

Massachusetts School Library Association
November 9, 2023 4:30-6:00pm
Zoom
Executive Summary Board Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Trent Bordok
Mike Caligiuri
Liz Cammilleri
Sue Doherty
Christi Farrar
Barb Fecteau
PJ Faynman
Michelle Fontaine
Deb Froggatt
Emily Kristofek
Sue Larson
Daisy Magner
Claudia Palframan
Iris Santana
Tinamarie Sheckells
Colleen Simpson
Luke Steere
Ella Stocker
Reba Tierney
Georgina Trebbe
Jen Varney
Harriet Wallen
Emily Willis
Jenna Wolf
Alix Woznick

Welcome

- Barb called meeting to order at 4:31pm.
- Mike moved to approve October Meeting Minutes, Iris seconded. Motion carried.

Updates

- **President - Barb**
 - Invited to appear on panel about banned books for the MA School Law Association and will check in with IF committee on this.
 - Welcome Emily Willis as Western Area Co-Director
- **Regions**
 - **Central (Mike)** - updated website; action plan; updating email list

- **Western (Claudia)** - PLC meeting for close to 10 years, solid group - meetings open to everyone, good convo and book recommendations.
- **Southeast (Colleen)** - planning an online event, probably about AI
- **MetroWest (Harriet)** - Nov. 29th meet up at Ashland High School, then dinner, then Ashland Public Library to hear from mystery writers Tess Gerritsen and Hank Phillipe Ryan
- **Boston (Iris)** - action plan, plans for grown-up book fair, had zoom meet-up
- **Northeast** - skip for now
- **Outreach - Jen [on behalf of Deb]**
 - Hearing at State House on 10/30 re: several proposed bills involving libraries, intellectual freedom, and ebook pricing. Several MSLA members testified as well as public librarians, students, and authors. The IF bills will hopefully be combined into one bill.
 - Legislative Breakfasts - Deb would love to have more hosts! Please let her know if you are interested. Doesn't necessarily have to happen around a specific date.
 - Submitted application to DESE for MSLA to be a PDP provider.
 - Presented new MSLA Strategic Plan to MSLA at their Annual Meeting on 11/6.
 - Continuing to reach out to DESE and would like to set up a meeting with new Sec of Ed Tutweiler.
- **Treasurer - Daisy**
 - Current Net Worth as of 10/31: \$108,936.97
- **Awards -Ella**
 - All award winners' admin teams have now been notified, with lots of great supportive feedback.
 - Finalizing a few changes to the website as requested by winners, once those are finished the announcement will go out to the entire listserv, hopefully at the start of next week.
 - Because this process took so much longer than anticipated and the shift in timeline, Ella is working on some suggestions for how to streamline this process for 2024.
 - This might include reviving/creating a true standing Awards Committee with a format similar to Conference. This would also eliminate the Task Force recruitment/coordinating.
 - Jen will investigate status of Awards in bylaws to see if this is something the Board would need to formally vote on
- **Advocacy - Georgina**
 - Committee members finalized
 - Georgina presented at MassCUE, interesting to see school librarians and tech directors/teams paired up
 - Georgina, Jen, and Bonnie McBride (Fenway High School librarian in Boston) are presenting at MASC Joint School Committee meeting tomorrow 11/10 - presentation will cover book bans,
 - Working with Deb on DESE Outreach
 - Virtual national meeting of outreach and advocacy state school library workers
- **Forum - Luke and Michelle**
 - Emily did excellent work getting the Fall Forum up on Wild Apricot - looks great!
 - Do we want to continue to have the Forum archived?
 - Currently, all Forums are archived on Weebly. Questions re: transferring to Wild Apricot.
 - Commenting is not possible in WA, but most articles don't get a lot of comments anyway. Possibility of some widgets to experiment with for next issue.
 - Discussion: The more ways people can comment/engage the better (Luke). Colleen noted that she is still getting lots of responses from some older articles, including one about her decentralized library from 2017 (it's on Pinterest in the UK). A lot of interest in keeping archives searchable.
 - Columns: Looking for new librarians to write!

- Podcast has been quiet lately, but we are working on some new episodes: Advocacy/Outreach with Deb and Georgina. Sy Montgomery (author) has agreed to come on soon to discuss new book and climate change - very exciting.
- **Liaisons**
 - **Voc/Tech Schools - PJ**
 - Sora/eBook Project - Ariel Dagan has been working on developing tags for titles that connect to voc/tech topics, collecting data around what programs are offered by each school. Goal is to have librarians “adopt” a program and then help build suggested book lists for Tressa and to collaborate with MLS to create better ebook collections for voc/tech schools
 - Only 10 voc/tech librarians are MSLA members, working on using this Sora collection as a jumping off point for outreach and emphasizing connection and collaboration possible via MSLA and MLS. There are about 25-30 schools total, so we hope to double the number of voc/tech members through this project!
 - PJ: Fat Bear Week update!
 - **Unions - Sue**
 - Max Page (MTA president) and Emily Drabinski (ALA president) met and are planning an MTA Forum for the winter or spring.
 - Israel/Palestine Booklist and Listserv message
 - MTA Reading and Literacy document recommending fully-funded school libraries, will be shared with legislators and others as MTA lobbies
 - Some potential union opposition to requiring licensed librarians (concerns about ESP positions) from NEA and other state unions. Asked MTA for their stance on this, Max Page confirmed that MTA is supporting the Right to Read Act: “The Right to Read Act stands up against disinvestment and censorship in school libraries and recognizes that every school library should be staffed by a state-certified school librarian.”
 - North Shore Labor Council support for libraries
 - MTA EMAC Conference is coming up Dec 1-2
 - Dr. Bettina Love is keynote on Friday night
 - Do not have to be a MTA member attend (slightly higher conference fee)
 - Connect with Sue if you are going or interested
 - Next month: reaching out to AFT and BTU
 - **Independent Schools - Jenna**
 - Zoom get together talking about reframing research with high schoolers
 - Working on an in person meet up this winter
 - Interest in working on financial stability/sustainability for school libraries, collaborating to discuss resources/vendors - what are we getting in addition to state resources? How sustainable is this?
- **Professional Learning / Conference - Alix**
 - Some new conference members this year - nice to have new energy
 - Presentation proposals - 17 so far, which is about average/as expected
 - Confirmed that prices will stay the same as last year
 - November: finalizing keynote speakers, getting price/benefit list to vendors and sponsors
 - Theme: “Whatever the Era, Always in Style”
- **Proposal from Alix and Barb re: regional activities**
 - Discussion re: regional events
- **Strategic Planning - Barb**

- Edits are finalized, discussion re: how to share
- **Adjourn**
 - Daisy motioned to adjourn, Trent seconded, motion carried.
 - Meeting concluded at 5:41pm.
