

Massachusetts School Library Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Needham High School
April 16, 2014

Attending: Amy Bloom, Kendall Boninti, Ellen Brandt, Anita Cellucci*, Julie Farrell*, Linda Friel, Laura Gardner*, Sharon Hamer*, Sam Kane, Sandy Kelly*, Leslie Lomasson*, Kathy Lowe, Suzanne Mathews*, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Kathleen Porter, Jennifer Reed, Carrie Tucker

*=virtual attendance

Meeting called to order at 4:05.

Consent agenda: Unanimously approved.

Teacher evaluation: Judi Paradis reported that Ellen Brandt, Carrie Tucker, Robin Cicchetti, and Judi will complete editing the teacher evaluation library rubric Friday and send to Valerie Diggs for review before submitting to DESE. Some discussion followed about DESE listing librarians as specialized instructional support personnel (SISP).

Election: Judi reported that Anita Cellucci was elected MSLA president-elect and will begin the position June 1. Congratulations, Anita! Anita's election creates an area director vacancy in central region.

Legislation: Board members are urged to read the full report. Julie Farrell and Judi Paradis explained that school library bill is on as a budget amendment. Per Judi, this is positive.

Advocacy: Advocacy committee will meet on May 14 per Amy Bloom. Amy urged people to attend as there is a lot of work to be done.

Better Together: At the joint conference in September 2014, MSLA and MassCUE really want to highlight instructional technologist and librarian collaboration. Board members are urged to think of potential presenters. Committee will meet on May 12 to review proposals.

Conference attendance by board members: Second vote on policy language changes concerning who attends meetings on behalf of MSLA with MSLA support passed. MSLA normally sends five board members to national conferences. It was proposed that conference travel policy be amended to include 1. president, 2. executive director, 3. past president or president elect, and 4. two other persons acting on behalf of MSLA at the discretion of the president with approval of the board. First vote passed in March. Second vote was unanimously approved.

Awards: The second vote on striking from the policy manual awards descriptions to give cochairs flexibility in administering the program passed. The policy manual will list only the names of the awards. The handbook will contain awards criteria. First vote approved in March. Second vote unanimously approved.

Membership: On April 9 Judi emailed board members to gather ideas about retaining members. Discussion followed about the need to retain and grow membership, benefits of membership, and ideas for moving forward. They included the following:

- Put together strong case for membership. Be clear about what we offer.
- Ask AASL via affiliate assembly to ask about how to attach state organization registration to AASL registration. (Jennifer Reed)
- Ask Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for a list of school librarians. Could MSLA possibly include a flyer with their mailings? (Ellen Brandt) Also, Get a list of MBLC members and determine who among them are not MSLA members.
- Pursue paraprofessional membership. This could be risky because too much support may undermine librarian positions. However, MSLA needs to pursue potential membership.

- How does MSLA fill gap of what AASL doesn't offer? (Sam Kane)
- Edcamps are the way to go because they are smaller and more affordable than conferences (Kendall Boninti)
- Members need to feel invested (Judi)
- Identify the 50-60 AASL members who are not MSLA members (Kathy Lowe)
- Area directors can call lapsed members (Judi)

At Judi's request, the following volunteers will form a membership subcommittee: Judi, Kendall, Kathleen Porter, Jennifer Reed, Sandy Kelly

Budget: Linda Friel reported that although MSLA is financially sound at the moment we need to closely examine our budget in light of reduced membership and conference attendance. Linda suggests cutting back on MSLA conference expenses and non-MSLA conference attendance by board members. Conference and travel are the big budget items. The budget is traditionally reviewed and set at the May board meeting.

Discussion followed that included these ideas:

- Change to alternate-year conferences. In off years organize Edcamps, informal gatherings, and real-time practical professional development when people need it.
- Polling members. Some concern was expressed about polling too often.
- Discontinue overnight multi-day conferences.

The contract with UMass for the 2015 conference is due to be signed at the end of May. Judi said the May Board meeting will be dedicated to finalizing the UMass contract (including the question of injury insurance) and to budget issues in light of changes in revenue due to drop in membership and conference attendance.

Sheltered English Immersion: School librarians need 15 PDPs to meet DESE's requirement for SEI endorsement. Karen Sekiguchi and Carol Kelly are investigating ways MSLA can offer professional development to help school librarians meet the requirement. April Mazza of the MBLC is also pursuing ways to help.

Council of State School Library Consultants: CoSSLC is a group with representatives at the state level. Kathy Lowe is the Massachusetts representative, because the DESE does not have a staff position dedicated to school libraries. CoSSLC is pursuing programs to train educators on what school library programs can do for teachers, such as one offered by Bob McLaughlin of New Hampshire. Susan Ballard and Barbara Stripling are involved. More information about CoSSLC can be found at <http://cossllc.wikispaces.com/>.

The following items are held for discussion at a future meeting: *Forum* platform, teacher evaluation book, student SIG conference at Simmons College

Meeting adjourned at 6:01

Next meeting: Mason-Rice Elementary School, Newton, Wednesday, May 21, 4:00.