

Massachusetts School Library Association

Meeting Minutes: October 17, 2012
Chelmsford High School

Carrie Tucker, Secretary

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

Meeting called to order at 4:00.

Timekeeper: At Valerie Diggs' request, Sharon Hamer agreed to keep time and give reminders to keep meeting moving to complete agenda.

Consent agenda: Uniformly approved.

Action plans--Valerie called for action plans. Template can be found on the MSLA board page. Action plans are due to Ann Perham Sunday, November 11, in order for them to be posted in time for board members to review before the November 14 meeting. Furthermore, year-end reports are due in June 2013.

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. Because this was MSLA's first event with remote participation, it was not surprising that a small number of questions arose. First, remote participants paid no fee, yet MSLA paid for electronic registration. Second, a small number of on-site participants expressed concern that at the time of their registration, free remote participation was not offered. (MSLA added free remote participation to accommodate more people after registration filled.) Kathy wanted to somehow acknowledge this discrepancy for onsite people. Third, some offsite people requested certificates of participation. However, not all participated fully. Considering an Elluminate subscription or connecting with a university sponsor for future events was discussed. A question is would MSLA be able to charge remote participants if Elluminate access is university-sponsored? MSLA needs to look into that.

Legislative update--Julie submitted her update in her report. March 26 is library legislative day at the Massachusetts State House. Room layout must be considered to decide placement of people and tables, because space is tight. After the election, MSLA's push to refile the bill will resume in earnest. At an MLA legislative meeting in Whately, focus was on discovering ways to make westerners more comfortable about visiting the State House. Bus trips were discussed as a possibility. 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. Judi will email link encouraging everyone to participate.

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, Lorencio Garcia. Furthermore, the project was funded with Race to the Top funds, so any positive results here would benefit Massachusetts school libraries. Sandy will ask librarian Rachael Bouhanda to nominate the principal for the Administrator Advocate award.

California advocacy group--Judi and Amy are meeting Monday. Kim Cochrane is working on finding a contact at Framingham state, and there has been no contact with Bridgewater State yet. 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. Sandy said our conference would be a good place to launch a project like that.

Awards--Sandy would like to see all nominations and applications submitted electronically and is investigating ways to make this happen. Furthermore, Sandy believes it would be useful for her to be able to email the submissions out to judges for blind review. Ann will update web pages to have nominations and applications emailed directly to Sandy. Brief discussion followed about how the awards deadlines were established.

Massachusetts Media Literacy Consortium--MMLC representatives attended the September board meeting seeking MSLA endorsement. Valerie displayed MMLC web pages. Discussion followed about media literacy, appropriate Common Core Platform, and the absence of curriculum or standards. Carrie made motion to endorse; Cecily seconded. Further discussion ensued. Judi asked about the obligations of the cooperative members. Kathy pointed out that the 187th general court has the language for the bill. Sandy asked whether we would water down our efforts by supporting this endeavor. Language of the bill will be posted on the board-only page. Board members will come with an opinion to next board meeting. Judi asked us to consider what are they expecting from MSLA and to think about how this dovetails with MSLA's own efforts. Kathy will send the MMLC link to board.

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. She is asked for suggestions about how to change this. Sharon received one response from her region to her request for feedback. She will put out the request again to the whole region. Valerie will let Marlene Heroux know where we stand.

Conference attendance policy (non-MSLA events). Under discussion was the proposed policy for funding board member attendance at non-MSLA events, which may include affiliate

assemble meetings, SLJ summits, and ALA annual and midwinter meetings. Language is on the MSLA board web page. Specific language lets board members know how to participate and what is required. Judi read the proposed language. It was decided to change “budgeted” funds to read “available” funds. This was the second motion. Sandy made motion to approve policy; motion seconded by Ann. Uniform approval.

New business

Forum survey results--Ann Perham felt she received too few survey responses to recommend a plan for how to continue with Forum publication--whether print and electronic, electronic-only, or neither. Kathy suggested MSLA put a nonbinding newsletter referendum question on general election ballot to measure the pulse among the membership. Judi said Fran Zilonis raved about the Forum. Kathy agreed the ballot question is a good idea. As a group we discussed the excellent work Ann has done with the Forum and acknowledged the extraordinarily long hours Ann dedicates to production. All board members will investigate the publications of other organizations and look into other options.

Area Director meeting--After the last board meeting Judi and the ADs gathered at Panera to reconnect, re-energize, and plan. Discussion included ideas for professional development events to host in December and the possibility of hosting legislative breakfasts. As experienced ADs with a track record, Chris and Leigh described how the AD position has changed over time. Fewer members attend regional PD events now. Also tracking members and keeping them connected is difficult. One suggestion was to provide pd by grade level or at different times, or hold area meetings during MSLA annual conference, giving attendees a chance to showcase ideas for the coming year and meet people. For PD ADs could team up with MLS and also with groups which sponsors regional professional development through groups such Northeast Consortium and Massachusetts Educators Consortium (EDCO). Kathy will send list of MSLA members to area directors.

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. Judi will promote the event on Facebook, and Carrie will continue to put information on both the listserv and Twitter. Valerie said she has evaluation rubrics to distribute later in the meeting.

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. Kathy will share the opportunity with members.

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. Sharon needs someone to do that presentation or perhaps to participate in a panel discussion. No board member came forth, but Susan Ballard was mentioned as a possibility. Kathy will offer the opportunity to the membership.

Wachusett Regional--The district eliminated school librarians and hired work study 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 positions 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. What rubric should be used to evaluate school librarians--teacher or SISP? Valerie instructs her people to use the language of the goal. According to Robin Cicchetti, Carla Bayer at DESE said school librarians should be evaluated using the SISP, also known as the caseload worker rubric. It was originally intended for people who taught one-on-one or small individual groups. Valerie spoke to Kat Johnston at DESE. Kat said DESE is working with state associations on the rubric they choose, and some added role-specific indicators. Nurses and ELL teachers, for example, added 'look fors'. Samantha Warburton replaced Carla Bayer at DESE. State associations are recognized as the authorities by DESE. DESE has tech advisors to determine rigor of indicators, but it appears that MSLA can choose them. To be proactive and respond to DESE's offer soon would be a very smart move, according to Sandy. Valerie said MSLA needs to form a task force. Carrie and Sandy volunteered. Valerie will ask Robin to be in this as well.

Google hangout--Hangout worked well for remote participation in board meetings.

Amy Bloom made the motion to adjourn; Amy Short seconded. unanimously approved.