

MSLA Board Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2013  
Chelmsford High School

**Attending:** Amy Bloom, Robin Cicchetti, Valerie Diggs, Julie Farrell, Linda Friel, Rochelle Garfinkel\*, Kathy Lowe\*, Lucas Hall, Sharon Hamer\*, Cecily Houston\*, Sandy Kelly, Ann Perham, Kathleen Porter\*, Amy Short, Carrie Tucker, Lynn Weeks\* *\*via Google Hangout*

Meeting called to order at 4:11.

**Consent agenda:** Uniformly approved.

**PR/Advocacy:** Amy Bloom reports that Bridgewater State University Professor Jim McCormack has two student cohorts working on our branding project. Students have asked us to identify MSLA's competition. This is hard to explain to a college freshman, because MSLA's mission is not about revenue, but promoting the value of school libraries to stakeholders. Julie expects we should have something from BSU by May, as the semester will end. Judi Paradis says we can run the question by teachers too. She adds that we could encourage supportive principals to think about what they might do to promote the value of a strong school library to peers.

At ALA midwinter Judi Paradis saw Eileen Kern, President of the Pennsylvania School Library Association. Judi would like to see MSLA do what Pennsylvania does, including branding, presenting at national conferences, and facilitating a statewide study of school libraries. Also discussed was the proposed DESE school position of 'instructional leader'; the job description dovetails with many of the things a good school librarian does.

Robin Cicchetti asked if Joyce Valenza was instrumental to the Pennsylvania study. Judi believes so. Sandy Kelly points out that teachers often address information literacy with students without librarian collaboration, often because time is short. A strong public relations effort with stakeholders could address such issues.

Robin also asked about existing data on Massachusetts school libraries. Not much exists. Judi says if Massachusetts passes a bill authorizing a school library study, then the onus is on MSLA to collect the data or to fund the collection of data.

**Legislation update:** Julie Farrell reported that she has been in email contact with State Senator Ken Donnelly's Chief of Staff, Cindy Friedman. Bills in the House and the Senate were referred to different committees that seem at first unconnected with the bill. Cindy explained that the bill was referred to the committee chaired by Senator Donnelly.

Valerie Diggs called for a committee to work with Julie. Valerie had discussed with Rebecca Morris from Simmons College the possibility of working with MSLA as Legislative advisor or cochair, but Rebecca is leaving the state. Judi Paradis suggested Kendall Boninti of Waltham

High as a possible candidate for our legislative committee. Judi to talk to Kendall about working with Legislative committee. Valerie and Judi felt additional members should be recruited as well.

Judi asked if we might make a presentation at the State House to Senator Donnelly and Representative Sean Garballey. This would be a book donated to a school library in a show of appreciation for his work on behalf of Massachusetts school libraries. This was generally agreed to be a good idea.

**Legislation day:** It is March 26 at the State House in the Great Hall from 9:00 to 1:00. MSLA and Massachusetts Library Association will share the space. Breakfast is at 9:00 and student bookmark contest recognition is at 10:00. Kathy Lowe says members should be asked to contact legislators and invite them to attend. Judi Paradis will send email asking school librarians to attend and also to invite legislators to attend.

Kathy ordered pamphlets from American Association of School Libraries to distribute to legislators. Kathy and Valerie Diggs will add stickers to the pamphlets that connect the message to MSLA and provide contact information.

**Teacher evaluation rubric:** Samantha Warburton and Sam Noble of DESE came to Chelmsford to discuss how to develop good district determined measures. They will offer modules about what good district-determined measures look like. Kat Johnston, who has talked with MSLA in the past, works under Samantha Warburton. Discussion followed about district-determined measures for lone librarians. Valerie pointed out that failure of students to meet district goals through testing is not enough to adversely affect professional status. MSLA can add language to existing indicators, but a new rubric would have to be tested.

**MLA/YSS joint statements:** Valerie Diggs requested a committee to review joint statements. Sandy Kelly agreed to contact Nancy Boutet and Sharon Colvin to begin revision work.

**Quantitative standards:** Valerie Diggs asked how we might proceed with developing quantitative standards (seating, square footage, collection size, etc.) to support new school building projects and overall funding issues in Massachusetts. General discussion ensued, and it was suggested Hugh Ahearn could possibly help.

**National Library Legislative Day:** NLLD is in Washington DC on May 7 and 8. Julie Farrell would like to attend as MSLA legislative chair.

**Rethinking Equity and Teaching for English Language Learners:** School librarians are not included in the new RETELL initiative from DESE. How will librarians know how to build collection for these students without this training? School librarians are often asked to help differentiate learning for these students, yet are left out of the training. Lucas Hall adds that we have trainings in our schools, and we are not included. Judi Paradis will write a letter to DESE

asking that school librarians be included.

**Conference report:** Kathy Lowe reported that she put out a reminder to conference attendees via the member listserv asking for conference evaluations. Kathy also distributed an attendance comparison chart. The conference committee meets April 4 to review conference feedback and make initial plans for the 2014 conference. Kathy will have a detailed report at the April 10 board meeting.

**Bonus for Melissa Lynch:** Kathy Lowe reported that during the recent conference, Melissa Lynch, MSLA conference coordinator, addressed certain situations with venue management immediately. As a result of Melissa's intervention, Sturbridge Host Hotel waived room rental fees (\$3,800), wifi charges (\$1,200), and the cost of 15 additional dinners, saving MSLA over \$5,000. Kathy proposed a bonus of \$300 for Melissa. The bonus is not unprecedented, Kathy explained, as we voted one last year as well. Carrie Tucker made a motion to pay Melissa a bonus of \$300. After discussion about the bonus amount, Sandy Kelly amended the motion to increase the bonus to \$400. Robin Cicchetti seconded. Uniformly approved.

**Survey Monkey:** MSLA currently pays \$200 annually for Survey Monkey, Kathy Lowe reports. An upgrade would cost an additional \$100 (for a total of \$300) and include text analytics, which will help conference committee better assess the conference evaluation surveys. Ann Perham made a motion to upgrade our subscription to gold. Amy Short seconded. Uniformly approved.

**MSLA election:** Judi Paradis, nominating committee chair, reported that the election will run from Monday, March 25, through Monday, April 1. A link to proposed changes in the language of the Constitution and a second link to candidate biographies will accompany the Survey Monkey ballot. The slate of candidates is as follows:

Candidate
For Treasurer: Linda Friel
For Secretary: Caroline Tucker
For Boston Area Director: Suzanne Matthews
For Boston Area Director: Amy Short
For Central Area Director: Anita Cellucci
For Central Area Director: Cindy Erle
For Metrowest Area Director: Amy Bloom
For Metrowest Area Director: Robin Cicchetti

For Northeast Area Director: Ellen Brandt
For Northeast Area Director: Sharon Hamer
For Southeast Area Director: Laura Gardner
For Southeast Area Director: Kathleen Porter
For West Area Director: Rochelle Garfinkel
For West Area Director: Leslie Lomasson

**Membership recruitment contest:** A second drawing was held at the board meeting because the first name chosen was that of a lifetime member. Winner is Jennifer Thomas of Bishop Stang High School.

**Delegates to Massachusetts Teachers Association annual meeting:** MTA annual meeting will be held at Hynes Auditorium on May 10 and 11. Valerie Diggs asked if anyone could arrange time away from school to attend. Judi Paradis suggested sharing opportunity on board listserv. Kathy Lowe agreed to post this.

#### **Location and format of future board meetings**

Judi Paradis raised the idea of moving the location of meetings or shifting to a mix of virtual and physical meetings. Elluminate and Edmoto were mentioned as possible tools to host virtual meetings. Some virtual meeting tools offer added features including document editing and archiving. The discussion will continue at a future meeting. Valerie Diggs called for a task force. Ann Perham, Valerie, and Rochelle Garfinkel volunteered to research online meeting tools.

**MSLA fall workshop:** Potential fall workshop topics were discussed, particularly AASL Standards for the 21st-century learner lesson plan database. Amy Short suggested tying in AASL lesson plan writing with professional SMART goals. Because SMART goals need to be approved by administrators, Robin Cicchetti suggests we might tie in rubrics instead. A workshop participant would develop a lesson plan to submit to AASL. Lesson plan submissions are coached by AASL committee members (including MSLA's Kathy Lowe) and revised by submitters to assure consistently high quality. Lesson plans are vetted, rather than accepted as is. Kathy also proposed collection genrefying and ebooks in libraries as fall workshop topic ideas. Valerie Diggs tabled the discussion, and Judi Paradis suggested the board continue discussion online. Election ballot will include questions to membership about preferred workshop topics and locations. Board members should share workshop ideas with Judi.

Judi Paradis motions to adjourn; Ann Perham seconds motion. Uniformly approved at 6:05.

Next meeting is April 10 at Chelmsford High School.