

Massachusetts School Library Association
Board Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2014
Weston High School

Attending: Amy Bloom, Kendall Boninti, Ellen Brandt, Anita Cellucci, Robin Cicchetti, Kim Cochrane, Julie Farrell, Gerri Fegan, Sharon Hamer, Alida Hanson, Samantha Kane, Leslie Lomasson, Kathy Lowe, April Mazza, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Jennifer Reed, Amy Short, Carrie Tucker

Meeting called to order at 4:04.

Motion to accept consent agenda by Amy Short, seconded by Leslie Lomasson; unanimously approved.

MSLA Forum: Alida Hanson reports that it is behind schedule and will be published after the conference in the spring.

Conference: Early bird registration ended Friday, January 10. The extended early registration period generated 70 additional registrations, including these registration add-ons: NESLA preconference, 33; Saturday social, 35; Sunday dinner, almost 80. We have 241 total registered as of January 15. For comparison, we had 420 attendees in 2013 and 460 in 2012.

Teacher evaluation: Ellen Brandt and Carrie Tucker reported that the committee is developing school librarian exemplars for the state's evaluation rubrics. The goal is to provide a guide for both librarians and evaluators highlighting examples of excellence in connection with each indicator. In addition to supplying a useful tool for librarians, administrators can see what excellent school library programming looks like. Judi Paradis suggested that District Determined Measures might be addressed in conjunction with this endeavor.

Advocacy and standards: Anyone with interest in working with the advocacy committee on standards should contact Amy Bloom.

Massachusetts Computer Using Educators: MSLA and MassCUE will collaborate on a professional development day, possibly in September 2014. Anita Cellucci suggested future workshops might offer ways teachers can collaborate with instructional technologists and librarians for more robust projects. Stephen Chinosi, coordinator of the Innovation Lab at Newton North High School, was brought forth as a possible presenter.

Leslie Lomasson, member of the Massachusetts eBook pilot project, explained BiblioBoard, a new product facilitating easy creation of elegant anthologies of student work. BiblioBoard is affordable for individual subscribers and includes copyright prompt. Judi Paradis asked if it might be featured at the 2015 MSLA conference, or even exhibited at the 2014 conference.

Executive Director designation: Discussion continued from the November board meeting about whether the position should be designated 'employee' or 'independent contractor' for tax

purposes. After consulting a tax advisor, Kathy Lowe recommended changing contract language from 'consultant' to 'independent contractor'. Leslie Lomasson made motion; Ann Perham seconded; unanimously approved. Discussion continues about criteria for independent contractor versus employee. Second vote is in February.

MSLA retiree special interest group: Judi Paradis asks whether we should move to revive this group. She contacted some retired members and got low to moderate interest. An initiative to offer services of retired members as consultants and mentors was discussed, and concern about licensure and DESE's interpretation of mentor was raised.

Legislation: Bill S1906 is in Ways and Means Committee. Representative Sean Garballey, the bill's sponsor, is hopeful about its passage and reports that it is currently undergoing a legal reading.

Legislative committee is working on talking points for people attending legislative breakfasts and other advocacy events. Legislative day is March 31. Kendall Boninti prepared and shared with members a useful member toolkit for advocacy.

April Mazza of MLS: The board welcomed April, the new Advisor for Youth and School Library Services at Massachusetts Library System. April spoke on the value of school libraries and MLS's dedication to serving them. She asked how we think MLS can best support school libraries. Professional development was offered as one possibility. MLS will offer a workshop, *Bending Boundaries*, on April 16 in Worcester.

MSLA website content: Criteria for publishing member content, including lesson plans, mission statements, S.M.A.R.T. goals, etcetera, was discussed. Should MSLA vet content before posting? It was agreed MSLA both wants to highlight examples of excellence on the website, but also offer members an open forum for sharing ideas and content. After much discussion it was agreed that the web site would feature vetted material, while the listserv offered a mechanism for soliciting and collecting information. To that end, MSLA will investigate ways to improve listserv archive access.

Request for support: The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners 2015 legislative agenda includes supporting the Massachusetts eBook project. Deb Hoadley of the Massachusetts Library System approached both MSLA and the Massachusetts Library System asking financial support for a postcard campaign promoting the eBook project. The 3,500 postcards would be used at legislative breakfasts, Legislative Day, and also at eBook project's pilot libraries. MLA approved \$400 to assist with printing and postage expense. MSLA voted unanimously to contribute the same.

Listserv advertising: Current policy prohibits advertising of products or services. Fran Zilonis, director of the school library licensure program at Simmons College, wants to share professional development opportunities for school librarians. Judi Paradis pointed out that these opportunities benefit members. After much discussion the board agreed to open the listserv to professional development opportunities as a trial until June 2014.

Awards: Gerri Fegan presented the board with list of awards applicants and nominees. Gerri discussed applicants and nominees individually rather than as a slate in order to encourage transparency. Furthermore, it was also agreed to move \$200 between awards line items to cover expenses. The following people were approved as awards winners for 2014:

President's Awards

Kate Payne (Saugus High School)
Meghan Nels (Oakdale Elementary School)
Sharon Dorian (Taunton High School)

MA Super Librarian (MSLA) Awards

Meghan O'Neill (Pingree School)
Beth Goldman (Norwood High School)
Vicki Wright (Silver Lake Regional Middle School)
Laura Stroessner (Boston Renaissance Charter School)
Margaret Twiss (Ayer Shirley Regional High School)

Web Seal of Excellence Awards

Cathy Collins (Sharon High School)
Linda Redding (Silver Lake Regional High School)

Parents as Library Supporters (PALS) Award

Israel Loring Elementary School PTO (Amy Adolfsson and Annis Chwalek, co-chairs)

Administrator Advocate Awards

Principal Jose Libano (Sharon High School)
Dr. Timothy Johnson (Pingree School)

School Library Advocate Award

Winchester School Committee (William McAlduff, Superintendent, and School Committee member Susan Verdicchio)

Administrator Advocate Award

Senator Ken Donnelly and his Chief of Staff Cindy Friedman.

Service Awards

Valerie Diggs
Leigh Barnes
Sharon Hamer

Peggy Hallisey Lifetime Achievement Awards

Carol Kelly
Ann Perham

Motion to adjourn unanimously approved at 6:22.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 4:00 at Weston High School