

## **Massachusetts School Library Association**

Executive summary: October 17, 2012

Chelmsford High School

**Attending:** Leigh Barnes, Amy Bloom, Nancy Boutet, Valerie Diggs, Julie Farrell, Sharon Hamer, Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Amy Short, Carrie Tucker

### **Old business**

**Common Core Workshop**--A total of 178 people registered for this September event. Of the 178, 107 were on-site attendees; the rest were remote participants. Hosting remote participants with Elluminate was a success, according to Judi. Considering an Elluminate subscription or connecting with a university sponsor for future events was discussed.

**Legislative update**--March 26 is library legislative day at the Massachusetts State House. The first of three pilot library advocacy workshops entitled Take Action! Build Community Support will take place October 27 in Worcester. It is offered by MLS/MBLC with several partners, including MSLA.

**Standards update**--According to Amy Short, Julie Walker, Executive Director of AASL, says AASL task force is planning to have an in-depth discussion on whether they will develop standards.

**Revere High School Library**--Valerie discussed the upcoming grand opening on November 7 of the new learning commons at Revere High School. Valerie, a consultant to Revere, said the project was impressive and happened in large part due to the support of the principal, Lorenzo Garcia. Furthermore, the project was funded with Race to the Top funds, so any positive results here would benefit Massachusetts school libraries.

**California advocacy group**--According to Judi, an online presence similar to what California School Library Association has would enable us to communicate--and advocate--with non-librarians. Judi explained that CSLA creates products for sale featuring the work of childrens' book illustrations. Judi suggests we could use local authors to do public service announcements for MSLA.

**Massachusetts Media Literacy Consortium**--MMLC representatives attended the September board meeting seeking MSLA endorsement. Discussion followed about media literacy, appropriate Common Core Platform, and the absence of curriculum or standards.

**LSTA grant submissions**--Sharon Hamer is heading up MSLA's response to Marlene Heroux of MBLC, who is concerned about low submission rates for long range plans.

### **New business**

**Teacher evaluation on Twitter**--On Monday, October 22, Carrie Tucker and Amy Short will host an open discussion on Twitter for librarians--or anyone--interesting in discussing how the new Massachusetts teacher evaluation tool applies to school librarians.

**South Shore Charter School**--Kathy reported that SSCS is interested in starting a library and seeks a consultant. Some discussion ensued about the school and its steps to open a library.

**Common Core at the Massachusetts Library Association**--Sharon Colvin of MLA Youth Services has been in contact with Kathy Lowe about a Common Core presentation for public librarians at the MLA conference.

**Wachusett Regional**--The district eliminated school librarians and hired students from Anna Maria College. The superintendent sent a letter to stakeholders informing them that AMC students would be the 'school librarians' for the district. Valerie wrote to school committee, AMC Board of Directors, and newspapers to express MSLA's position that full library services provided by professional school librarians contribute to student success.

**Massachusetts teacher evaluation**--This is a topic of significant concern to MSLA members. Valerie is a primary evaluator in Chelmsford and has attended Teacher 21 training sessions. DESE has good web site for this, with useful information about collecting evidence and self assessing. Valerie believes this new teacher evaluation tool may be a good thing because school librarians can write their own goals and highlight the essential contributions they make.