

Massachusetts School Library Association

Meeting Minutes: November 14, 2012
Chelmsford High School

Carrie Tucker, Secretary

Attending: Amy Bloom, Nancy Boutet, Valerie Diggs, Julie Farrell, Rochelle Garfinkle (hangout), Sharon Hamer, Cecily Houston (hangout), Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Amy Short, Carrie Tucker Lynn Weeks (hangout), Robin Cicchetti

Meeting was called to order at 4:02.

Consent agenda: Updates to Kathy's report: 1. CCS workshop: \$190 is owed in outstanding invoices (not \$760). Conference: 60 people registered. Motion to approve by Ann Perham; seconded Sandy Kelly. Uniformly approved.

Action plans: Valerie thanked board members who submitted action plans and asked those who haven't yet submitted to please do so in the next couple of weeks.

Old business

Legislative update: Julie is approaching Representative Sean Garballey about refiling bill now that the general election has passed. Sandy asked if Rep. Garballey might be a candidate for the Legislator Award. (He has already received it.) Carrie will email Sandy and Ann last year's award winners. Kathy will attend a December 7 legislative committee meeting in Plymouth.

Standards update: Amy reported that she received email from Julie Walker of AASL. An Executive committee meeting is scheduled for later in month. According to Julie Walker, the question to consider is what 'counting' means in 21st century. AASL is not pursuing national quantitative standards at this time. Amy suggests we need to reexamine bigger issue.

Advocacy: Judi reported that she and Amy Bloom met and talked about getting in touch with academic world to help with marketing plan. Kim Cochrane is asking Framingham State University to take MSLA advocacy project on as a class project. Would we consider an intern instead, assuming Framingham faculty would supervise? Judi contacted Bentley University, and is waiting to hear back. Amy contacted Bridgewater and Harvard. This project may not get underway until next semester. Judi wants examples of good library programs to give potential marketing planners. This might be done through a Tweet night on great ideas in schools to project.

Awards: Sandy reports that awards program is progressing well. We need nominations from area directors for super librarian awards. Valerie wants to see a fillable pdf or perhaps google form developed to simplify and standardize award submission. Sandy will explore developing google forms for application submission. Sandy needs all nominations by Thanksgiving.

Massachusetts Media Literacy Consortium: Valerie doesn't see anything new that we haven't already covered in previous board meetings. Ann make a motion that we take no action; Sharon seconded. Uniformly approved.

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners--grants and support: Marlene Heroux wants to offer programming for school librarians in place of grants. (MSLA possibly misunderstood that MBLC was seeking ways to increase grant applications among school librarians. The current grant process lacks transparency, says Robin. Amy Short said the long range planning segment is labor intensive. The grant-writing guide dates back to 1999.) Ann suggests it may be a good idea for MBLC to sponsor a speaker or presentation at our conference. Amy Short agrees that conference support is great idea. Valerie will get back to Marlene and suggest conference support--action. Sandy adds that MSLA feels strongly that the long range planning and grant application process would benefit from streamlining.

New business

Policy samples on MSLA website: Jessica Rigollaud, Valerie's former student at Simmons College, asked for policy samples from members. Could we gather by wiki with a link on the website? How do we do this without it becoming static or dated? Judi asked how we might curate, maintain, and store. Discussion ensued about how to collect and share this kind of information, especially SMART goals. Ann will develop a sample google forms submission tool.

Friends of MSLA: A listserv established a couple years ago for this group is languishing. At that time MSLA instituted a membership category for friends and supporters. Susan Verdicchio, a Friend, recently made a donation. Kathy asked if we should we resurrect this group; she wants us to be aware that it exists. Now might be a premature time to tie it in to marketing because we have not established an MSLA advocacy message yet. However, Judi said if we file legislation this year, this is a group to lobby for support. Julie's crew could work with that group and gather supporters. The listserv has 24 people now.

New England School Library Association: NESLA will meet in Litchfield, New Hampshire, on December 8 Amy Short agreed to attend this.

SLJ Summit: Three Forum articles comprise the Summit report, according to Ann. Brian Kenney was the 'glue' in past summits, Sandy said. Ann liked the collaborative role of vendors. Scholastic played a huge role originally, but is no longer involved. Brain Hive, an ebook vendor, might be worth pursuing as a vendor attendee at the MSLA conference. Brain Hive offers a pay-for-what-you-use service, much like Netflix.

New teacher evaluation and SMART goals: Valerie discussed SMART goals from her perspective as an administrator in Chelmsford. Member SMART goals could be collected via Google form that drops responses directly into a spreadsheet for easy sharing. Samantha Warburton and Kat Johnston may be responsive to adding 'look-for's or indicators based on MSLA recommendations. Valerie will provide DESE contact information to committee (Robin,

Sandy, and Carrie). Valerie pointed out that the written quality of SMA goals varies greatly. Valerie prefers a simple SMART goal.

Massachusetts Library System's high school to college transition program: Rochelle reported that MLS is planning an event connecting school and college librarians. My high school senior is your college freshman' was a successful program offered several years ago. It is being resurrected on May 31, 2013, at Mount Wachusett Community College and will include keynote and breakout sessions. Rochelle is on planning committee. Valerie asked what role MSLA might play. First, by promoting the program through the MSLA listserv an even split between college and high school librarians might be achieved. Cecily says the program needs more school librarian attendees. Rochelle will offer this to the organizers.

Twitter sessions: Amy and Carrie propose hosting random Twitter Mondays. They will ask members for topic ideas and also ask Alida Hanson to serve as guest moderator.

MLA conference panelist: Sharon Colvin is planning a session on the value of professional memberships. Nancy Boutet invited MSLA to send a representative. Sandy or Kathy will do this depending on availability. MLA also wants a session for public librarians on the Common Core. Rebecca Morris from Simmons may do this.

'Why I need my library.' MBLC has a page inviting people to post 'why i need my library'. School libraries could be well represented here. Having this on MBLC benefits school libraries. Judi will promote this within our membership. It's best if these testimonials come from Friends, students, parents, other people instead of librarians.. Kathy will post this on Friend listserv to promote participation. ---ACTION

Next Board meeting is January 16, 2013: No meeting is planned for December.

Motion to adjourn by Amy B.; seconded by Amy S. Uniformly approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:43.