

Massachusetts School Library Association
Board Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2014
Weston High School

Attending: Lani Blechman, Amy Bloom, Ellen Brandt, Shelley Chamberlain, Cindy Erle*, Julie Farrell, Laura Gardner*, Alida Hanson, Samantha Kane, Sandy Kelly*, Leslie Lomasson, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham*, Kathleen Porter, Michelle Raczkowski*, Carrie Tucker
* = virtual participation

Consent agenda: unanimously approved

Quick conference updates:

- conference committee to meet after February vacation
- Gerri Fegan is planning awards ceremony
- Ann Perham is preparing the conference program
- conference registration as of February 12: 290

Teacher evaluation and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: Judi Paradis stressed the need to move this project toward completion. Members are asking for evaluation guidelines, and such a document will serve our profession well. Ellen Brandt reported taking the existing rubric and adding library-related examples collected by board members. It was mentioned that DESE now refers to 'classroom' teacher in the online rubric. Our goal is to create a document DESE will accept that maps what school librarians do to the teacher evaluation rubric, indicator by indicator. Judi suggests the teacher evaluation committee (Judi, Ellen, Robin Cicchetti, Carrie Tucker) aim to meet in two weeks and complete work by the end of March. Ellen will send email asking board members for further submissions. Shelley Chamberlain explained that instructional technologists face similar challenges as librarians, as some practitioners have set classes and some don't.

MSLA and MassCUE collaboration: Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, and MassCUE Executive Director Shelley Chamberlain met to discuss how MassCUE and MSLA might best showcase exemplary collaboration between classroom teachers, instructional technologists, and librarians. Inspired by Newton North High School's Innovation Lab, they, with input from Anita Cellucci, planned a professional development event Better Together for September 20, 2014, at Newton North HS. Two morning and two afternoon sessions are planned, with tours of the Innovation Lab in between. Judi reported that the Call for Proposals seeks teams of librarians, instructional technologists, and classroom teachers to demonstrate collaborative efforts. Deadline for proposals is April 30. Planning goals for the event include:

- participant cost below \$100
- joint statement on purpose for sharing event
- corporate sponsorship
- event logo

Judi will share the Call for Proposals with board. Board voted unanimously to approve.

Advocacy: Amy Bloom reported on the advocacy planning meeting in Natick on February 10. Carol Kelly offered useful thoughts about building a plan based on American Association of School Librarians' document on indicators for learning. Qualitative standards are addressed by AASL. It was suggested we look at what NEASC and Massachusetts School Building Authority say about standards, then MSLA can render an opinion. Discussion followed about drawing connections between the MSLA's advocacy and teacher evaluation rubric efforts.

Massachusetts Working Group for Educator Excellence: WGEE, a coalition of Massachusetts professional organizations, seeks funding to continue operation. After discussion about WGEE's platform and goals, the board unanimously approved a contribution of \$250. Sandy Kelly will request payment to WGEE from the treasurer. Members are encouraged to read about WGEE's platform and goals at <http://wgEE.org/>.

Legislation: Julie Farrell reported that Kendall Boninti created a legislation wiki, Twitter handle (@mslalegislation), and talking point sheet to aid school librarians who speak at legislative breakfasts or advocate for school library programs. Library Legislative Day is March 31, 2014, at the Massachusetts State House. Julie reported that we are prepared. Judi Paradis proposed a debriefing meeting soon after Legislation Day. Also, Julie urged board members to complete the TELL MASS survey, a statewide survey of educators to determine if they have the supports necessary for effective teaching. It is sponsored by DESE and the New Teacher Center.

Awards: It was proposed that the MSLA Lifetime Achievement Award be renamed for Peggy Hallisey. Unanimously approved. Award language, which is reflected in our policy manual, needs to be more general and less detailed. After discussion it was agreed Kathy Lowe will rewrite award language. The board will begin voting on revisions at the March meeting.

New area director: Michelle Raczkowski has agreed to serve as area director with Leslie Lomasson for the West Region. Board unanimously approved the appointment. Welcome, Michelle!

Executive director job description: A change to language of the executive director job description was proposed as follows: 'consultant' is to be replaced with 'independent contractor' in order to maintain consistency with Internal Revenue Service tax terminology. Unanimously approved.

Forum: Alida Hanson solicited articles for the April issue. Emily Tersoff and Alida will post a call for articles as soon as possible. Alida discussed the need for a new publication platform. Kathy Lowe suggested Alida research and demo a such a product for the board at the March meeting.

Conference: Ann Perham solicited board member help in interviewing authors, introducing speakers, and promoting sessions on the listserv.

Sheltered English Immersion: SEI is a new endorsement DESE requires of certain educators. However, DESE is unclear as to whether librarians are among the educators who need this endorsement. Carol Kelly and Karen Sekiguchi are planning a program specifically for librarians and approved by DESE.

Conference attendance by board members: MSLA normally sends five board members to national conferences. It was proposed that MSLA cover partial expenses for Amy Short's January 2014 ALA attendance in Philadelphia. Amy represented MSLA as the Massachusetts coordinator for Learning4Life. Board voted unanimously to approve up to \$1000 for Amy's expenses. Discussion followed about modifying the conference travel policy to cover expenses for 1. president, 2. executive director, 3. past president or president elect, and 4. persons acting on behalf of MSLA at the discretion of the president with approval of the board.

Virtual participation at board meetings: Discussion continued of platforms for virtual participation at board meetings. Amy Bloom suggested Adobe Connect. Shelley Chamberlain is using Blackboard Collaborate for MassCUE committee meetings.

Retiree SIG: At Judi Paradis' recommendation, the board planned to vote to resuscitate the retiree special interest group at an upcoming meeting. Maya Bery believes such a group might provide a mentoring pool for new librarians. Maya will investigate the mentoring language idea for possible conflict with DESE's definition of mentor.

Snapshot Day: Board members were encouraged to participate in Massachusetts Snapshot Day the week of April 7. The goal is to highlight the great things happening in libraries by gathering data and taking pictures of what happens on typical day in the library. Details may be found here: <http://www.masslibsystem.org/snapmass/about-snapshot-day/>

Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:05.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 4:00 at Weston High School