

MSLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2012

Chelmsford High School

Attending: Amy Bloom, Nancy Boutet, Michael Deschenes, Valerie Diggs, Julie Farrell, Gerri Fegan, Linda Friel, Sharon Hamer, Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Kathleen Porter, Amy Short, Christine Steinhauser, Maureen Tannetta, Carrie Tucker, Lynn Weeks

The consent agenda was approved unanimously

Conference wrap up: Valerie Diggs shared comments from the conference survey. There was lots of praise for the speakers, and several people became new members. Some people expressed concern that some speakers assumed people knew things they did not. Ann Perham asked that going forward, the conference committee continues to focus on trying to get some headliners and big names to pull in members. Sandy Kelly pointed out that those attending national conferences should look for these people and start identifying who might be worth asking. The Board praised Sandy for pulling in wonderful authors, and Sandy reported that many are already booked for next year. She reported that there is a draw when authors see one another. Some people liked no “downtime”. We received very positive feedback from vendors. The venue was well-received by attendees. Gerri Fegan praised Linda Coviello for excellent coordination of the bookmark contest, and said it worked so well as an open event. Chris Steinhauser said that it might be good to live-stream the bookmark contest so people could watch and see how the judging goes. Valerie said it is worth thinking about taping sessions. Gerri pointed out that there are some complications with this and probably requires a subcommittee to look at this.

Conference refund appeal: We had a request to refund a registration 2 days before conference. Our policy is not to grant refunds within 5 calendar days of the conference. Ann Perham moved that we deny the refund, seconded by Cecily Houston. Gerri recommended that we offer our regrets and understanding, but cannot refund her registration. We unanimously voted to deny the refund.

National Conferences: Chris Swerling from Newton presented at AASL this year and wanted to encourage MSLA to participate more actively in promoting at national conferences. She would like to work with members to help them write proposals for presentations. Ann asked that we put this on the April agenda for discussion. There was some initial discussion about having her present this idea at our annual conference, or through area directors.

ALA Elections and Promoting School Library Candidates: Ann Perham reported that school librarian Barbara Stripling is running for ALA president. Ann believes she is an excellent candidate. Ann would also like to advocate that we support more school librarians as directors of AASL. Ann reports that school librarians are under-represented at ALA. You must be a member of ALA to vote for ALA president and a member of AASL to vote for AASL issues. Ann said that another issue that is up for vote is a change in the rules for AASL directors. Currently, the area directors-elect for must attend national meetings for 2 years with no ability to participate (vote or speak)—necessitating expensive and time-consuming travel. There is a proposal to eliminate this requirement. Ann would like to promote these issues on the listserv.

MSLA Election: The presidential election needs to take place by April 1. Ann reports that the ballot is ready to go, and Gerri said that we need to hold elections immediately. Julie Farrell asked if we could ask for members to let us know if they would be available to respond on short notice to requests for legislative lobbying. Ann asked Julie to send proposed wording to her.

Secretary Position: If Judi Paradis is elected, we will need to appoint someone to fill the remaining year of her term as secretary. Valerie said that we need to post something on the listserv as soon as the election concludes. She also said that if there is someone on the board who would like to switch positions, this is possible. Valerie will also accept names from board members

NESLA Leadership Summit: Gerri Fegan said that the conference should be terrific, and is a good opportunity for area directors to see an emerging model for offering professional development. However, right now we do not have high numbers of registrants and Gerri is concerned. Gerri encouraged people to consider attending.

Legislation Day: Our Legislation Day is now April 11 and plans are complicated this year. We have not been able to book our usual space, and we cannot offer lunch this year. The day is fractured, with MLA and MSLA holding events in separate spaces at separate times. Julie Farrell was on a conference call with MLA members Monday, March 12 to discuss plans. Julie reported that there were concerns about the postcards from MLA. We will have a hearing room on the fourth floor from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. only. We can have food and coffee in that room, and we have a microphone. We will need to request a table outside this room to put materials. It is going to be very different from past events. We need to set up schedule for bookmark contest and award to Rep. Garballey. Tour of State House is set up at 11:15. MLA is meeting in separate location and will hold an award ceremony for Rep. Kate Hogan from 12:00-12:30. There was much discussion about need to coordinate this much better coordination with MLA to ensure good date, good space and a coordinated schedule. Sandy said we have come a long way with MLA relationship, and we want to ensure we don't burn bridges. Sandy suggested with talk to Greg Pronevitz at MLS about how to go forward in a more beneficial manner. Gerri expressed great frustration about how the situation was handled this year. Christine Steinhauser brought up that both MLS and MLA have difficulty understanding our schedules, and this makes it difficult to coordinate events with these groups. Valerie said she will request a meeting with Carolyn Noah and Greg Pronevitz after Legislation Day to talk about how to have a better experience next year. Judi recommended we create a survey about the day; Sandy recommended we ask MLA if we can administer this jointly to MLA-MSLA. Judi will contact Beverly Shanks to talk through how we might do this.

National Association School Boards: This group is holding its annual conference in Boston. On Sunday, April 22 we need some people who can staff a booth for AASL. Carrie Tucker and Valerie may be able to help.

Committee to look at updating rubrics and standards: Valerie is asking for board members to look at the existing documents and see what we might want to do to update these. She said that there are several ways we might move—revising these, adopting or adapting AASL materials. Valerie said that in the past we examined standards from other states to get some ideas. There has been some discussion about making this a regional project, but Valerie now thinks that perhaps keeping our standards and rubrics for Massachusetts makes more sense. Amy Short, Kathleen Porter, and Susanna Hall volunteered to start investigating how to proceed with this project.

Resource Lists: Cathy Rosenstock from Marlborough put out a request for help in identifying resources for grade 7 science. This led to a discussion of whether it would make sense to create resource lists that would support specific areas of the Common Core curriculum. Christine and Sharon Hamer mentioned that several vendors have the ability to create resource lists and we may be able to do some work with vendors to see if they can assist in this sort of project. We determined it would make sense to look at the curriculum K-12 and start with one discipline and follow the standards. Valerie thinks that this would need some leadership from the board, and lots of participation from members. Sandy, Christine and Judi are interested in working on this project. Christine and Kathleen Porter thought Good Reads might also be a good tool to use. Christine also suggested including Susan Babb, and Valerie suggested Char Sidell. Nancy Boutet also recommended Sharon Colvin to help with this.

Legislative Bill: Judi said list of co-sponsors has been sent out. Members have contacted her to say the bill seems to be well-received by legislators.

MLS Strategic Planning Process: There was a focus group held at the MSLA conference for school librarians. Christine Steinhauser said that there was a third-party person who collected information about how school librarians use MLS, what they appreciate, what they value, what type of professional develop would be appreciated. There is another focus group coming in Whatley. There are now additional focus groups being run for other types of librarians, and Christine said a group of public and school librarians have been invited to talk about databases.

Amy Short explained that there is also a school recertification process underway. Valerie recommended that we post something on the listserv to remind members to participate in this process, and include the link to the recertification process. Valerie will talk to Greg and ask him to post to our listserv again for this.

Contest Idea: Christine Steinhauser is thinking that it might also be great to add a multimedia contest to our annual bookmark contest. We could ask students to submit some sort of promotional video for school libraries. Sharon said that it did not have to be a video, but could be any sort of media—e.g., animoto, voicethread etc. It was an idea that was well-received by the board. We will continue to discuss this at later meetings.

ACRL: Valerie did receive letter of support and joint statement from Laura Hibbler. Valerie will talk to her one more time and will have something to bring forward at our next meeting.

Next Meeting: Sharon Hamer will see if we can hold our next meeting at her house in Cambridge after Legislation Day on April 11 at 4:00?

Summer Professional Development: Valerie asked that we discuss this at our next meeting. Our event from last summer was so successful that it would be nice to replicate this. Sandy mentioned that having Pam Berger pulled people in and we had sponsors for the food; and we used the school building in Chelmsford for free. Judi offered to set up a Google.doc to have people post ideas. E-books might be a good topic.

Adjourn –Ann moved to adjourn at 6:10