

## **Massachusetts School Library Association**

Meeting Minutes: January 16, 2013

Virtual (due to weather)

**Attending:** Valerie Diggs, Robin Cicchetti, Kim Cochrane, Julie Farrell, Linda Friel, Sharon Hamer, Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Kathleen Porter, Amy Short, Chris Steinhauser, Carrie Tucker, Lynn Weeks

Meeting was called to order at 4:08

**Consent agenda:** Uniformly approved.

**Legislation update:** Julie Farrell and Judi Paradis met with Representative Sean Garballey and his aide David Koffman on January 10 to plan to refile a bill creating a commission to evaluate the status of school libraries in Massachusetts. Composition of the commission was changed to include members from the business, charter school, and academic communities based on recommendations from Representative Alice Peisch, chair of the Education Committee, who met with Julie and Judi last spring. She thought this would help us create a more effective commission with recommendations that would be taken seriously.

**Teacher evaluation update:** The Mass Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has invited MSLA to meet on February 13 to develop rubrics for evaluating school librarians. This meeting is a good opportunity for MSLA to contribute and deepen its connection with DESE. This meeting conflicts with the next MSLA Board meeting. Discussion ensued, and it was decided Sandy, Valerie, Robin, and Carrie will attend the DESE teacher evaluation rubric meeting. The board meeting will take place February 13 as planned, but the location is changed to Sharon's condominium facility in Cambridge, which Sharon confirmed is available. Kathy said that Mass Library System Executive Director Greg Pronovitz was planning to attend the February meeting to discuss ebooks. Kathy Lowe will ask Greg if he can attend in March instead. Also, someone is needed to take notes at the February board meeting.

**Vendors on the listserv:** A member reported that after posting a query to the listserv, a vendor responded privately with product endorsement. Is this appropriate? Should vendors be on the listserv? It was tentatively decided that this was appropriate for vendors to do so as long as they were dues-paying members of MSLA and were approaching members with information to solve a problem. Discussion will continue at a future meeting.

**Conference Committee Update:** Kathy gave an update on registrations. So far there are 226 people registered; the majority are attending both days. Registrations for administrators and the Saturday Speed Dating event are very light so far. There are 58 people registered for Sunday dinner. We have 15 vendors registrations so far. Committee members and board members will promote conference on listserv. Last meeting before the conference is Monday, February 11,

4:30, at the Lt. Job Lane School in Bedford. Board members were asked to sign up to promote conference sessions to members to encourage registration. Board is also encouraged to sign up to introduce speakers at the sessions. Sign ups are by Google Doc. To sign up to promote a session:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/cc?key=0AI8BE6rHbEeydGVmY0VnZ0puaXVDNWxiMEdrOV9wc1E>

To sign up to introduce a speaker:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/cc?key=0AI8BE6rHbEeydGEtQkZMMkZqTGtrZHRfT215M2lvQ0E>

**MassCUE conference:** Valerie reported that Massachusetts Computer Using Educators is offering a two-day event conflicting with the MSLA conference. This is a concern, partly because MSLA recently moved its annual conference time from fall to March to avoid conflict with MassCUE's conference. Kathy and Valerie both spoke with MassCUE Director Shelley Chamberlain, who is now aware the MSLA conference will always be the first weekend in March. She was apologetic and assured this will not happen again.

**NESLA:** New England School Library Association is offering a summer conference at the Eric Carle Museum on digital literacy featuring Debbie Abilock. According to Amy Short, the contact person is Gerri Fegan.

**Election - nominating committee:** Valerie called for nominating committee to prepare slate for the upcoming MSLA election for treasurer, area directors, and secretary. The nominating committee is composed of the president-elect as chair and four additional board members. Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Sandy Kelly, Julie Farrell, and Valerie Diggs volunteered. Some discussion ensued about amending the language to allow for a smaller nominating committee. It was decided to change the language in the Constitution to read that the committee will have "up to 5 members."

**Salem State University's school librarian program:** According to Valerie Diggs, Nancy Anthony, who serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Salem school library program, believes Salem's program might end in the near future. Peter Smith, faculty member in charge, resigned. Salem is the only Massachusetts state college program offering school library certification through its M.Ed. Marylou Brightboard, Assistant Director of the School of Education, brought in a consultant who said the program can be discontinued as so few jobs were open. Valerie invited discussion and comment. Board members noted that Salem is the only affordable option in the state. Also, because the state requires this license then the state university system has some obligation to support the program. Judi wants to see the program continue. Valerie will invite Salem State representatives to attend the MSLA conference and will contact Marylou Brightboard..

**Legislative Breakfast:** Nancy Boutet asked for someone from the board to attend the

Legislative Breakfast to be held either Friday, March 1, or Friday, March 8, in Andover and speak for 3-5 minutes. Sharon Hamer will do it if she can get time off. She wants talking points.

**MSLA Board Independent School Liaison:** Valerie reported that Michael Deschenes, independent school liaison, resigned citing lack of time. Various board members suggested several names including Jennifer Thomas (Bishop Stang), Leslie Schoenherr (Lexington Christian Academy), and Alissa Rosellini (International School of Boston). Board members who made suggestions will contact those people to determine interest. If multiple people are interested, Valerie will make the appointment.

**Peggy Hallisey:** Kathy and Valerie informed the board of the sad news that Peggy Hallisey suffers from leukemia. Peggy had made significant contributions to both MSLA and the New England School Library Association. Kathy sent her flowers on behalf of MSLA.

**Digital Commonwealth workshop:** Kim Cochrane reported that on June 24 a workshop in primary documents will be offered. Participation is by team, and teachers and librarians are encouraged to form teams and attend.

**MSLA Constitution--changes to language:** Kathy Lowe brought forward several proposed changes to the MSLA Constitution. Each change reflected 1. the change in conference month, 2. the composition of the board (and the inclusion of the president-elect position), and 3. the advent of electronic voting. Proposed changes were reviewed, discussed, and voted on by section. All uniformly approved. The constitution marked with changes can be found on the board web page

[http://maschoollibraries.org/dmdocuments/0113Constitution\\_2012%20amendments.pdf](http://maschoollibraries.org/dmdocuments/0113Constitution_2012%20amendments.pdf) .

**Britannica:** Kathy Lowe reports that Britannica wants to offer a member discount. MSLA will not endorse, but will pass along information about the discount. Kathy says we don't want to cobrand, but stay neutral instead. Kathy says we can share information without endorsing it. Linda Friel and Ann Perham asked if we need to solicit offers from other vendors or extend the same opportunity to them. There was consensus that if other vendors ask, we can extend a similar opportunity, but we do not have to solicit offers.

**Advocacy update:** Amy Bloom and Judi Paradis reported that Bridgewater State marketing professor, Jim McCormack, was enthusiastic about working with MSLA to develop a brand and a message. He would likely use MSLA in spring semester as a case study for his marketing class. MSLA may get good ideas. We see no downside. Judi asked board members for concerns. Working with Professor McCormack was uniformly approved.

**Crowdsourcing videos:** Valerie informed the board that if we are interested in training videos for crowdsourcing, we should contact Rochelle Garfinkle.

**Former board members:** Amy Short reported that Carolyn Markuson has a fractured hip and Audrey Friend has injured her leg.

Motion to adjourn made by Judi and seconded by Linda. Uniformly approved at 5:48.

Next Meeting: February 13, 2013, in ~~Cambridge~~ (Since amended. Meeting is in Chelmsford.)