

MSLA Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2009
Chelmsford High School

The MSLA Executive Board meeting was called to order at 4:09 pm. Members present were: Leigh Barnes, Vicky Biancolo, Valerie Diggs, Gerri Fegan, Pat Fontes, Linda Friel, Sandy Kelly, Carol Klatt, Laura Larsson, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Linda Picceri, Christine Steinhauser, Lynn Weeks, and Mary Ann Rogers. Rob Maier and Paul Kissman from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) were also present.

There was no quorum reached for the meeting so voting on the Consent Agenda and Conference Refunds Policy were delayed until the February Executive Board meeting.

New Business

Rob Maier and Paul Kissman- MBLC, IP geolocation for regional databases

Rob Maier and Paul Kissman presented an overview of the changes that are going to take place with the databases provided by the MBLC available at www.mass.gov/libraries. They are planning on continuing their contracts with Gale databases and Proquest but are not expecting to renew their contract with EBSCO. In order to make these subscription databases and the virtual catalog more accessible to Massachusetts residents the MBLC is planning to provide an updated portal that doesn't require a library card. Geolocation technology will be used to detect qualifying IP addresses from Massachusetts. This new portal will change the way school libraries access the databases. They are suggested that school library web pages be updated to directly access the new portal. It was suggested that the MBLC provide training workshops and presentation at our annual conference to inform school library teachers about the upcoming changes.

Update on EBSCO Literary Databases - Kelly

It is anticipated that the MBLC will no longer subscribe to the EBSCO databases. Ann Perham will contact EBSCO for cost information and will look into alternative ways to access their databases.

Executive Director's salary

The group discussed raising the salary of the MSLA Executive Director and decided that we need to set policy for salary and evaluations for the Executive Director. Ann Perham initially proposed that we increase the salary to \$12,000 per year. It was also suggested that an hourly wage might be more appropriate, such as, \$15/hour with a "not to exceed" amount of \$15,000 per year. Ann Perham, Sandy Kelly, and Gerri Fegan will update the job description and write a compensation policy to present to the board at the next meeting.

MSLA Awards discussion - possibility of new awards/revision of existing - Perham, Tucker

Carrie Tucker was not present at the meeting but Ann Perham stated that we need to start promoting our own. It was suggested that we look at the awards other organizations are giving out, especially MassCue.

Program Rubrics revision- committee volunteers

Sandy Kelly stated that our rubric used to assess our school library programs needs to be updated to reflect the P21 standards and improve the grammar. Leigh Barnes, Linda Friel, and Linda Picceri volunteered to work on the project. Sandy Kelly will contact Donna Guerin, Connie Champlin and any volunteers who signed up at the conference with an interest in standards to see if they will work on them as well.

One Minute Updates

NESLA (formerly NEEMA) update - Perham

Ann Perham reported that all members of the Executive Board should consider joining NESLA. You can check your membership status online at <http://www.neema.org/>. Currently, there are no details on the leadership conference that will be coming soon.

Digital Commonwealth - Friel

Linda Friel reported that the group received money from the Wilson Company which will be available for grants. They recently moved their server to UMass but the search capability is inoperable at the moment. They will be having a conference March 31, 2009. She thinks MSLA should join the basic service for \$50. Linda will post a report and we can discuss this at the next meeting. Information about the organization can be found at <http://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/>.

Advocacy - Paradis/Fontes

Sandy Kelly reported that she heard from Chris Gregory our old lobbyist urging us to re-file our bill. Judi spoke with him as well, letting him know that MSLA had decided to take some time off from promoting legislation, basically allowing the relationship to dissolve. Other news heard was the Pat Haddad may be leaving the Education Committee. Judi noted that some young, enthusiastic representatives newly elected seem to be supporting school libraries. She suggested that in the future, if we can get these representatives to support our cause, we could get their names on the bills before we submit which might help get them passed. We may have been limiting our support by only using Frank Smyzik to represent us. At the moment, we are waiting for Governor Patrick's Readiness Plan to be released in hopes that school libraries will be considered an integral component to an adequate education in Massachusetts. Judi believes we should keep pressure on the Board of Education by continuing to give testimony at their meetings. We should also ask the legislators what they think we should put in a bill to get it passed. We should also pay attention to what is happening at the national level especially with a new Secretary of Education.

MSLA-MLA Book Awards- Mary Ann Rogers

The committee met at the John Glenn Middle School in Bedford in December 15. There was a small turnout but the group talked about having both school and public libraries involved. They discussed what the award would entail and the bylaws for the committee. They are discussing if they should award 1 or 3 awards, best MS book, best HS book, and best all teen book. They will be holding a virtual meeting in January on the last Monday of the month and will be having face-to-face meetings in February and March at CMRLS headquarters. Some areas they are discussing include publication dates of books for the awards,

MSLA Forum

The current issue of the forum is available online.

Standards revision

Sandy asked the group if we still wanted to have the standards document professionally edited. It was suggested that we ask Ann Croak if she is interested in the job or could recommend anyone. It was also suggested that Bill Meade could help with the layout if we needed him. Pat Fontes will send the model documents developed at her district to Valerie Diggs, Sandy Kelly, and Gerri Fegan.

Valerie announced that the ELA Standards draft should be on the Board of Education board only page and it will be open for public comment until October 2009. The first MCAS questions from this document will appear in the spring of 2011 MCAS so it gives a chance for schools to realign to the new standards. She also stated that in the future we may have less testing since it is so expensive. In addition, there will be less writing because it is too costly to score. The standards will soon be available online at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/boe/docs/>

Legislative Breakfasts

Pat Fontes has a list upcoming Legislative Breakfasts and will mail the list to Ann Perham for posting on our site. She thinks we should use Sandy's President's message in the current issue of the MSLA Forum to use for discussion. Judi Paradis suggested that if we can't attend a breakfast, we could photocopy handouts and leave them on the chairs before the event. Sandy will get electronic copy of Forum President's message for Pat to use as handout. It was suggested that we need to ask to be put on the program ahead of time.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 6:24

Respectfully submitted,
Carol S. Klatt