

MSLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2010

Chelmsford High School

Attending: Susan Babb, Leigh Barnes, Katie Cerasale-Messina, Valerie Diggs, Julie Farrell, Gerri Fegan Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Sara Marks, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Margaret Phoenix, Kathleen Porter, Maryann Rogers, Kathleen Ross, Christine Steinhauser, Liz Vezina, Lynn Weeks,

Consent Agenda: Valerie Diggs moved to accept; Ann Perham seconded; unanimously accepted.

One Minute Updates:

Massachusetts Reading Association: Sandy reported that the MRA conference is in April, and the featured speakers include Irene Fountas and Patricia MacLachlan. Sandy also shared article about the Working Group for Excellence in Education that is trying to develop connections among various groups to revamp education for educators. Sandy said a wide-range of groups are participating and she believes it may be useful for us to join. She will provide information to the board via email.

MLS Workshops/Budget: Susan Babb will be working to offer some workshops for school librarians. Without the regional system it is more difficult to offer these, but she has set up a link on the website to explain how librarians can get PDPs for the professional development they offer. MLS will be offering more online workshops to supplement those offered face to face.

Susan also reported that current state budget cuts for libraries for next year is expected to be about 7.5% and this is better than last year. However, this is just the beginning of budget negotiations.

Forum: Ann is expecting reports from Susan Babb, Sandy on SLJ. She is hoping to get a forum out by January 11. Reports and articles are welcome and can be added easily online. Gerri encouraged people to consider putting items in targeted to specific grade levels.

Legislative Breakfasts: Judi mentioned that these are coming up and the Metrowest breakfast will be held at the Natick Middle School on February 11 from 8-9 a.m. She will post information to the listserv and share with Ann for the Forum and MSLA website

Legislative Update: Tuesday Dec. 21 and Thu. Dec 23 there will be some forums with Paul Reville about DESE plans. Julie is encouraging people to consider attending and will share with listserv and Laurie Dias Mitchell to try to line some people up

ACRL/NEC Special Interest Group: Sara Marks works at UMass/Lowell as part of this group. She reported that this group meets 4 times a year and the next meeting is April 15. The topic for that meeting is about information literacy with some focus on how students transition into university from high school. They would like to collaborate with us on this at their April meeting to look at transferrable skills that high schools can teach that can carry over to college. Location is to be determined. Sara will be sure to send information for registration to MSLA. Those interested can directly contact Sara's group.

Mass Teen Book Award: Maryann Rogers presented information about how teens will be able to login to a website to get information about how to nominate books (due January 7) and then vote for a top vote. Maryann will be writing an article for the Forum explaining the project. The award will be given out (Middle Grade and Young Adult categories) in the spring. A plaque or certificate will be awarded to authors. This is a joint project of MSLA/MLA. The committee is thinking about tying in the actual award day to "Teen Read" day sponsored by ALA. Gerri asked if Maryann can attend our January meeting to let us know exactly how MSLA can be of service as this project goes forward.

Policy Manual Changes:

Kathy presented us with proposed changes to our policy manual for our second reading. She mentioned that the biggest changes were in the section on area directors. Kathy noted that there were no real changes happening because of these changes, but instead they reflect the actual current practice.

Julie moved that we accept the proposed policy manual changes for the second reading and Valerie Diggs seconded. Unanimously accepted.

Kathy proposed that we also look at the policy manual section on “downgrading of the profession” in Professional Standards with an eye toward making changes.

AASL Institute:

Kathy has been in touch with AASL asking them to send information about possible speakers available on any day between Feb. 14-17 to present on how P21 skills align with AASL standards. Kathy would need time to arrange logistics (venue, food, registration, etc.). If AASL does not get in touch with information about a speaker before the December vacation week, we may not be able to host this institute. There is an opportunity to raise some funds for MSLA, which Kathy said would be useful for us.

Anti-Bullying Summit:

This event will be held at Cushing Academy on March 14. Cushing Academy is offering food and free space. If this summit is very successful we could offer a second one. Participants will include MRA, Mass CUE, and the Massachusetts School Councilor Association. Gerri said that MSLA will need to develop a presentation. Kathy proposed we organize a subcommittee to work on the logistics for this project. At this point we can send out a “save the date” notice. Sandy, Judi, Katie, Kathy, Gerri, Valerie, Liz Vezina, and Chris will work on planning this. Gerri and Kathy will visit Cushing Academy on Monday, December 20 at 4:30. Gerri will provide the subcommittee with details necessary to begin planning the event. First member from a district is \$75, up to 4 additional members from the district would be \$60 each.

Race to Nowhere:

Julie mentioned that this documentary on high-stakes testing is available to groups looking to do fundraising.

MTA:

Gerri and Julie are going to attend a meeting with Paul Toner on December 27. They are going to talk about what type of support we would like for our members who are also MTA members. Kathleen Porter recommended that they also stop into Mass State House to see the new liaison to the Library Legislative Caucus, Kate Hogan.

January Meeting:

We are scheduled for virtual meeting, but Gerri proposes we change it to a face-to-face meeting at Chelmsford HS. Gerri would like to have a discussion about marketing; she would like to hear about who are our audiences, hear about information gathered from marketing professionals; look at some online sources that are good—website presence, online presence, etc. She asked us to please put as much online for consent agenda as possible—including one minute reports.

NESLA:

Valerie reported that the AASL Planning Guide to implementing new guidelines (which includes a rubric for evaluating school library programs) is now available for \$40 for non-AASL members and \$36 for members. NESLA can offer these at \$30 due to a bulk purchase. Gerri will email NESLA and see if she can get more information about how we can distribute this.

Kathleen Porter moved to adjourn and Cecily seconded at 6:20