

Massachusetts School Library Association
Board Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2015
Virtual meeting

Meeting called to order at 4:05.

Attending: Amy Bloom, Ellen Brandt, Anita Cellucci, Nora F. Clooney, Cathy Collins, Julie Farrell, Linda Friel, Laura Gardner, Keri Johnson, Sam Kane, Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Suzanne Mathews, Meg O'Neill, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Jennifer Reed, Amy Short, Katherine Steiger, Carrie Tucker

Consent Agenda: Unanimously approved

Nominating committee: Anita Cellucci reported on nominees for the upcoming election. Central and Metrowest region area co-director vacancies still need to be filled. Judi Paradis suggests Lee Anne Toner of Winchester. Election dates and method of ballot delivery were discussed. Ballot will be delivered by Survey Monkey and open March 25-31, 2015.

Professional development: Laura D'Elia was named to chair MSLA's new professional development committee. Board approved her nomination unanimously. One area director per region should be on this committee. Cathy Collins already volunteered. Laura will attend the April board meeting.

Legislative: Keri Johnson reported that legislative breakfasts were coming up on Friday, March 13, in Monson and Springfield. Legislative commission will be held at the Massachusetts State House. Judi Paradis says the advocacy wiki is packed with information useful to anyone preparing to speak at a legislative event.

Advocacy: Judi Paradis asked Nora Clooney to continue to put information about advocacy on the new legislation/advocacy website linked to the MSLA page. This site, a repository for member information about legislation and advocacy, was started by Kendall Boninti. Nora agreed to put information there from our website and prior advocacy wiki.

American Association of School Librarians: Commendations and concerns need to be collected and sent to AASL. National concerns discussed included the prevalent practice of closing school libraries for PARCC testing. Board members are encouraged to share ideas for commendations with Amy Short before the May 9 board meeting.

Fast track program for school librarians: Amy Short reports that Old Dominion University is interested in working with MSLA to offer a fast track program for school librarianship in Massachusetts. MSLA would be a conduit to dispense information and to help build a cohort.

Professional development: Better Together 2015--STEM/STEAM with MassCUE will be offered on August 20, 2015, at Concord-Carlisle High School.

Rethinking Equity and Teaching for English Language Learners licensure requirements:

Karen Sekiguchi is currently teaching an ELL class for school librarians through EDCO. Twenty-five people are enrolled in the first session, which is designed to provide the PDPs in ELL necessary for recertification. Karen will run two more sessions this summer. Carol Kelly of Salem State University worked closely with DESE to ensure this course meets their requirements. Karen Sekiguchi and Rick Atkins at EDCO are also seeking people with ELL/library dual certification to teach additional sections. Karen has materials.

PBS Learning Media--WGBH: Kathy Lowe contacted Carolyn Jacobs at PBS Learning Media to ask if they could host an ALA preconference workshop at WGBH studios in Brighton. WGBH would provide the location and a keynote speaker. One disadvantage is that daytime parking is scarce at WGBH. MSLA could bus people from convention center to studio. Other venue suggestions include Simmons College, Fablevision, UMass/Boston, and District Hall in the innovation district.

Membership. Free student membership starts in April 2015. Judi Paradis would like to see this information disseminated as follows: 1. at Simmons College GSLIS, 2. via social media and listserv, and 3. at other librarian-training programs. Amy Bloom agreed to contact Student Special Interest Group at Simmons. New membership free for students starting April 1 on honor system. If abuse ensues we will revisit.

Scholastic will arrange for Donalyn Miller to return after she cancelled due to weather at our March conference. She will speak at a Scholastic Reading Summit on July 14 in Norwood. MSLA has 5 free registrations to give away. Two will go to a member and the new member s/he recruits. The others will go to members of the conference committee or executive board who submit their names to Kathy. They will be chosen by raffle at the April meeting.

Jennifer Dimmick will organize a weekly membership theme to be communicated via Twitter. Suzanne Mathews encourages more board participation on Twitter. Hashtags of interest are #msla, #mssaachat, #edchatma, and #membershipmatters.

Conference: Kathy Lowe reported that conference was a success and referred board members to her report.

Sandy Kelly asked for comments, reflections, and pictures of Jane Yolen and Heidi Stemple. She plans to compile contributions into to show appreciation to them for stepping in as dinner speakers after Donalyn Miller cancelled.

American Association of School Librarians: Someone is needed to replace Jennifer Reed as soon as possible as NESLA/AASL Affiliate Assembly representative. This is a two-year commitment.

National Library Legislative Day (NLLD): Kendall Boninti will attend NLLD in May.

Attendance at conferences: People are needed to represent MSLA at the following events:

- Massachusetts Library Association in May. In the future, MSLA could consider offering a session at MLA about being a school librarian
- Massachusetts Teachers Association at UMass Amherst May 8-9. Sue Doherty in Brockton was mentioned as a possibility.

Scholastic Reading Summit: Kathy Lowe will send notice to board members and conference committee for three free registrations to Scholastic Reading Summit, July 14, 2015, in Norwood. Drawing will be at April meeting.

Twitter chat: Ellen Brandt was thanked for co-hosting the March Twitter chat about Makerspaces with Amy Short. Possible future chat topics include ELL with Karen Sekiguchi and a co-chat with Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators' Association (MSSAA).

Upcoming board meeting topics:

- Budget will be reviewed in detail at May meeting.
- Performance review for Kathy Lowe is coming up.

Meeting adjourned at 5:52.

Next board meeting is 4:00, April 8, 2015, at Wilson Middle School, Natick.