

Massachusetts School Library Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Mason-Rice Elementary School, Newton
May 21, 2014

Attending: Amy Bloom, Kendall Boninti, Anita Cellucci, Valerie Diggs, Linda Friel, Laura Gardner, Sharon Hamer, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Kathleen Porter, Jennifer Reed, Amy Short, Carrie Tucker

Meeting called to order at 4:14.

Legislation: Representative Sean Garballey unofficially reported to Judi Paradis that our school library bill is likely to pass. A committee within MSLA needs to be formed before fall and be ready to act after the Joint Committee on Education meets over the summer.

Teacher evaluation: Committee completed support document outlining proficient exemplars for school librarians and their evaluators. Carrie Tucker drafted an explanatory cover sheet, and Kathleen Porter agreed to proofread. Judi Paradis hopes to submit it to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by end of the school year.

Twitter chat: Amy Short reported that a recent MSLA Twitter chat on teacher evaluations was quite active. Some discussion followed about obtaining permission to use TRAILS as a measurement tool.

Membership: In an effort to increase membership numbers, a motion was made to extend free MSLA membership to students in school library licensure programs. The vote passed unanimously; second vote to follow at June meeting. Jennifer Reed is conducting a survey of MSLA members to gather information about why they are members in order to inform the Board membership decisions moving forward and also to promote the value of membership within the profession.

Executive director evaluation: The board approved Judi Paradis' positive evaluation of Kathy Lowe. The following points were discussed. MSLA is fortunate to have an executive director who can also serve as a public face for MSLA. Kathy's other successes in the past year included delivering (with Melissa Lynch) a trouble-free conference, attracting and retaining members, reminding board members of priorities and institutional history, and more. Discussion included how to handle a salary review in future years if the executive director is not classed as an employee.

Budget: Kathy Lowe said MSLA's budget reserve is appropriate. In order to maintain our financial condition in light of a decline in conference attendance and membership, we need to explore ways to reduce spending. Travel expenses were discussed. During a line-by-line budget discussion, the following was decided:

- We have a line item for ebooks, but every year it can be a different workshop or multiple workshops, in which case we can itemize separately.
- Area director expense accounts do not get much use. Money to support legislative breakfasts or other advocacy events can be included here--\$100 per area; \$600 total.
- Awards discussion included
 - Research grant recipient Deborah Frogatt needs to submit expense receipts.
 - Paid dinners for awards winners and guests should be standardized.
 - We should consider giving awards at Legislative Day instead of conference dinner.
- Bookmark expenses came in under budget. Also, we are budgeting too much (\$2000) for food at Legislative day.
- During discussion of professional organizations it was decided to cluster several under one line item and to consider eliminating the School Library Journal conference, which used to be by invitation only.

Consent agenda: Unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07

Next meeting. Westborough High School, Wednesday, June 18, 4:00