

Massachusetts School Library Association: Executive Summary

April 10, 2013

Chelmsford High School

Attending: Hugh Ahearn, Leigh Barnes, Amy Bloom, Nancy Boutet, Valerie Diggs, Julie Farrell, Deborah Froggatt (guest), Sharon Hamer, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Carrie Tucker

Branding project with Bridgewater State University: Amy Bloom reported no updates.

Legislation: Kendall Boninti has agreed to serve as legislative cochair with Julie Farrell beginning in June. Representative Sean Garballey's aide, Max Chalkin, sent a positive email about wanting to meet with MSLA.

Judi Paradis attended the MSLA Student SIG event at Simmons College on Saturday, April 6. She reported meeting a plethora of "energetic whippersnappers," who give her a positive feeling about the future of school librarianship.

To support our bill supporting legislation to form a commission to study school libraries in Massachusetts, MSLA already has the endorsement of Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and seeks endorsement of the Massachusetts Teachers Association. Other possible endorsements include Massachusetts Library System, Massachusetts Reading Association, Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, and NEASC.

Deborah Froggatt and school library research: Deborah is a Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science doctoral student and librarian at Boston Arts Academy. She spoke to the board about her proposed research on the connection between school libraries and student success. The research of Keith Curry Lance and James Baughman demonstrate the contribution school librarians make to student success. It is generally agreed within the profession that more such studies are needed. The data gathering component of Deborah's dissertation will compare the test results of students from urban schools *with* librarians to that of urban schools *without* librarians. In addition Deborah will work with Amy Short to survey ninth grade students who never had librarians. Simmons College institutional review board has approved the project, and Deborah's next step is to communicate the concept of informationally underserved.

Deborah suggested her work could serve as a pilot to convince legislators that Massachusetts needs a full study conducted at the state level. The Pennsylvania study paved the way, and MSLA hopes to do something similar for Massachusetts. Deborah's study may call attention to a lower condition of students who do not have libraries. Deborah volunteered to serve on MSLA's legislative committee. Kathy Lowe suggested Deborah might consider applying for the MSLA research grant. The funding could pay for help to convert qualitative data to analyzable form. Judi expressed excitement at the possibility of MSLA supporting important school library research through its grant. Discussion ensued about school library studies. The Pennsylvania study, Judi said, shows that the most disadvantaged students reap the greatest benefit from school libraries. Valerie thanked Deborah and expressed excitement that this study is happening in Massachusetts.

Interviews for MBLC Director: Amy Short from Boston Public Schools is the school library representative at the interviews for director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Judi Paradis wanted to craft a question Amy might ask of the candidates. The board agreed on the following question: "School library programs are not directly under the governance of MBLC, and there is no one within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education overseeing school library programs, and there are no state standards for school library programs. How would you remedy this?"

MSLA Conference update: Kathy Lowe explained that 2013 conference profits (about \$10,000) were lower than 2012 conference profits because attendance dropped by 46 while expenses remained the same. With the exception of wifi issues, the conference was a success. Conference committee will take survey comments and our response to concerns and draft a response for membership.

MSLA election: Results of the 2013 MSLA election for Executive Board Members are as follows:

Treasurer: Linda Friel

Secretary: Carrie Tucker

Boston Area Directors: Amy Short, Suzanne Mathews

Central Area Directors: Cindy Erle, Anita Cellucci

Metrowest Area Directors: Amy Bloom, Robin Cicchetti

Northeast Area Directors: Sharon Hamer, Ellen Brandt

Southeast Area Directors: Kathleen Porter, Laura Gardner

Western Area Directors: Leslie Lomasson, Rochelle Garfinkel

After reading the election results, Judi Paradis discussed location of board meetings for next year as well as orientation and reporting for area directors.

Kathy Lowe's performance evaluation: With Kathy out of the room, Valerie Diggs commented on the executive director evaluation rubric. Board agreed with Valerie's assessment that Kathy is knowledgeable and great to work with. Kathy's performance evaluation was uniformly approved.

Massachusetts Teachers Association conference: Julie Farrell agreed to attend as MSLA's representative.

Massachusetts Library Association conference: Pat Fontes volunteered to be the State House guide. Kathy Lowe will attend on the 24th and 25th of April and serve on the panel: *What has my professional organization done for me lately?* Kathy will also have the bookmark contest display.

Legislative Day at the Massachusetts State House: MSLA was back in the Great Hall this year. More legislators than usual attended, but fewer members than usual attended. Kathy Lowe asked whether we should send postcards to members asking them 1. to encourage legislators to attend and 2. to attend themselves.

Lapsed MSLA members: Kathy Lowe reported that past practice was for the area directors to call and ask lapsed members to renew. Discussion ensued about strategies for retaining members. The idea was floated that perhaps MSLA actions should be more visible to members. Snippets of executive summary to members should come from the president or executive director.

MSLA September workshop: Careful planning is important to continue the success of last fall's workshop. Ideas discussed included SMART goal-writing, teacher evaluations, Dewey, district determined measures, and ebooks. Valerie Diggs thought the concept of libraries as learning commons might die down, yet people continue to ask to visit Chelmsford High School's learning commons. The post-conference survey showed member interest in the following topics:

Q9. What other topics/speakers would you like to see on next year's conference program?

1 It would be nice if speakers could focus on specific grades categories. Some speakers were very focused on their own age group.

2 Next things-What replaces overdrive/Database updates/More authors/Collaboration with teachers on Common core topics

3 Joyce Valenza, Alan November

4 Can we get Mo Willems?

5 Current fiction books that students love.

6 Inspiring top-name speaker to help us reconnect to students. Not all the focus needs to be on tech. Also, something about navigating smart goals and the new Mass teacher eval would be nice too. These are just suggestions. Thanks for doing what you do.

7 More about iPads and use in the classroom. LibGuides. Copyright in the digital age.

8 Love Web 2.0 tools and tech

9 I would have liked to have had a chance to see copyright issues, I enjoy and look forward to S. Colvin's presentation, I enjoyed the iPad and tech integration pieces, also meeting by schools to ask questions of others, a NEASC break out session would be great, Covering new things to include in your five year plan would be great..

10 I'd like to see more about managing a school library program on a low budget.

11 More topics for elementary level specialists

12 Managing teaching schedules

13 Combined Library/Technology programs

14 more about publishing industry

15 What's working in our schools? How do we promote ourselves? Ways in which we are LEADERS IN OUR SCHOOLS. Perhaps this could be the topics for Job Alikes discussions.

16 Topics: The new evaluation system, library management (especially for one person libraries), collecting data for our evaluation (and not how many books are checked out but what are kids learning, and how do we keep track of their progress)

17 anyone using non-iPad tablets for education? Chromebooks applications?

18 I always love a session devoted to Children's books.

19 Authors are always interesting. Q&A with Legislators. Q&A with DESE personnel.

20 I think you cover all the pertinent topics well! I always find value in whichever workshop I attend.

21 Sharon Draper, John Green, Lauren Myracle

22 More info on the state databases. Marlene Heroux was very knowledgeable. Urban teen readers

23 Computer use contracts and how different schools administer

24 Information on dealing with the ever changing role of the Library Teacher/Library Media Specialist; specifically the changing formats for resources.

25 cataloging

26 enthusiastic and practical applications

27 More common core

28 More for h.s. level. Transition to learning commons? NEASC reviews/impact on h.s. libraries.

29 Success and challenges in one-to-one device schools as well as BYOD schools. Massachusetts teacher evaluation smart goals ideas.

30 more tech topics where the presenters really go in depth and give clear examples

31 danah boyd Kristen Fontichiaro David Loertscher How to teach inquiry skills

32 More cross-grade offerings of any kind, since I am middle school and there seemed to be more for elementary.

33 Connecting to the common core with information text sets- invite Mary Ann Cappiello from Lesley to speak about her book, Teaching with Text Sets, and her wonderful partnership with librarians, public and school. Workshop on pairing and clustering across the genres. Looking at updated library standards and learning expectations at different grade levels or clusters. Combined edtech/library standards. Differentiating LMS with a ITS position in schools- it shouldn't be all or nothing. Bring together districts that do it right! (Burlington, Cambridge, Newton) Building advocacy platforms with administrators, teachers and families! Evaluating your program, collecting evidence, proving you impact student achievement! Creating Virtual Learning Communities- the new web presence-invite David and Carol ereaders, tablets or good old books- who, why and where research guides and the CCS- helping teachers and LMS do all they need to do for authentic research in their classes. commonly used formats and new hybrids tech tools that are perfect for research, creating stories, showcasing new knowledge

34 Teacher eval. Maybe something motivational on working with others. Our jobs depend on collab.

35 Common Core, literature, both fiction and non-fiction/informational and middle school

36 The past 2 conferences have had such top-notch speakers! How about Chris Crutcher or Laurie Halse Anderson? Will Richardson? e-books as big on my list and any new technology. Nice to still have book talks!

37 I would love to see more 'round tables' or times when we can get together more 'formally' to discuss topics like ebook implementation - we are all struggling with which platform to use, when to jump in, what works, what doesn't...

38 One to One and how we are going to stay on teachers' radars, our new responsibilities; new teacher eval; learning management systems and how our jobs will change; Common Core, Common Core, I think the conference really missed the mark. The other years' have always been forward thinking.

39 Addressing needs of the YA librarian and teaching Information Literacy. SPECIFICS.

40 Inquiry Research, Common Core, New Educator Evaluation, Embedding Literacy into content areas, Collaboration

41 Gwyneth Jones, Jennifer LaGarde, Pam Moran, Ira David Socol

42 Technology integration, building collections on small budgets, working with a fixed schedule, common core, etc.

43 Apple Education Rep. eBooks for all devices and prices.

44 Common Core at the Middle School and High School levels. Evaluation for Librarians

45 Common Core Learning Commons

46 Shannon Miller

47 Someone to highlight new literature, both YA and children's. More on new technology tools and how to use them in the library. A way to share lesson plans at various grade levels- what works well, how to present particular topics, tools to use, etc.

48 More common core, please!

49 Loved the technology aspect. May be some more presentations with info on how to use new tools. In addition, some advocacy and maybe a grant-writing session would be good, to help us get the resources to buy the technology.

50 More on Apps for librarians. Love the Gurus, e.g. Kathy Schrock, Alan November and even Michele Luhtala.

51 Pam Berger spoke about the guided practice model--would be great to have hands on of using this with library instruction where often you are asked to do more teacher led instruction

52 Evaluation system and how it applies to school library media specialists. Examples of "assessing" students in the library.

53 I love love loved the hands on presentation Sunday morning. More opportunities to "be a seventh grader" and see what we can do from the student perspective would be wonderful.

54 More offerings for HS library teachers on project ideas-- information literacy, common core connections.

55 More common core Evaluation goals and ideas

56 some of the sessions were not divided well- some had lots for one level and not much for another level

57 Todd Rose (Universal Design for Learning)

58 Robert Pinsky he was great a few years ago with his American Poetry project and I hear he is adding music. Someone on the new Teacher evaluation and where we fit in Teacher or support Brain Selznick, Lois Lowry, R. J. Palacio, Christopher Paul Curtis Brandy Danner head of teen services in Wilmington written article in VOYA on teen lit. Don't forget the Middle conference really centers sometimes on elementary and HS. More vendors Easy Bib, Noodletools, Live binders

59 More about Common Core! Collaboration between librarian and others outside of technology. Higher-level training of Web 2.0 tools.

60 school librarian and public librarian collaborations.

61 Similar variety- continue to give guidance on Common Core, continue job alike offerings. Great keynote Sunday-have similarly amusing, knowledgeable presenters!

62 Not as many this year on cool web tools, like more on those.

63 The sessions that were most helpful were the Monday sessions where we were actually given suggestions of projects to do with students. I would like to see more sessions like this and less about things that people are already using like Twitter.

64 Info on job hunting in the school library field

65 Future roles of school libraries and librarians. Emerging technologies. New teacher evaluation system. How do we evaluate librarians?

66 ebooks

67 More advanced topics on technology

68 More on advocacy, both at school level, state, and national

69 REALLY liked that many of the workshops I attended were geared towards elementary school and schools with not a lot of technology! MUCH better workshops than the 2012 conference! Good job!!!

70 I'll be happy to do something with Nooks or Book Groups

71 I would like something about the Virtual Learning Commons. What are some exemplars? How can we make it work?

72 not sure

73 More on identifying DDMs for school librarians at all levels. Especially when one is on a fixed schedule.

74 More ideas on how to integrate the technology into the library.