

MSLA Executive Board Minutes
Wednesday, September 17, 2008
Concord-Carlisle High School

The first meeting of the 2008-09 MSLA Executive Board was called to order at 4:20 pm. Members present were: Leigh Barnes, Vicky Biancolo, Robin Cicchetti, Patsy Divver, Kathy Dubrovsky, Gerri Fegan, Pat Fontes, Linda Friel, Cecily Houston, Anna Jin Jorgensen, Sandy Kelly, Carol Klatt, Laura Larsson, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Linda Picceri, Bob Roth, Jessica Shurlow, Charlotte Sidell, Jeannette Sisco, Caroline Tucker, and Lynn Weeks.

Kathy distributed a newly-created AASL "Intellectual Freedom" brochure to the group.

Consent Agenda - VOTE

A motion was made and approved to accept the consent agenda items: June Minutes, Treasurer's Report, and Executive Director's Report.

Sandy reported that a recent highlight was attending the press conference for Governor Patrick's Readiness Project Report. She stated that a group has been assigned the task, due in November, of coming up with a detailed definition of what it would cost to provide a child a good education in Massachusetts. We are anticipating that this will result in reopening Chapter 70. This could be a great opportunity for school libraries to make inroads into legislation governing schools.

Kathy, Sandy and Gerri met with the newly appointed Commissioner of Education, Mitchell Chester. They made the following observations:

- very interested in the information they provided
- asked astute questions
- particularly interested in technology
- invited him to attend the Sunday dinner or Keynote at our conference
- asked him to be an educational leader and to keep us in mind when committees are being formed

They told him that the condition of school libraries in Massachusetts is not good and that we need to make a plan to improve them in this state. They asked him if he will survey school administrators to evaluate their school library programs believing it will be more valid if it comes from the DOE rather than our organization. In addition, it was noted that every city and town may have "Readiness Project" volunteers. This could be a good way to promote libraries at the local and state level. If you want to be a part of one of these committees, you can sign up online at <http://devalpatrick.com/rvol.php>. Many felt that this might be a good way to use our "Friends of the Library" members.

New Business

Draft Standards Update - Diggs

Valerie wants to have the draft of the updated standards approved by the membership so we can get them published for the conference.

Legislation - Paradis/Fontes

There was a discussion about our position on Question 1, repealing the Income Tax. The MSLA members voted to act against this question on the ballot. If anyone is interested in working towards this goal, they can find information about it and how to proceed from the MTA at <http://massteacher.org/campaign/>.

The Legislation Committee stated that our lobbyists don't want to push our old bill any more and it is time to take a new approach. We need to capitalize on our influence in supporting 21st Century Skills and the global economy. We should make a brochure to show what our focus is and our impact on these goals. We should continue to work with MLS and MBLC. It was noted that many people feel positively towards spending money on libraries. We have been and need to continue sending someone to the BESE (Board of Elementary and Secondary Education) meetings to speak positively in favor of school libraries and their important role in education. Some ideas for new speakers are college admissions or writing teachers, parents, and administrators.

A sub-committee consisting of Judi Paradis, Pat Fontes, Sandy Kelly and Laura Larsson will meet to define a clear strategy for the parent support group. Judi will send out some meeting dates. Kathy Lowe will contact the Spokane, Washington Library Association to see how they worked with their very successful parent group. We specifically need to know how to set-up the leadership and how to grow the organization once it starts.

One Minute Updates

- SLJ Summit - Gerri Fegan, Ann Perham, and Sandy Kelly will be attending.
- Bookmark contest - 1st meeting is Friday, Sept. 25 at McDonald's opposite NE Mobile. There are 6 new members and the theme and form should come out shortly.
- Linda Friel - MSLA liaison to the ex-Digital Commonwealth Committee which existed for 3 years reported they are trying to digitize and make a portal to provide internet access to their digitized materials. She will email the website.
- Jeanette Sisco - told us about the new Jeremiah Burke HS library that is a branch of the Boston Public Library but is housed in the school building. She is still waiting to hear details on how it is going to operate.
- Potential Meeting dates and changes are:
 - 10/15 at CCHS
 - 11/18 at CCHS (Tuesday, not Wednesday)
 - 1/20 at Chelmsford High School Library (Tuesday, not Wednesday)
 - 2/24 virtual meeting
 - 3/18 at CCHS

- 5/6 at CCHS

Kathy Lowe showed the group how to access and view the MSLA Board website pages and documents.

The Executive Board split into committees to discuss their action plans for the coming year. There was some discussion about expanding the current Action Plan template to include a column for summarizing accomplishments to streamline annual reporting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Klatt