

Minutes: Executive Summary: MSLA Board Meeting
Massachusetts School Library Association
June 8, 2011

Attending: Leigh Barnes, Amy Bloom, Vicky Biancolo, Katie Cerasale-Messina, Linda Coviello, Valerie Diggs, Cindy Earle, Julie Farrell, Gerri Fegan, Linda Friel, Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Kathleen Porter, Eleanor Rogers, Amy Short, Chris Steinhauser, Maureen Tannetta, Caroline Tucker, Jen Varney, Lynn Weeks

Conference update: Non-refundable early bird registration for our March conference will begin on July 1 (which allows people to encumber funds early) and is in effect until December 31. After January 1 there will be an additional fee for membership. Walk-in registration will be significantly higher. Kathy Lowe shared that the conference has confirmed some terrific speakers, including Ross Todd, Alan November, Buffy Hamilton, Tim Green, Joyce Valenza, Susan Ballard. MIT Scratch class will be offered too. Amy Short will provide round-table discussion on serving urban teens.

Chapter 70 Hearing: Julie Farrell attended hearing at State House on our bill to add language about libraries into Chapter 70. The Joint Committee on Education presided over the hearing and wanted more information from us. We will send information to the committee.

Kathy Lowe mentioned that Rep. Kate Hogan would like MSLA to present to the library caucus (joint committee) in July.

MTA: Paul Toner, President of MTA, asked if we could agree to submit a resolution from *School Libraries Work* on the need for state-certified school media specialists. This resolution asks for a licensed librarian in each school, and asks to have librarians added as highly-qualified teachers.

Education Evaluation: Julie Farrell attended a meeting in Westborough with Commissioner Mitchell Chester to find out about plans for new educator evaluations to be phased in over the next 3 years in Massachusetts. MCAS will be a component of a four-level evaluation aimed at eliminating non-performing teachers. Educators can be given an exemplary evaluation even if students are low-performing. Parent and student input will be part of the evaluation and there will be some survey components. Gerri Fegan wondered how specialists who do not grade will be evaluated. Money and time have been budgeted to train evaluators. Kathy proposed that we use our listserv to encourage our members to be aware and follow this.

Parent Award: We approved a new award which recognizes exemplary parent collaboration with a school library program.

Strategic Plan: We approved a strategic plan for 2011-16 that was developed at a Board retreat on May 21. Valerie reminded us that our action plans will need to be developed based on our strategic plan.

P21 Institute: AASL's Empowering 21st Century Learners: P21 Framework and AASL Learning Standards. This one-day institute, facilitated by Pam Berger, will be held at the Chelmsford HS Learning Commons on Wednesday, August 17. See www.maschoolibraries.org for registration information.

Advocacy Institute: MLA, MLS and MSLA are cosponsoring this event on Saturday, November 5 at Worcester State University. Cecily Houston is working on this with Carolyn Noah from MLS and are looking at 100+ attendees. Cecily reports that the space is free and facility is great. The event will cost \$35 per person and Nancy Dowd from New Jersey Library Association will be the keynote speaker

Orientation for Board Members: Valerie provided an orientation for new board members, including information about the MSLA Calendar, executive handbook, templates for reports and action plans, etc.