

MSLA Board Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2013
Waltham High School

Attending: Amy Bloom, Anita Cellucci*, Ellen Brandt, Cindy Erle, Julie Farrell*, Linda Friel*, Laura Gardner*, Leslie Lomasson, Kathy Lowe, Suzanne Mathews, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham*, Jennifer Reed, Amy Short, Carrie Tucker *remote attendance

Consent agenda: Unanimously approved.

Board meetings 2013-2014: MSLA Board will meet on the following dates at Waltham High School at 4:00.

- September 18, 2013
- October 16, 2013
- November 20, 2013
- December 18, 2013 (tentative)
- January 15, 2014
- February 12, 2014
- March 19, 2014
- April 16, 2014
- May 21, 2014

Changes to MSLA Board: Judi Paradis proposed the following additions and changes to the MSLA Board:

- Association of College and Research Libraries liaison to MSLA--Kim Cochrane
- Area Director for Metrowest--Jennifer Reed
- Awards CoChair--Chris Steinhauser

Amy Short moved to appoint new board members as listed above. Leslie Lomasson seconded. Unanimously approved.

Judi Paradis reported that the Board seeks a liaison to the independent school community and asked for names of potential candidates.

Ann Perham reminded Board members to send her their preferred email addresses, to check links, and to supply new or updated biographical information and pictures for Board web page.

S.M.A.R.T. Goals Workshop: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education hosted a workshop on developing S.M.A.R.T goals at Malden High School on May 22. DESE invited representatives from several specialist areas including nurses, guidance counselors, administrators, school librarians, reading specialists, and others. Robin Cicchetti, Valerie Diggs, Sandy Kelly, and Carrie Tucker represented school librarians for MSLA. The summit involved drafting S.M.A.R.T goals to be used as eventual exemplars on the DESE website. The atmosphere among participants was collegial, constructive, and forward-looking.

Valerie asked if Board members were interested in developing the DESE teacher evaluation and resource document for school librarians. Ellen Brandt expressed interest. According to Valerie, DESE recommends school librarians develop team goals with other teachers.

Budget: Discussion continued from the May Board meeting, and adjustments proposed in May were incorporated. The budget includes \$100 for the directors of each area to use in support of their work and outreach within the regions. Examples include support for local legislative breakfasts or

refreshments for local gatherings. Area directors are encouraged to use this money. Julie Farrell motioned to approve budget. Ellen Brandt seconded. Unanimously approved.

MSLA fall conference on ebooks: It will be held Saturday, September 21, at Concord-Carlisle High School. Chris Harris is the featured speaker. A panel of five or more librarians with notable ebook programs will also present. Electronic content vendors will be on hand, and attendees will be informed of that before the event. The day will close with an overview of the new statewide ebook program. As of June, sixteen people were registered. Attendance is capped at 175. Registration will open to nonmembers and school library organizations of nearby states if space remains after MSLA members have opportunity to register. The possibility of remote participation for this conference was discussed and decided against due to lack of a viable virtual platform.

MSLA annual conference: The conference committee extended the presenter proposal deadline for 2 weeks. Theme is 'library as a third place'. This growing concept of a third place refers to a space outside of home and school that supports community building and its importance for community engagement and a student's sense of belonging.

Kathy pointed out that planning an annual conference is an inordinate amount of work, yet yields only as much revenue as two or three smaller sessions spaced throughout the year. By offering smaller sessions, we could respond to current issues in a more concrete way. Ellen Brant said the popular Edcamps and Unconferences are participant-based events that involve minimal planning and respond to issues of concern at the moment. Amy Short said we need to preserve awards and dinner too.

Melissa Lynch and Kathy Lowe are visiting potential sites for future conferences, such as the Best Western in Marlboro and the DCU Center in Worcester. Kathy will share site-visit dates so board members can attend. The March 2014 conference location is confirmed for Hyannis.

New England School Library Association: Sharon Hamer and Amy Short are MSLA's representatives to NESLA. NESLA will hold its strategic planning meeting on June 22. NESLA will sponsor a conference on visual literacy at Eric Carle Museum on August. 5.

American Library Association annual conference: It is in Chicago on June 22--July 2, 2013. The following Board members are planning to attend: Judi Paradis, Kathy Lowe, Valerie Diggs, Amy Short, and Sharon Hamer.

In memoriam: Kathy Lowe reported two sad losses to the Massachusetts school library community--Peggy Hallissey and Kathy Parisi. Peggy served as MSLA President and later NESLA President. Kathy remembers her as a wonderful person. NESLA is likely to announce a service award for Peggy Hallissey. Judi Paradis will ask Sandy Kelly and Chris Steinhauser to consider naming an existing MSLA award for Peggy as well.

Cuts, the Listserv, NEASC, and MSLA's advocacy role: A Listserv posting about NEASC's new language for school libraries prompted a Board discussion about our organization's responsibility in advocating for school libraries at both the state and local levels. An immediate decision was made to allow unmoderated Listserv discussion on the topic as long as it remained a major concern among members. Carol Kelley from Salem State University will collect postings and request feedback from NEASC.

Judi Paradis considered how she, in her role as president, can most effectively respond to reports of school library cuts. She asked for Board comment. Website offers resources for help in a crisis; these were assembled a few years back. The advocacy wiki may be another resource. Jennifer Reed suggested a mentoring program. Tapping the membership for such a project might be done by Amy Bloom's advocacy group. Carrie Tucker said all these are good responses to members looking for value in MSLA: unmoderated Listserv, advocacy group, and pursuing a NEASC response. Judi will report back to the Listserv that we are aware of the concerns and offer resources, and also that we invite member participation in legislative and advocacy teams.

In conjunction with this discussion, Kathy said that some schools eliminate the librarian position as a way to remove an ineffective librarian. We need to emphasize that MSLA advocacy efforts must defend the position and not the person. Amy Bloom points out that effective school librarians are indispensable. Amy Short said preventative efforts will serve the profession better in the long run than after-the-cut statements.

Retirement reciprocity: Amy Short reported an issue of concern surrounding a retirement in Boston Public Schools. A school librarian is having difficulty getting Massachusetts to accept time served as a school librarian in Connecticut. Susan Ballard's name was put forth as someone who could possibly help with reciprocity for retirement.

Action planning: Judi Paradis proposed that Board members craft action plans at the September meeting. She asked Board members to come to September meeting prepared with ideas for action plan. Area Directors, for example, are encouraged to plan engaging, relevant activities to retain members. Sandy Kelly added that robust area groups have robust librarian awards.

Judi launched a discussion about where MSLA could best put its energy in the coming year. We should rank target areas and set priorities. Possibilities include teacher evaluations, supporting paraprofessionals, literature committee, advocacy, and legislation. The expectation is we are the leaders. MSLA goals should embrace that.

Kathy Lowe said she would explore Google products as a possible alternative to Yahoo Groups for MSLA.

School Library Journal Leadership Summit: Austin, Texas, September 28-29, 2013. At one time, this was an invitation-only event. It is unclear who received invitations this year. MSLA offers partial funding for Board member attendance.

AASL Affiliate Assembly: MSLA's appointment to the assembly commits to do the following:

- Represent NESLA Region One.
- Write an MSLA Forum article.

Last year the president made the appointment. Assembly is some work, but it is also an opportunity for collaboration and travel.

Amy Bloom motioned to adjourn, and Cindy Erle seconded. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:10.