

MSLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Chelmsford High School, Chelmsford MA

September 15, 2010

Attendance: Nancy Boutet, Linda Coviello, Val Diggs, Julie Farrell, Gerri Fegan, Linda Friel, Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Linda Kimball, Dolores Krasner, Judi Paradis, Margaret Phoenix, Greg Pronevitz, Jackie Rafferty, Kathleen Ross, Annamaria Schrimpf, Christine Steinhauser, Carrie Tucker, Jen Varney, Liz Vezina, Lynn Weeks

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:15. Members introduced themselves and we also welcomed new liaisons, including Greg Pronevitz, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Library System; Jackie Rafferty, President of MLA; Nancy Boutet, Youth Services Liaison MLA; Melissa Lynch, MSLA Conference Planner; Dolores Krasner, Mass Reading Association; and Annamaria Schrimpf, Mass CUE.

Consent Agenda: Kathleen Porter moved to accept our consent agenda, including the Secretary's, Treasurer's and President's Report; Celily Houston seconded; unanimously accepted

One Minute Updates:

Gerri Fegan reported that MSLA was approached by DESE to create nonfiction and fiction booklist to match ELA core curriculum. DESE also asked Gerri to serve on a nine-member team that will create a literacy plan to cover students from birth to grade 12 as part of a comprehensive literacy program for each state that is being federally funded as part of the Race to the Top initiative. Gerri also believes that the DESE will be asking MSLA to create resources on bullying as part of the new state anti-bullying law.

Sandy Kelly reported that the MRA met Monday, Sept. 14 at Framingham State University. MRA is holding a literacy institute on Nov 6 at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester featuring workshops on literacy and information literacy. Information is available on the MRA website at <http://www.massreading.org/>

Kathy asked us to recognize Ann Perham for great work on the MSLA Forum where she is serving as new editor.

Author database: Chris Steinhauser reports that the author database is up and running. She added our suggestions and included links to additional information (e.g., authors abroad). Chris will send out an email to the listserve asking for author reviews. Gerri also recommended Authors who Skype be added. The URL for the site is <http://maauthors-msla.wikispaces.com/> and it links from the MSLA webpage

Executive Board Handbook: Kathy Lowe created this over the summer and it is on the Executive Board page of the MSLA website. Kathy reminded people to review the board page before coming to meetings each month to review agenda, reports, etc. She then described the additional features of the new handbook, which includes:

- our policy manual
- job descriptions,
- action plan templates,
- meeting guidelines budget,
- reimbursement forms,
- board meeting archives,
- information about annual conference,
- our strategic plan,
- constitution,
- volunteers and resource members,
- archives of agendas,
- archived minutes, reports, action plans.

In creating this, Kathy discovered many items in the policy manual that will probably need to be updated and changed to reflect current workings of the board. Kathy reminded us that in creating action plans, each person should take responsibility for advocacy and public relations within their realm. Gerri recommended that we create a template for year-end reports. Kathy also reminded us that Linda Friel has guidelines for when to submit reimbursement forms so that they can be paid and accounted for in a timely manner. Kathy also asked us to connect through this to her Google Doc by Oct 1 where we can update our administrative information so that she can send letters to our administrators reporting our work on the board. Judi recommended we also link it to our advocacy wiki. Carrie recommended we think about what format the documents are linked to so that it can be easily opened using a number of different programs (perhaps rich text).

Conference Schedule for 2011-2014: Gerri asked us to commit to a conference date and site for three years out to ensure we can get the dates we need. Melissa also noted that this may give us some advantages in negotiating a good

deal. The conference committee came up with a variety of options and surveyed membership. To ask if members preferred:

Option 1, which would keep the conference in October

Option 2, which would move the conference to March and would alternate between Sturbridge and Hyannis

Members polled preferred Option 2

There were a number of reasons for pursuing new options, including:

- a lack of ability to get dates we wanted at our usual site in Sturbridge
- many board members are asked to attend a variety of national meetings in the fall
- there are several conferences held by other library organizations regionally in the fall.

Final sites that met the needs for the conference were conference centers in Sturbridge and Hyannis. The rationale for moving the conference to March also became attractive in that there were very few other time conflicts that month. The committee is also considering offering to bus members from one side of the state to the other. .

Melissa described the Hyannis facility and said that it was a nicer facility with golf courses, better rooms, and facilities for more exciting sponsor activities. Cecily asked about cost differentials, and Melissa said Hyannis was a slightly more expensive venue, but this could be offset by lower charge for internet access.

Carrie moved that we support Option 2, which moves the conference to March and includes alternating venues between Hyannis and Sturbridge and Chris Steinhauser seconded this. Carrie noted that the spring is a more advantageous time to present awards as administrators are making budget decisions. There were some concerns about weather in early March, but Kathy pointed out that holding the conference later in the month would make it difficult for librarians from independent schools to attend, as they have breaks then. Gerri said that Option 2 would involve alternating conference locations. Dates would be March 4 and 5, 2012 in Hyannis, March 3 and 4, 2013 in Sturbridge, March 9 and 10, 2014 in Hyannis. Unanimously approved.

Leigh Barnes thanked the conference committee for its work.

Awards: Gerri distributed list of those selected for awards by the awards committee. Gerri asked that we add Peg Hallisey to MSLA lifetime achievement award. Margaret Phoenix and Carrie Tucker moved that we accept this slate of nominations by approval by the board. Val seconded. Unanimously approved.

New Liaisons:

Liaisons not present, but planning to work with MSLA this year include:

ACRL/NELIG Sara Marks: University librarians who will be working with us to create a pathway for creating professional development to identify how to help secondary students prepare for success at the college level. Gerri is looking for people to help identify a set of skills that will be needed at college level. This group will also work on teacher training at college levels to help them effectively use school libraries. They will hold a one-day workshop to which they will invite our members.

Mass PTA will be sending a liaison this year

Mary Rose Quinn from MBLC will be helping inform us about grants, funding issues, etc.

Liaisons present:

Dolores Krasner, MRA: Expressed interest in helping with our bullying resources, offering reading workshops at our annual conference/one day institute

Liz Vezina, Independent Schools will bring perspective of these members to our meetings

Jackie Rafferty and Nancy Boutet (Youth Services), MLA will help us make connections with public library colleagues

Greg Pronevitz, MLS was very helpful this summer in providing information about what is happening with the Massachusetts Library System. Gerri commended MLS for how they handled the transition to their new format. Greg will attend our conference in October to talk to members about the new system. Greg thanked us for inviting him and

appreciated our support in their transition. He let us know that the new MLS team is enthusiastic, is offering over 70 CE programs, a simpler Mass CAT, some new databases. Nov 15 is their annual meeting at Holy Cross College and he encouraged us to attend. MLS is recertifying school librarians in western Massachusetts right now. Susan Babb will be looking to work with area directors to plan events. Greg suggested MLS and MSLA offer a joint event, something to which we could invite all our members. He told us that Rep. Mark Falzone was encouraging more public-school collaboration and this might be of interest, though our members want to ensure that we are clear that public and school librarians have different purposes and missions. Greg said we may also want to do a three-way collaboration with MLS, MSLA, and MLA. Gerri suggested that if anyone would like to get involved in this initiative, it would be welcome, and Chris suggested that area directors in particular might get involved in this. Gerri said that we should start looking at how we can look at this at our next board meeting.

Kathy also thought this might be a good time to look at joint statements from MLA, MSLA, and MLS. Greg thought that any collaboration work that comes from us puts us in the "driver's seat"

Annamaria Schrimpf, Mass CUE is going to see if a member of their board could attend our board meetings on a regular basis.

Common Core Standards: Val brought a copy of the ELA standards from the new Common Core. Val served on panel to revise current ELA framework, but this will be replaced by Common Core Standards. Text exemplars will be given for each grade. Val is working with a group of volunteers to create a list to match fiction and nonfiction titles to topics covered in the core standards. This is being done virtually and Val is setting up template with citation making tool to create a bibliography in MLA format. Val is still accepting volunteers for this group. This is expected to be rolled out so that 2014 will be first year that testing will be changed from MCAS, though Val does not expect major changes in how schools approach the year.

AASL Institute: MSLA will offer a full-day institute for empowering 21st century learner and how it aligns with P21 skills with Pam Berger. We are looking to offer this in the spring (either Monday March 28 or Friday April 1). We need to determine where this will be held, and will have to pay for speaker and food. MSLA will offer PDPs and perhaps credit through Framingham State. Anyone interested in working on this project should contact Gerri or Kathy.

Legislative Day is tentatively scheduled for March 9.

Anti-bullying materials: We need to form a committee to work on this initiative. Gerri thought that working with MRA and MassCUE might be useful.

MSLA Facebook Page: Gerri asked us to please join this so that all officers can be listed. She also hopes to use this as a place to promote what we are doing.

Monthly Reports: Gerri asked that the legislation committee and regions submit formal reports each month. She is asking for a short paragraph each month that describes what happened that month. These should be sent to Ann Perham.

Statistical Database: Gerri is continuing to update a list of schools in Massachusetts for grades K-12 including public and independent schools and where there are school library programs—which are professional, which are paraprofessional, etc. This is an ongoing project and Gerri is continuing to import data. She will be looking for clerical assistance with this later in the year.

Professional Educational Tour Group: Gerri asked if we want to sponsor any educational tours using a group that works with DESE. Gerri said that anyone who is interested in pursuing this should talk to her.

Phone for delays: Carrie recommended that we have a phone number we can call if we run into any difficulties in arriving at board meetings. Kathy Lowe said we can call her at 508-527-8421 with updates

Bookmark contest: Gerri is looking for volunteers to help with the bookmark contest. It will be conducted in conjunction with Legislative Day. Laura will help with authors, Nancy will help with awards. Linda Coviello will collect forms. Judi Paradis and Julie Farrell are helping with this project.

Dan Fleming: Kathy asked us to take a minute to remember Dan Fleming, our colleague at Simmons College. MSLA will send something to his family.

Leigh Barnes moved to adjourn at 6:10.