

MSLA Board Meeting Agenda

February 13, 2013 Chelmsford High School

Attending: Leigh Barnes, Amy Bloom, Nancy Boutet, Robin Cicchetti, Kim Cochrane, Valerie Diggs, Cindy Erle, Julie Farrell, Linda Friel, Sharon Hamer, Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Kathleen Porter, Amy Short, Chris Steinhauser, Carrie Tucker

The meeting was called to order at 4:00.

Consent agenda: Uniformly approved.

MLS ebook project: Deb Hoadley, Advisor with the Massachusetts Library System, met to discuss plans to pilot a statewide ebooks resource sharing program. Deb is a project leader of the ebooks workgroup of the Statewide Resource Sharing Committee. Massachusetts is the only state considering a statewide ebooks project at this time and has initial funding of \$2.5 million. MLS hopes to launch with 10,000 titles.

A 50-library pilot should be implemented in late May 2013. After a six-month evaluation period ending in December 2013, it will go live statewide with a statewide group selecting content. Overdrive is not being considered as a platform, as the company is not interested in statewide licensing. Once the project is underway MLS envisions a hybrid model where local content can be uploaded to supplement the statewide ebook collection. Such a hybrid model would likely marry an existing platform with an MLS cloud server. Currently being negotiated are simultaneous-use ebooks versus single-use ebooks and leased versus owned content. Early on the project will be limited to one platform that can handle different types of content. MLS wants to include content specific to schools and content addressing Common Core standards.

The 50 pilot libraries will comprise 10 academic libraries, 25 public libraries, 10 schools or school districts, and 5 special libraries. A committee of five people from Westfield Athenaeum, Cambridge Public Library, Salem State, Cohasset Public Library, and Shrewsbury Public Library was to meet with Deb on February 14 to select the 50 pilot libraries.

Discussion turned to inclusion of school libraries in the pilot. In order to be eligible, each school in a district would need to be on a common automation system. Deb invited us to share questions and concerns about the project. Board comments and questions included these:

- Pilot group should work with MSLA to identify schools.
- How will books be downloaded? We should not need special software/program.
- When will MLS selection committee meet? Will it fit with school librarian schedules?
- Who can represent school libraries that can meet outside of school hours?
- What do schools want to see as a core collection?
- MSLA offered to recommend schools to participate.
- Focus on Common Core content and interactive content
- Deb will determine criteria for participation and send to Kathy to share with listserv.

Valerie expressed interest in the ebooks discussion. Pilot schools should be ones where librarians are leaders in their schools who can promote these resources to the school community and be actively engaged in the process.

MLS long-range planning workshop: Frontier Regional High School will host a long-range MLS planning workshop on March 14.

Rob Maier: A retirement celebration is planned for Tuesday, March 5. MSLA will contribute \$100. Board acknowledges and appreciates Rob's solid commitment to school libraries during his tenure as Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Conference update: Valerie Diggs reported that the committee is fully prepared for the annual conference. Valerie will prepare brochures for dinner tables to support the annual meeting. Kathy Lowe said 340 attendees were registered as of February 13. Kathy expects attendance to top 400. We have 37 exhibitors so far, and Kathy would like ten more. Kathy will forward list of unrenewed exhibitors to board. Board members are encouraged to forward items to Valerie for inclusion in the annual meeting brochure and also to sign on to help at the desk and with speaker introductions.

Advocacy update: Amy Bloom reported that Professor Jim McCormack of Bridgewater State University has agreed to work on a public relations branding proposal for MSLA with his marketing students. Professor McCormack asked Amy and Judi Paradis many questions about MSLA and issues facing school librarians, which include low level support from DESE. Amy provided them a lot of information, including standards.

Legislative Day: It is March 26, 2013, from 9:00 to 1:00. The schedule of events for the day is in Julie Farrell's report. Board discussed whether an hour and a half was an appropriate length of time. All questions about bookmark contest should be directed to Linda Coviello. Judi Paradis weighed the merits of an email blast versus postcards to promote the event. Valerie Diggs provided talking points and a copy of the bill requesting the formation of a state commission to evaluate the status of school libraries in Massachusetts. Conversation turned to the merits of school library involvement with legislative breakfasts, which are always impressive events.

Legislative chair: Valerie Diggs talked to Rebecca Morris of Simmons College about working with MSLA as a legislative chair. She would be helpful as MSLA moves forward with its legislation initiative.

Nomination committee: MSLA has area director openings in every region. Nominees are in place for all areas except Boston. Potential new area director for Boston region should confirm soon. The slate of nominees for area director includes Ellen Brandt, Anita Cellucci, Laura Gardner, and Leslie Lomassen. Slate of nominees was uniformly approved.

Marlene Heroux and conference support: Valerie Diggs reported that she talked to Marlene Heroux of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners regarding Marlene's concern about the lack of school library grant applicants. As discussed at previous board meetings, the required long-range planning process needs streamlining. Still, the MBLC seeks to support Massachusetts school libraries in some way. Valerie suggests we have two options: one, an MBLC awards program similar to Maine's, and two, MBLC sponsorship of an MSLA conference presentation. Valerie suggested that Marlene was likely amenable to the second option, though approval from the new MBLC director would be needed. After brief discussion it was agreed that Valerie will ask for \$3000, though Kathy Lowe thought we could ask for more, citing high fees for conference presenters Alan November and Jack Gantos.

MSLA advocate award: Sandy Kelly reported that the School Advocate Award would be presented to retiring MBLC Director Rob Maier March 3 at the annual conference dinner.

MLA/YSS joint statements: Kathy Lowe suggested the joint statement with the Massachusetts Library Association be revised to something with tighter language. Nancy Boutet, Sandy Kelly, and Sharon Colvin volunteered to take this on.

Tour of State House for librarians: This is planned for April 25 in conjunction with Massachusetts Library Association conference.

MBLC's support of bill: Kathy Lowe has asked the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to endorse the school library bill. MBLC will vote at its March meeting; Rob Maier expects endorsement to pass.

Search committee for MBLC Director: Kathy Lowe is currently on the search committee to replace Rob Maier. Schedule conflicts prevent her from serving. A meeting is set for Monday, April 8, at MBLC office in Boston, with interviews planned for April 29 and May 1. Amy Short agreed to serve on this committee. Brief discussion ensued about the importance of good interview questions.

New England School Library Association update: Each New England state contributes \$200 to send a NESLA representative to the American Library Association conference. A NESLA retreat for long-range planning will be held at Carolyn Markuson's home. NESLA is also planning an August 5 conference at the Eric Carle Museum with special sessions for school librarians.

Motion to adjourn made by Kathleen Porter and seconded by Sandy Kelly. Uniformly approved at 6:05.

Next meeting is March 20, 4:00, at Chelmsford High School.