

**MSLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Westborough High School, Westborough MA
Wednesday, March 17, 2010**

Attending: Maureen Ambrosino, Katie Cerasale-Messina, Laurie DiGisi (MRA), Gerri Fegan, Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Linda Kimball, Dolores Krasner (MRA), Laura Larsson, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Margaret Phoenix, Ann Perham, Jamie Phillips, Carrie Tucker, Lynn Weeks

Regional Library System Changes: Maureen Ambrosino addressed changes expected in the regional library structure and delivery of services. There is a transition board that will be charged with overseeing the change to the new structure. There were concerns about how school librarians would become part of the board. Maureen said Rob Maier would be the contact to find out about appointing members (including school librarians). Gerri is going to find out how school librarians are represented on this board. Carrie Tucker expressed concerns about what types of changes in delivery and services may be expected. Changes are not expected until FY12 according to Maureen. MASSCAT will also remain as it currently exists. The current plan of the board is to renew all existing databases for the coming fiscal year. By FY12, there will be movement to a statewide shared set of databases.

Proquest: Kathy said that different database providers (Gale, Proquest) have contacted MSLA to discuss sharing their ownership of Boston Globe archives, etc. They are looking for someone to manage these for schools, and thought there may be some way to work through MSLA to see if they might be able to offer a discount to our membership. Kathy said our past practice has been to have board members talk to these types of providers to find out what discount we might offer. Ann recommended that we talk to vendors about working to develop situations where a benefit of MSLA membership becomes a discount on databases. Gerri thought that perhaps this could work the same way as our print materials discount (MRLS cooperative buying) works. Kathy wondered if MRLS already does this, is it repetitive for us to do it as well. Kathy also said that we need to be able to bargain for the lowest possible price. We also thought that this idea of negotiating with vendors raises another reason to ask for a member (or liaison) to the new Massachusetts Regional Library System.

Membership: Kathy reports that membership renewals have been down—approximately 190 members have let their membership lapse since last year. Our membership site has been down, and Kathy contacted those who had tried to register once she discovered this to urge them to renew. This may be the first year we don't see membership increase. It was decided that lapsed members who join by May 1 can join for \$40 for the remainder of this year and next year (through November 2011). Kathy also recommended that we offer a reduced rate for unemployed librarians in line with what we charge for retired, student and support staff members, who will now be grouped in our "others" category. It also was decided that current members who register for the conference and renew membership by September 1 will receive a 25% discount.

School librarian database: Gerri and Leigh Barnes are working to identify which schools have licensed school librarians. They will create a database to collect the information they find. The long-term plan is to include public, private and parochial school librarians and to determine how MCAS scores correlate with presence of a licensed school librarian.

Massachusetts Reading Association: Dolores Krasner and Laurie DiGisi from Massachusetts Reading Association attended our meeting. MRA's spring conference is April 8-9, 2010 with theme Literacy: a lifelong journey. Items receiving attention will include adolescent literacy, looking at new core literacy standards, 21st century reading brain, assessment, and focus will be on early childhood and ELL students. Jane Yolen and daughter Heidi Stemple will give their keynote address. New ELA standards for Massachusetts are not going to be released until they are aligned with national core literacy standards. MRA has a Technology and Reading Chairperson charged with keeping track of reading-related websites that could be shared with their members. They would like to see if there is a liaison from MSLA who might want to help serve in this role for the MRA and would help them use 2.0 technologies (nings) and other technologies that could be beneficial. Gerri will accept applications for this post, which would be a voting position on the MRA board. MRA meets at Framingham State College. Gerri and Kathy explained that the AASL's Toolkit: "The Librarian's Role in Reading" would be useful for seeing how librarians cooperate with reading teachers to teach and promote reading. Kathy suggested a joint MSLA-MRA day to offer workshops about how librarians and reading teachers can collaborate to promote and teach reading. Sandy also brought up the idea that librarians and reading teachers do many similar things but we don't always have a common language. It might be beneficial to have a discussion just on terminology. DESE is developing pilot literacy action plans in 6 school districts. Laurie said that in the preK-8 realm, there are not typically librarians on the

planning groups. Gerri recommended that MSLA and MRA work to create a joint statement of how we would work together to support student literacy, which would spell out the roles each play in this area. Laurie talked about the need to create the wonder and joy of reading and said that this is not well addressed. Gerri recommended Linda Nathan's *The Hardest Questions Aren't on the Test* as a way to think about this. Sandy recommended that MRA send a liaison to MSLA meetings. Kathy said that we could provide information about our conference to MRA members.

Gerri recommended that we ask Massachusetts PTA and Mass CUE to also have liaisons to the MSLA board.

Election Results:

Valerie Diggs is our president-elect

Learning for Life Initiative: Ann followed up with data from this survey that went out with our annual ballot regarding the type of professional development that are of interest to our members to help get up to speed on L4L. Kathy and Valerie will use these results in determining how to organize and provide training and development.

Forum delivery: Survey also confirmed that the way we are currently providing the forum through our website seems acceptable. Gerri mentioned that we need to look at financial implications to determine how best to continue to deliver the Forum.

Authors as advocates database: Chris Steinhauser has agreed to do work on this and we will follow up with this.

Nancy Everhart (AASL President) is coming next year to visit schools (one school in each state). We have 4 nominees for her to visit when she is in Massachusetts. Judi Paradis from Plympton School in Waltham was asked to host this visit. Robin Cicchetti at Concord-Carlisle HS will be our back-up person if needed.

Foundation for New Literacy: This group led by Susan Brennan (Director of Weston Public Library) is working to promote school libraries. The focus will be on middle and elementary school libraries because they are vulnerable to cuts. This would provide significant grants for materials to libraries with certified school librarians.

NESLA Summit in June: Gerri is hoping that we will take advantage of this opportunity to work with other New England School librarians in New Hampshire on June 5.

Evidence-Based Wiki: Judi will post to board e-list to see what everyone thinks about this.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.