

Massachusetts School Library Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2013  
Waltham High School

**Attending:** Amy Bloom, Kendall Boninti, Anita Cellucci, Robin Cicchetti, Valerie Diggs, Cindy Erle, Julie Farrell, Laura Gardner, Sharon Hamer, Sam Kane, Leslie Lomasson, Kathy Lowe, Suzanne Mathews, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Amy Short, Carrie Tucker

Meeting called to order at 4:02.

**Board member responsibilities:** Following introductions, Judi Paradis offered a demonstration of the Eboard section of the MSLA web page, including login instructions, executive board handbook, and job descriptions. Judi reminded board members of three responsibilities: 1. submit reports to Ann Perham for posting three days before each board meeting, 2. read and understand job descriptions, and 3. read all items on the consent agenda the day before each board meeting. Judi explained that meetings will progress in a timely manner if members read consent agenda items beforehand. Board composition includes two Area Directors per region; one needs to attend each board meeting. Judi urged each pair of ADs to agree now who will attend each meeting this year. A platform for remote participation will be decided upon soon. This is needed for programs as well as board meetings.

**Consent agenda:** Cindy Erle made motion to accept; Julie Farrell seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Sandy Kelly:** The board wished Sandy well as she battles a serious illness and maintains her characteristic good spirits. Because she cannot attend meetings for the foreseeable future, board members agreed to pull together and support the awards program in whatever ways are needed.

**Board composition:** The board needs an Area Director for the West region. Discussion ensued about exactly what comprises that area.

MSLA also needs someone to go to the American Library Association national conference. Limited funding is available to help cover expenses for certain MSLA positions and also two at-large people. Protocol was established last year to outline responsibilities of the at-large people. Responsibilities include 1. attending two ALA national meetings, 2. serving on AASL affiliate assembly, 3. attending NESLA meetings as regional partners, 4. reporting back to the membership in a very detailed manner, which may include presenting, blogging, tweeting, and listserv posting. Board members should contact Judi soon if interested, to allow time to make travel arrangements for ALA in Philadelphia (January 2014).

**Fall ebook workshop.** Workshop is September 21 at Concord-Carlisle High School. Registration is currently 110 and climbing. Chris Harris is the featured speaker, and he will also moderate panel of ebook vendors and school librarians who have implemented ebook programs. Partial funding is from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

**Legislative update:** On September 10, Julie Farrell and Kendall Boninti met with Cindy Friedman and Max Chalkin, legislative aide to Representative Sean Garballey. Our bill will be heard in the Massachusetts Senate Ethics and Rules Committee. House of Representatives Tourism and Cultural Events Committee heard the bill that morning with Rep. Garballey in attendance. Cindy Friedman contacted Senate president and changed wording from 'shall' to 'may' to facilitate passage. Julie is composing script MSLA members can say to committee members. Judi Paradis said this bill has a chance, and we need to urge membership to call legislators and solicit support. Leslie Lomasson suggested printed letters with space for personal member messages to legislators. Kendall and Julie will draft these letters for ebook workshop attendees to sign. Kathy Lowe proposed asking the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to support our bill. Cindy Roach told her that the bill's progress with the Senate Ethics and Rules Committee is remarkable, and MBLC may be receptive to supporting it.

**Media literacy bill.** A group approached MSLA last year to ask our support for a media literacy bill. After multiple discussions, the board decided against it. However, a second media literacy bill was recently proposed and has the support of the Massachusetts PTA. Judi Paradis proposed we look into that second bill and try to have library language added.

**MassCUE conference:** Massachusetts Computer Using Educators conference is at Foxboro Stadium on October 23 and 24. MSLA has a reciprocal table agreement with MassCUE. Conversation ensued about possible collaboration opportunities between the two organizations and how to best use our table at the MassCUE conference. Superintendents and principals will be in attendance. Board members attending MassCUE and willing to staff the table are asked to tell Kathy Lowe.

**New England School Library Association:** Sharon Hamer and Judi Paradis attended a NESLA meeting in September; Amy Short and Judi attended NESLA's June meeting. NESLA President Irene Kwidzinski was open to exploring the adoption of a common virtual tool both organizations might use for virtual participation. NESLA will sponsor an AASL preconference to generate membership. NESLA is also hosting a Common Core preconference in Hyannis before the MSLA conference.

**AASL:** American Association of School Libraries highlights 'commendations and recommendations' annually to acknowledge the efforts of non-library groups. Amy Short noted there were none from this region. This is strange, she thought, because the AASL commendations were for projects of the sort that happen frequently in Massachusetts. We should find commendation-worthy programs. Massachusetts Center for the Book's Letters About Literature program was mentioned as a possibility. May 15 is the deadline.

**Conference committee:** After site visits by Kathy Lowe, Melissa Lynch, and Gerri Fegan, three sites were presented to the Board for consideration: 1. DCU center in Worcester (formerly Centrum). 2. University of Massachusetts--Amherst 3. Best Western in Marlboro. The conference committee was leaning toward UMASS, as it has a great infrastructure and is reasonably priced. Leslie Lomasson made a motion to vote UMASS as the site for MSLA's 2015 conference; Cindy Erle seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Setting priorities:** Judi Paradis presented the results of a survey. Board members were asked to rank various MSLA activities in order of importance and value to the profession. Leading the list were the new teacher evaluation tool, quantitative standards, and advocacy. Judi said these results should shape the direction of MSLA this year.

**DDMs:** TRAILS is an open-source District Determined Measure available to schools. Ron Noble, head of teacher evaluation at Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, said DDMs will be required in the educator evaluation process. Leslie suggested a TRAILS workshop might be well received.

**Action plans:** The last forty minutes of the board meeting was dedicated to writing action plans. Judi offered ideas for Area Director action plans which included legislative breakfasts and lobbying efforts. She said action plans serve as a guide to our work through the year. They should be submitted before the October meeting.

**Board member housekeeping:** Kathy Lowe reminded board members to check website contact information for accuracy. She also asked area directors to join area-director listserv and to consider proposed-but-unchosen conference workshops for local area activities.

Meeting adjourned 6:08.

Next MSLA Board meeting is October 16, 2013, at Waltham High School.