

## **MSLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes January 19, 2011 @ Chelmsford High School**

### **Attending:**

Leigh Barnes, Linda Coviello, Valerie Diggs, Julie Farrell, Gerri Fegan, Linda Friel, Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Margaret Phoenix, Kathleen Porter, Greg Pronevitz, Christine Steinhauer, Jennifer Varney, Lynn Weeks

### **Consent Agenda:**

Julie Farrell moved to accept and Linda Coviello seconded with one correction to the Education Director's report (change 2011 conference to 2010 in 4<sup>th</sup> bullet); unanimously accepted.

### **One Minute Updates:**

#### **Southeast Area:**

Kathleen Porter reports they are doing a NEASC visit at Swansea high school on the day of next board meeting. Lynn Weeks will cover the meeting.

#### **MRA:**

Sandy Kelly reported that their next board meeting is in March. They are working on the Early Education for All Campaign and there will be two opportunities for those interested to sign up. Sandy will forward hot links to sign up to the list. MRA is thinking of having their 2013 conference on the Cape (Hyannis). Author and Appetizers session at 2011 conference includes Patricia McLaughlin. Irene Fountas is also on conference schedule. MRA has a Ning – one thing they do is highlight best practices. MRA gives buttons at conference to people who sign up for the Ning.

#### **MLS:**

Greg reported that MassCat is switching to a new provider for Koha. They are hoping to negotiate a new contract for library delivery service. They are also circulating a survey to determine how people feel about databases. A committee is being formed to do service planning. Next year MLS will work on their strategic plan, branding exercise, and a marketing effort to make sure they are reaching all types of libraries in Massachusetts. MLS is also looking at ebooks with an emphasis on technical issues. Sandy mentioned an ebook vendor who presented at an EDCO meeting. She will share his contact info with Greg. When asked about databases for next year, Greg said all current MBLC (statewide) subscriptions will be continued.

MLS is hosting a website for Library Snapshot Day.

July 1, 2012 will be the beginning of new statewide procurement combining MBLC and MLS funds together into one procurement. Regional content is big question mark that they are checking into.

#### **Forum:**

Ann reported that one issue of Forum has been posted, but she is not sure about readership. She received one "thank you" but no other feedback. She asked if we should provide some sort of feedback capability. The Board indicated that this could be a good feature to add and might increase readership.

Ann raised concerns about the time frame of the printed Forum Plus in light of our new conference schedule. It might make more sense to have Forum Plus go out just before our conference instead of the current schedule that releases it in the early autumn. There was positive response to continuing with an annual print issue.

Ann also talked about some of the new features she is trying to promote, and she asked for board members to contribute articles about what is going on in their areas. The target for the next issue is end of February.

#### **Mass PTA:**

Gerri talked to their President and found out that their liaison cannot attend our meetings, so they are looking for another liaison.

#### **Policy Manual:**

Kathy included changes voted on at the December meeting and these are posted on the board-only page of the website.

#### **AASL Institute:**

AASL let us know after our deadline that they could offer a speaker, but we heard after we had committed to the Anti-Bullying Summit. Kathy Lowe explained that the timing for the institute this winter was not going to work for us, but we might consider something in the late summer or next fall if it is still being offered.

## **Anti-Bullying Summit:**

*Presenters:* Assistant Attorney General Nora Mann and Commissioner of Education Mitchell Chester have signed on to speak. There are also a number of organizations that will present (MRA, Mass CUE, Mass Guidance Counselors, MSLA).

*Online payment for summit and other events/purposes:* Kathy explained that registering for events or paying dues online costs us a surprising amount of money (approximately \$4000 per year for online registrations for membership and conference). Kathy looked into other other options, but has not found anything much better. This led to a decision to pass along these fees. This will be an ongoing issue and we can offer a link to a paper form that will not require these fees. We decided we would offer a paper option for the summit. The conference committee will also need to think about how to handle this for conference registration.

*MSLA Role at the Event:* Gerri asked for facilitators for group discussions at the anti-bullying summit.

## **Legislation meeting with MTA:**

Julie and Gerri met with Paul Toner at the MTA in December and we will be working to add an MTA liaison to MSLA. Nora Todd is an attorney who will be our contact at MTA. One of the first moves is to have contracts written to reflect that library positions are teaching positions. We should also be able to have longevity and dual certifications protected by the MTA.

MTA recommended that MSLA establish a unified job description that we present to Nora Todd at their Educational Development Center. She will review our job description and see if it can be applied to all districts and approved by their board. Julie is setting up a Google doc and is looking for assistance in beginning to create this job description.

## **NESLA subsidy of AASL Online Guide:**

NESLA can set up a way for us to offer a discounted AASL guide for our members. They would set up a link, we can pass it on to our members, who could then call Pat Salazar at NESLA to get the discount.

## **Legislative Breakfasts:**

Natick Middle School is the only school library that is hosting a legislative breakfast. Our hope is that Metrowest school librarians will attend this breakfast in particular to show our support for librarian Amy Bloom's initiative. In addition, we are hoping that all school librarians in other regions will attend their local legislative breakfasts. Judi will revise a handout that she will show the board to use for the breakfasts. We need to determine how we will get this handout to various breakfasts. Judi can do this for Metrowest. We are going to continue to ask for the BESE to appoint someone to be put in charge of school library programs and to work with DESE to create a long-term plan for school library programs. Judi will check with Celeste Bruno to find out if we can contribute a handout to the packet being distributed. Judi will also contact Linda Coviello about providing funds for this. Kathleen recommended Margaret Phoenix as a source for library stories using our award winners.

## **Marketing Campaign:**

Gerri recommended we table this discussion until February. Based on what we were hearing at the Advocacy Institute sponsored at ALA Midwinter, it would be a good idea to develop a strong, coherent statewide message/brand. We need to discover our audience, create a slogan, brand.

## **Organizational Credit Card:**

Right now credit card is in Sandy Kelly's name dating to when she was president. Kathy thought it might make more sense to have the card in the name of the Executive Director as she uses it most often to make purchases. Julie moved to allow the Executive Director to apply for a credit card on behalf of MSLA. Kathleen Porter seconded. Unanimously approved.

## **Working Group for Educator Excellence:**

Sandy explained that we've been asked to join this group, which is piloting an approach to teacher quality. They have a large Race to the Top grant to work on this in Brockton, Revere, and Attleboro. Sandy suggested this may be an opportunity for us to be part of this work and ensure school librarians are part of this. There are many impressive individuals and groups participating in this initiative. Sandy said she does not see any downside to participating in this.

Kathleen moved that MSLA accept the invitation to become a member of the Working Group for Educator Excellence and Christine seconded. Unanimously approved.

Margaret Phoenix moved to adjourn at 6:16 and Kathleen seconded.