

**Minutes: Executive Board Meeting
Massachusetts School Library Association
October 19, 2011**

Attending: Leigh Barnes, Amy Bloom, Nancy Boutet, Valerie Diggs, Cindy Erle, Linda Friel, Susanna Hall, Sharon Hamer, Laura Hibbler, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Eleanor Rogers, Christine Steinhauser, Maureen Tannetta, Liz Vezina, Lynn Weeks,

Meeting was called to order at 4:10.

Consent Agenda: Ann Perham moved to accept the consent agenda. Unanimously accepted

Reports/Updates:

Legislative Committee: Judi Paradis heard from Rep. Sean Garballey and presented a copy of his proposal for a state-level commission to evaluate and make recommendations for school library programs. After reading the proposed legislation we recommended specific revisions as follows:

- Chris Steinhauser recommended that electronic resources should be included into the list in paragraph 3, and that we take out audio-visual and replace with multimedia resources.
- Sharon Hamer said that it would be nice to have one of the requirements for the commission be state standards for school library programs. Consequently at the end of the sentence in paragraph four that discusses guidelines add “and standards for school library programs.”
- Christine also asked that we find a way to include language about teaching library-related content rather than just direct instruction in paragraph 3
- Several people discussed the composition of the commission. We recommend including one member each from MBLC and MLS and one member from MLA.

Judi will attempt to make revisions to this legislation as we discussed, and will invite Rep. Garballey to our November 16 meeting. From here we will need to contact Rep. Kate Hogan and set up a meeting with the Legislative Library Caucus.

Legislative Day: Kathy reported that the annual joint MSLA-MLA Legislative Day is April 4 pending approval of the application.

Partners in Advocacy was cancelled due to low enrollment according to Valerie

Action Plans: Ann has received action plans from everyone.

Conference: Valerie encouraged board members to talk up the spring conference up with our membership. Liz Vezina encouraged us to consider an event for the independent school librarians. We also talked about publicizing this on NESLA website and asking other state organizations to post information about the conference on their lists. Kathy will post on the MassCUE listserv.

Kathy will set up a google doc for people who are going to be speaking and want to share links with those attending.

Sharon Hamer recommended having someone from the Southeast posting that it was difficult to travel from Cape/Southeast to get to the conference in Sturbridge, but still was worthwhile. Kathy will contact the school librarian from Martha’s Vineyard who always comes and ask her to do this.

Google calendar: is located under the MSLA home page—all the board dates and other dates are listed here. Valerie asked that board members check this regularly. Kathy also encouraged people to enter other events related to MSLA there, especially events sponsored by area directors.

Area Director Job Description: Lynn Weeks reported that Kathleen Porter made some more revisions, but we do not have a final description yet. Valerie recommended that one of the things we add to the description is that area directors are responsible for nominating members from their areas for MSLA awards.

Brochure distribution: Paul Davis is a vendor who calls on many librarians, and we are going to see if he might distribute these for us.

Contact Paul Toner at MTA: where do we stand with resolution to support school libraries? Valerie needs to contact him to investigate this.

Awards: Carrie Tucker posted a call for awards this week. Eleanor Rogers and Carrie need to meet to discuss details of upcoming awards. Valerie said there was some discussion of rewording some of the awards. We encouraged the awards chairs to send lots of emails to the listserv to publicize the awards. Ann also thought they could send out information about awards in the three major categories listed on the awards page on our website. Kathy will add Eleanor's name to the area directors' listserv so that she can also send email to them.

Conference update: The conference committee met on September 20 at the Job Lane School in Bedford. They organized the School bookmark display and made other arrangements for the conference. Valerie reported that they will meet at Chelmsford High School on January 30 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. for final planning.

An MSLA member from Western Massachusetts emailed Kathy and wondered if there could be any sort of virtual conference option. Washington State has a virtual component to their state conference, and Valerie has participated in this using Elluminate. We think it is worth considering, but perhaps it is too close to this particular conference. Simmons produces podcasts of their conferences and it is simple and easy. Valerie has done this and said that all you need to do is request permission for to share the audio file. That could be a good first step. If we did that, how would we charge for this? Perhaps we just offer some of the sessions, (e.g., Keynote speakers?) Valerie suggested we think about this and address it at the conference committee in January. Other questions were raised—would it discourage people from coming? Would it be better to offer it after the conference as we offer notes?

Kathy reported that 55 people registered so far, and the majority are coming for both days according to Kathy. She said this is encouraging, as last year most people signed up for just one day. Leigh asked if Kathy could let us know about the geographic distribution of those registering.

Mass CUE: In the past we've had a booth at their conference, but this year it conflicts with AASL's conference in Minneapolis, and it is not likely we'll be able to do this. However, Judi Paradis and Amy Bloom are attending and will be on the lookout for potential new vendors.

Hosting Legislative Breakfasts: Amy Bloom has been asked to host a legislative breakfast from the committee from the Metrowest Library region. Amy said that it did not require a huge amount of planning on her part and it was concluded by 9:30. Now that the regions do not exist, MLA is trying to keep track of the plans for breakfasts, but Kathy said not much has been posted yet. We have to be very proactive in order to get on these committees. If members cannot host one, they can certainly offer to co-host, and MSLA regions could offer some area director funds toward sponsorship. Judi and Kathy suggested that it might be worth asking our people to express interest in hosting one, and then see if we could go to various area committees and propose that we host some breakfasts at school libraries that have expressed interest. Area directors at the meeting suggested that we send out one message on the MSLA listserv listing which area directors should be contacted. Amy offered to put out the message to the listserv. We will revisit this in November to see where things stand.

Snapshot Day: Maureen Tanetta and Kathy Lowe attended a meeting evaluating this event and posted a report about the thoughts concerning the successes and drawbacks of the first event. Our next snapshot day will be April 12. One concern is that dates are clear.

Standards were last updated in 2003. Valerie is hoping these can be updated. She is particularly interested in whether or not the quantitative sorts of standards we set forth are realistic. Kathy said she gets requests for numbers all the time. Sharon and Christine pointed out that we are asking to gather data through the formation of a statewide commission at the DESE. Valerie thought that we may want to poll our members to see how they feel about quantitative standards. Valerie asked

members to email her if they are interested in working on this, and will also email the MSLA listserv to see if there is interest. Valerie also thought the rubrics also needed updating. Kathy said that a good a rubric with indicators could supplant quantitative standards. Valerie will begin by calling for one committee to see where this leads.

MLS Workshops: Christine Steinhauser has talked to Susan Babb at MLS to see how they could coordinate workshops with MSLA. Lynn and Christine have both found out that workshops were not being coordinated with school libraries at all and workshops are geared toward public libraries. Cindy Erle said that there is a Youth Services Advisory Committee affiliated with MLS and they could be contacts through the three areas that replaced the regions. Cindy pointed out that MLS cannot do everything they used to do when there were 6 regions. Leigh Barnes wondered how people would get PDPs without regional workshops. In the past “Making the Connection” workshops served this purpose of providing 10 hours of related workshops. She wondered if MSLA could offer something instead. Christine thought one idea might be to offer the same workshops, planned in conjunction with MSLA, in different areas and at different times to enhance the ability of school librarians to attend and provide access to everyone. Valerie and Kathy are meeting with Greg Pronevitz and Carolyn Noah in November and will bring this up to them. Board members are asked to contact Valerie and Kathy if they have other concerns or questions to raise with MLS.

Creative Challenge Index: Dan Hunter of Hunter Higgs Consulting Firm met with Kathy and Valerie this past month. Hunter is an arts advocate. Governor has put together a 17 member commission to look at creativity in Massachusetts schools. Hunter was asking if we would like to use him to work on public relations for school librarians. One of the members of this commission is Charles Fadel, who has some ties to MSLA. Mitchell Chester is chairing the committee and the commission is charged with determining how to measure how creativity is being taught. Hunter said there will be public hearings on this issue, and Valerie said we should be prepared to attend and testify. Kathy also said he recommended that we host some of these meetings in our libraries. Kathy and Valerie will send him some information so that he can write a proposal about how he might advocate for us.

The Forum: Ann asked for member news from the board.

Valerie adjourned meeting at 6:05