

MSLA Executive Committee Minutes
Chelmsford High School
February 15, 2012

Attending: Hugh Ahearn, Leigh Barnes, Christine Brown, Kim Chochrane, Linda Cov iello, Michael Deschenes, Valerie Diggs, Cindy Erle, Julie Farrell, Gerri Fegan, Sharon Hamer, Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Eleanor Rogers, Christine Steinhauser, Maureen Tanetta, Lynne Weeks

Consent Agenda: *January 2012 Minutes Revision:* Sandy Kelly asked that we change Brockton to Revere in WGEE report for January minutes. Gerri Fegan moved to accept consent agenda as amended, Cindy Erle seconded: Unanimously accepted

Conference: Kathy Lowe asked Board members to sign on to help with registration and introducing speakers. Kathy reports that our annual conference is in good shape. There are 388 registrants (already 20 more than last year) and she expects to easily top 400 attendees. There are 46 exhibitors, which is comparable to last year, and some are new. Sunday attendance is way up this year. Kathy also said we are getting new members and many student attendees from Simmons are registering to come. At present we have approximately 150 new people coming compared to last year. A postcard was sent to those who've attended in the past but did not yet register. In response to a question from Leigh Barnes, Kathy said that we do have more members registered from the southeast this year and fewer from western Massachusetts, which is expected from the change in venue. Linda Coviello is making center pieces and is looking for some books to add to these. Judi Paradis and Gerri Fegan may have some books to use to assemble these. Valerie Diggs has NEASC visit to Chelmsford High School on March 4-5 and must be present that weekend. She will join us Sunday night, and will create a DVD greeting for the conference on Monday. She expressed regret about missing the conference.

MRA Conference: Christine Brown put out an invitation to the Mass. Reading Association annual conference, April 12-13 in Sturbridge. She said several children's authors coming, and many workshops are available. The conference is open to librarians and teacher and the information can be found here: <http://www.massreading.org/conference/index.html>

Legislative Day: April 30 was the original date for the annual joint MLA-MSLA Legislative day. However, Kathy Lowe reported that the planning committee is now proposing changing the date to April 11 because legislators not there on 30th due to the budget being wrapped up the week before. MSLA is looking to avoid MCAS days and MLA is working with us on this. We cannot get the Great Hall and Grand Staircase on any of the dates that our groups can attend in April. The current plan is to try to obtain the Senate Reading Room at 10:00 a.m. on April 11

and hold our awards ceremony there. Awards include the MSLA Bookmark Contest winners and two legislator awards. MLA will present an award to Rep. Kate Hogan, chair of the Legislative Library Caucus, and the MSLA Board recommended presenting an award to Rep. Sean Garballey for filing legislation recommending the formation of a special commission to evaluate school library programs. This will be followed by a meeting to review talking points for members to use in calling on legislators and refreshments, but no lunch. Judi recommended we target specific legislators and designate specific MSLA members to call on particular legislators. Julie said we should think about which legislators we should target at the State House. Sandy will contact Paul Toner at MTA. Kathy will investigate the type of award we will give to Rep. Garballey. Judi/Julie will contact Rep. Garballey to tell him about our award.

Linda Coviello and Ann Perham said that the bookmark contest can still happen on this date, but Ann reminded us that this timing would be very tight. Linda also expressed concern that students and teachers may be disappointed to not be in the Grand Staircase with a luncheon. We discussed ideas for enhancing the experience for our student winners. Gerri said that Nancy Snow is bringing medals for winners, and Linda has some as well. Judi said we have to be sure to have tour set up, legislative citations. Sandy will look into Jack Gantos come to speak and Gerri recommended that we get some books from him and have him sign these if he can come.

Hugh Ahearn said that the New York Library Legislative Day features students in great numbers. He thinks that we need to figure out how to get more students and parents to attend to increase effectiveness. It may require talking to New York organization to see how this works. Gerri said we'd need an organized subcommittee to do the planning for this. If we could tie it into field trips to the State House it could work. Leigh pointed out that our usual board meeting is April 11. Valerie asked us to make a decision about how to proceed on March 14.

Nominating Committee for MSLA Officers: Gerri Fegan reported that the nominating committee recommends that Valerie Diggs nominate Judi Paradis for MSLA president for the coming term. Cindy Erle moved to nominate Judi and Julie Farrell seconded. Ann Perham is putting a ballot together for an election to be completed on April 1. We discussed whether we should put any question on the ballot. Christine Steinhauser recommended we ask if people would be interested in a one-day professional development opportunity in the late summer or fall.

NESLA: New England School Library Association Leadership Summit is on March 24 at SERESC in Bedford NH with Patrick Larkin, principal of Burlington HS and Shannon Miller, 21st century learning expert in unconferencing, are presenting in an "un-conference" format. Gerri recommended that area directors and others who work with groups consider attending. A link to conference information is here: <http://www.neslaonline.org/>

Library Legislation Day: Leigh Barnes attended this event in Washington , D.C. last year and explained that it is coordinated nationally to help librarians advocate to national legislators. This year it is scheduled for April 22-24. Julie Farrell is going to see if she can attend on behalf of MSLA and will let Kathy know to arrange travel plans. Kathy said that MLA is also going to send someone.

WGEE: Sandy shared a [document](#) with the board from WGEE, supporting bill H1054 and said we have permission to share it with administrators etc. Bill H1054 was submitted by Sean Garballey and Sandy asked us to review it to support the bill as amended. Sandy said we are being asked to submit a letter of support and she will contact Valerie to work on this.

National School Board Association Conference is in Boston on April 21-22 and AASL asked if MSLA would staff an AASL booth at this event. Several members expressed interest in staffing this booth and Kathy is going to let AASL know we are interested in helping with this. Kathy will set up a google doc for members to sign up.

Updating standards and rubrics: In Dallas at AASL, Michelle Luhtala from Connecticut suggested that rather than make a state document, we might want to consider a regional document set of standards with input from all New England states (region 1 of AASL). We saw some advantages to this approach, but also had some concerns. Sandy wondered if we needed to be concerned with AASL taking this over and charging for this. Valerie is assuming this will be done as a NESLA project, not an AASL project. Valerie said her only concern was addressing specific issues of specific states. Leigh also said we could do something akin to Common Core standards in which each state is also allowed some ability to make some tweaks for that state. We believe all NE states have adopted the Common Core. Gerri also pointed out that New England standards could align more with NEASC. Sandy pointed out that we also based some of our last standards on Mass. Building codes and how will this impact ours? We asked what AASL is doing with standards and thought we needed to keep theirs in mind. Valerie also mentioned that our current standards/rubrics are quantitative and this may be something that brings value. Gerri wondered if it was worth putting out a question to NESLA as a referendum. We thought it was important to have all states in NE on board if we go forward with this. Gerri can start a conversation about this at the next NESLA meeting.

One of the big concerns that we need to address is the new world of balancing collections with the advent of e-books, databases, etc. Valerie is working on a committee for AASL right now to look at collection development. Valerie also recommends that we need to think about quantitative issues in a time when this is a moving target. Kathy recommended that we try to get someone from another state assume leadership to get some buy-in from other states.

MA PTA Conference: The annual PTA conference is coming up on March 16-17 and they've asked if we would like to participate in some way. We determined that we have not found this association to be as productive as we'd hoped, and decided not to participate in this event.

Lifetime Awards: Sharon Hamer has been in touch with Nancy Jones' family about presenting a posthumous award, and Valerie asked her to get in touch with Amy Short to find out what we can cite in an awards letter. Valerie is hoping also to get in touch with Dan Fleming's wife, Diane. Valerie asked Sandy to make some inquiries through her contacts to find her and let her know about their award.

California Advocacy Campaign: Valerie and Judi talked about what the California School Library Association was doing to advocate for school libraries in their state. There were lots of good ideas for PR and we suggested looking at their presentation in-depth. Judi will share their store link with the board.

Support of Choose Privacy Week and Banned Website Day: Valerie suggested we talk at greater length about how we might promote this.

Delaware Governor's Council on School Libraries: We heard about this at AASL and were curious about what it was. Judi agreed to research this.

ACRL: Laura Hibbler and Valerie have been in touch about crafting a joint statement from MSLA and ACRL. There is a conference coming up for the New England Library Instruction Group's Annual Program. It's going to be on June 1 at Mount Wachusett Community College. Andrew Asher from the ERIAL Project is the keynote speaker. The theme is "Connecting to Research through People and Process." The group is soliciting proposals from high school librarians from who might be interested in presenting on the research process of high school students: http://nelig.acrlnec.org/call_for_proposals_2012

MBLC: Kim Cochrane met with with Shelly Casada about the Science is Everywhere Grant for \$7500 for school/public librarians if the librarian partners with a science teacher to offer an after school program.

Ann Perham moved to adjourn at 6:00 p.m., Julie Farrell seconded.

