gift in appreciation for her contributions to MSLA as president.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13.