

MSLA Executive Committee Minutes
Chelmsford High School
January 11, 2012

Attending: Hugh Ahearn, Amy Bloom, Nancy Boutet, Kim Cochrane, Michael Deschenes, Valerie Diggs, Cindy Erle, Julie Farrell, Gerri Fegan, Linda Friel, Rochelle Garfinkle, Susanna Hall, Sharon Hamer, Laura Hibler, Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Kathleen Porter, Amy Short

New Member: Michel Deschenes is now replacing Liz Vezina from St. Sebastian Academy as our liaison to independent schools.

Consent Agenda: Ann Perham moved to accept consent agenda, Amy Bloom seconded: Unanimously accepted

Reports and Updates:

Membership: Ann Perham asked about a significant drop in membership reported in the Executive Director's report. Kathy Lowe explained that all memberships expired on November 1 and MSLA provided a 2 month grace period for members to take advantage of the early-bird registration for our spring conference. These members (over 300) were removed from our Listserv on Tuesday, January 2 and more than 40 have already renewed. Kathy explained that at least half of these members are expected to renew as the conference approaches. Kathy wondered if we should send a post card to those people who have not yet renewed between now and conference. Gerri Fegan moved that Kathy be authorized to send out postcards after the first week in February to request lapsed members renew their membership. Kathleen Porter seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Conference: Kathy reported that there are 310 registered to attend —many more than at this time in past conference cycle. She expects we will have between 400 and 500 attendees. The Board commended Sandy Kelly for bringing so many authors to the conference. Conference Committee will meet at Chelmsford High School on January 30.

Budget: Linda Friel reported that costs for the Fall AASL conference were over budget. She expects us to be under budget for Midwinter and expects this will balance out. Kathy said the increase for the AASL conference was higher due to ground transportation and luggage costs.

Legislative Committee: Julie Farrell corresponded with Scott Kjelberg from Kate Hogan's office and has not heard from him. Judi Paradis found out that Sean Garballey intended to file our legislation creating a library commission. Judi and Julie will be in touch to find out who on library caucus is supporting this. In addition, we should think about creating talking points for legislative breakfasts and Legislation Day on April 30.

MSLA Forum: Ann expects the next *MSLA Forum* to come out online soon. Ann said there is a good variety of articles in the upcoming issue. Ann is looking for more presence from the board to report out some big picture information for our membership. Ann would also like suggestions for how we get people to read *The Forum*. Sharon Hamer suggested we post things about articles we are reading. Sharing articles on Facebook is a good way to get some of our articles spread beyond our membership. Amy also offered to tweet for MSLA. She will set up an account and will let us know so we can contribute. Kathy warned that many people are not even reading their email anymore and firewalls at school limit things fairly radically.

ACRL: Laura Hibler and Valerie Diggs have been working on an official MSLA-ACRL joint statement. Laura got in touch with her counterpart from last year and there is a draft statement that she will review with Valerie to propose for approval.

Awards: Carrie Tucker and Eleanor Rogers reported they found the new numbers of awards and the new timing of awards challenging, but report that they are on schedule and have notified those people who received awards. A congratulatory email will be sent out to those receiving awards this week. Awards for 2011-12 include:

[Administrator Advocate Award](#) :

Richard Langlois, Superintendent of Schools, Saugus Public Schools—nominated by Sharon Hamer

Michael Wood, Superintendent of Schools, Nashoba Regional School District,
nominated by Patricia Fontes and Kara Wilson

[School Library Advocate Award](#) : Department Head, **Simon Leutz** and the **Social Studies Department**--- Amherst Regional High School,—nominated by Leslie Lomasson

[PALS Award: Parents as Library Supporters Award](#) : **Hurley Parents**, Hurley K-8 School, Boston—nominated by Jen Varney

[Audrey Friend Scholarship](#): **Elizabeth Gartley**, student, Simmons College

[MSLA Lifetime Achievement Award](#) :

Nancy Jones, Boston Public Schools

Dan Fleming, Simmons College

[MSLA Award \(Massachusetts Super-Librarian Accolade\)](#)

Joanne Freeley, Randolph High School

Elaine Pietras, Suzanne Harde, Westford Academy

Vicky Biancolo, Miss Hall's School

Patti Karam, Horace Mann Library Teacher, Newton

Jennifer Varney, Hurley School K-8, Boston

[LMC President's Award](#) *Sponsored by Linworth*

Joanne Tesilewski, Canton High School, Canton, MA

Kara Staunton-Shron, Monument Mountain Regional High School, Great Barrington

Susanna Hall, Fenway High School, Boston, MA

[MSLA Service Award](#): **Sandy Kelly**, Carlisle School Library, Carlisle, MA

[Ellen Berne Pathfinder Award](#) for innovation in school libraries:

Jennifer Thomas, Bishop Stang High School, Dartmouth, MA

[Web Seal of Excellence Award](#):

Wayland High School, Erin Dalbec: [Wayland High School Library Wikispaces](#)

Pentucket Regional High School, Rachael Costello: [Pentucket Regional High School Library](#)

High Plain Elementary School, Andover, Gerri Fegan: [High Plain Elementary School Library](#)

Dr. Kevin M. Hurley Middle School, Seekonk, Jennifer St Michel: [Dr. Kevin M. Hurley Middle School Library](#)

Lynnfield High School, Janice Alpert: [Lynnfield High School Library](#)

Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School, Leslie Kmiec and Paula Myer: [Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School Library](#)

Snapshot Day Update: Library Snapshot Day is April 12 and there is typically a barrage of email before the event. Amy Bloom reported that the committee is meeting next week. Maureen Tanetta is ill, but we expect to hear more details from her next month.

Area Director Job Description: Valerie thanked Area Directors for the excellent work they do making our presence felt throughout the state. Kathleen Porter presented the job description, and said it was designed to correspond to the long-term plan adopted by the Board last spring. Carrie asked that they change the wording of the 4th bullet under definitions to “solicit nominations from area MSLA members for recognition through the association’s awards process.” Gerri also asked that we add “attends board

meetings,” to the final bullet point under definition. Carrie moved that we accept the Area Director Job Description presented by Kathleen with the changes proposed, seconded by Cindy Erle. Unanimously approved.

Nominations for next year: Valerie said we need to nominate a president-elect. This person will serve as incoming president in June and will then serve as president for the following 2 academic years. Christine Steinhauser, Amy Short, Ann, Linda and Gerri will serve as the nominating committee.

Professional Development through MLS: Valerie reported that Susan Babb at MLS would like to work with Area Directors to plan professional development for school libraries. Kathleen suggested we give our AD email to Susan so she can get in touch with the area directors for planning.

Valerie also reported that the MLS website has a link to their strategic planning survey and update. Valerie will put a request on the MSLA Listserv asking members to participate in this process.

AASL Petition: Carl Harvey at AASL posted a petition on the White House website requesting support and recognition by including school library programs in the reauthorization of the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) expected this year. We discussed how we could increase the circulation of this petition and encourage members to ask those outside the library profession to sign this.

Updating Standards and Rubrics: Valerie said that she believes our MSLA 2003 Program Standards and our 2002 School Rubrics are dated. The rubrics in particular are very popular and we get many requests to use these. Valerie said that in order to provide support to our membership, we need to update these documents to reflect changes in technology, AASL standards etc. We discussed whether the updates should be handled by two committees or if one committee could take all this on. Amy Short is eager to work on this as she finds these documents very helpful in dealing with administrators in Boston. We agreed there was some merit in working on these in sequence.

Those Board members interested in participating are Susanna Hall, Kathleen Porter, and Amy Short. Valerie stated that the new AASL *Empowering Learners* initiative would be helpful in this work. We agreed there are some MSLA members not on the Board who might be interested in and helpful in updating these documents. Valerie recommended putting something on the Listserv soliciting members to participate. Carrie suggested we ask an administrator to participate to increase our legitimacy with decision makers. Sharon Hamer volunteered to ask her administrator if he might be willing to help with this project. Christine also thought that asking some parents and teachers to participate may also be useful. Cindy Erle asked that we consider geographic diversity, and Rochelle Garfinkle asked that we include students. Valerie also thought that MSLA members who organize the committee can reach out to the non-library committee to solicit these members. Valerie also reminded us that reaching out to other states for ideas and models can be useful.

MLS/MLA meeting Valerie and Kathy met with Carolyn Noah and Greg Pronevitz at MLS in November to discuss information of mutual interest. One topic was library certification with MLS. High school staffing (1 fulltime librarian) and elementary staffing (1 certified librarian per 5 schools) requirements that districts must adhere to in order to receive MLS services. An MLA legislative meeting is scheduled for January 27 in Worcester and will be followed by an MLS library advocacy meeting with a number of groups such as MBLC, Friends and Trustees groups, MLA, MSLA, etc. Julie Farrell, Kathy Lowe and Valerie Diggs are going to be attending this meeting advocacy meeting.

Rochelle Garfinkle saw that there was a *MSLA/MLS Making the Connection* workshop in Pittsfield in March. Leigh got in touch with MLS to find out what the meeting was about, and found out that the librarian hosting was not an MSLA member. It is not clear how Susan Babb organized this. Valerie will continue to coordinate with Susan Babb to help work through MSLA to plan events for school librarians.

Area Listserv: Area Directors have asked about setting up a Listserv and Kathy said it can be a lot of work. She encouraged the area directors to attempt to use Google Groups instead just to be more manageable. She can easily generate a list of members by region or you can use the membership directory, which is updated monthly. Kathy also reminded us that we can use the MSLA member Listserv and use the subject line to note that a message is for members of a specific region.

WGEE: Sandy Kelly is our representative to the Working Group for Education Excellence, and is now serving on a subcommittee working with districts that have Race to the Top grant money (Brockton, Attleboro, and Revere). Brockton is building a learning commons as part of this initiative. They asked Sandy to help serve as a consultant for this, but Sandy thought we might want to really think carefully about who should do this (perhaps Fran Zilonis at Simmons College, or Valerie Diggs or Robin Cicchetti) with an eye toward helping to create some model programs in these cities that we could showcase. Sandy recommends that we start to identify some people that could serve as “go to” people for consulting about Learning Commons. Valerie agreed that this is a need, as she is often asked to answer questions about her Learning Commons from all over the U.S. Judi also urged that we want to start thinking about setting up a list of exemplary library programs, some consultants that we know can speak to this, etc.

At this point Sandy will tell WEGE that we are interested in providing them with some names and that we will discuss this at greater length. Valerie will be willing to talk to them if they need someone right away.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wed. Feb. 15. Valerie may need to find new date and space and will keep us posted.

Meeting Adjourned: Ann moved to adjourn, Gerri seconded at 6:19