

Massachusetts School Library Association  
Board Meeting Executive Summary  
Westborough High School  
June 18, 2014

**Attending:** Amy Bloom, Ellen Brandt, Anita Cellucci, Cindy Erle, Julie Farrell, Linda Friel, Sharon Hamer, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Kathleen Porter, Amy Short, Carrie Tucker

**Teacher evaluation:** Judi Paradis and Kathleen Porter have done a final proofread. Valerie Diggs intends to submit to DESE before July 1, 2014. This document supports the new teacher evaluation by outlining proficient exemplars for school librarians. Board hopes this will be a useful document for school librarians and their evaluators.

**Budget:** Linda Friel submitted budget for board consideration. Kathy Lowe explained that some categories show budget line items less than expenditures this past year. Board discussed leaving latitude to revisit budget over the coming academic year.

**Better Together workshop:** MSLA is co-hosting an event with MassCue at Newton North High School on September 20. Board members were asked to promote the workshop.

**MSLA conference:** Conference committee is planning a "Fill up your tool box" theme. Plans include:

Saturday:

- Literary tour of Amherst area (passport at checkpoints for bonus)

Sunday:

- well known speaker in the morning
- unconference
- author event
- awards only at dinner
- Walden Media-style event after

Monday :

- Read across America day
- focus on librarians promoting reading in our schools
- suggestion: author skyping with students at school
- practical tools

**Legislation:** Julie Farrell is stepping down as chair of the legislative committee and becoming area director of the central region. Legislative co-chair position is open.

**Membership:** Jennifer Reed reported on results of membership survey. Highlights:

- Listserv is primary reason members belong to MSLA

- Members want professional development opportunities
- Members prefer web page over other social media
- Members value the *Forum*

Board voted unanimously to extend free MSLA membership to current school library students who either reside in Massachusetts or are enrolled in Massachusetts programs.

**Advocacy:** Amy Bloom reported that Norah Connolly has agreed to serve as advocacy co-chair. Suggested advocacy slogan is “School libraries: what can we help you discover today?”

**State of the profession:** Board discussed the shortage of school librarians in Massachusetts, the districts struggling to fill positions, and the districts cutting professional librarians. Of interest was how MSLA can best intervene and advocate for the profession.

**Assorted business:**

- Kathy Lowe drew raffle for free conference registration. Winner is Elaine Mokrzycki. Congratulations, Elaine!
- Board held a moment of reflection in honor of Sharon Hamer who is retiring and leaving the board. Congratulations, Sharon, and thank you for your many years of service.
- Board unanimously approved the following appointments to the board:
  - Julie Farrell, central area director
  - Kathy Dubrovsky, liaison to retiree special interest group
  - Norah Cloony, advocacy co-chair

**MSLA Unconference:** Laura D’Elia is organizing an EdCamp-style professional development event on August 21 at Westborough High School. At an unconference, participants choose topics and create their own professional development.

**Museum of Science:** Judi Paradis discussed the possibility of working with the museum to forge connections about innovation space, makerspace, and STEM activities.

**Massachusetts Library System:** MLS Youth Services librarians April Mazza and Sarah Sogigian want to make a LibGuide of resources for school librarians broken down by grade level. Board questions included whether this would be a virtual makerspace or a tool for advocating literacy.

**Forum:** Editors Kat Steiger and Jennifer Dimmick are considering Joomag as a newsletter production tool.