**Massachusetts School Library Association**

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 1, 2016**

**Retreat Meeting, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, Westborough High School**

**Attendees:** Anita Cellucci, Laura Luker, Laura Gardner, Kathy Lowe, Reba Tierney, Laura Harrington, Jen Thomas, Amy Bloom, Julie Farrell, Jen Varney, Laura D’Elia, Jennifer Dimmick, Amy Short, Leslie Lomasson, Rachel Bouhanda, Robyn York, Suzanne Mathews, Ariel Dagan, Chani Craig, Liz Phipps-Soeiro

**AGENDA**

**Special Guest:** [**Heifer International**](http://www.heifer.org/) - Laurie Wodin and Kate Sheehan

Goal: Lift 4 million families out of poverty into better living conditions by 2020. Partnerships with schools are important.

Laurie Wodin: Integrated into the sixth grade World Geography curriculum at Hopedale Elementary School, where Laurie worked (mid-April through June). Some schools participate every year while some participate one time only. Some schools have a service learning project. Some as part of empathy, sustainability, and natural resources curriculum. School in Rochester, NY was too impoverished to collect donations from community members, so a local business agreed to donate $5K if students met reading goals. Positive impact on community: parents read more, students read more, achievement goes up.

Not only do students have an opportunity to read, they also have the opportunity to write and reflect on the experience. Students write goals at the beginning of the project, do a mid project check in, then a final reflection. By using social media and digital communication students are using 21C skills (and the 4C’s) as well as global understanding to meet Heifer goals.

Last year $100,000 goal was reached, and there is a matching grant (is this at the Heifer state level? Or are we talking about individual school partner matching?). Laurie’s school usually raises about $4,400, but when you reach $5,000 your school will get a plaque.

Lesson plans are available online at heifer.org, and in Spanish and English. There are resources for all grade levels online. There is a global village, students participate in some agricultural activities and gather food from the farm and make a communal meal.

Laurie envisions having a statewide commitment, led by school librarians and DESE partnership.

**Board Meeting** - Anita Cellucci and members

Introductions, welcoming new members

Brief discussion of Kathy Lowe’s report. Members decided to leave the listserv unmoderated.

Consent agenda was approved.

**Old Business**

***Vote - Policy Language Change for Travel*** - Anita Cellucci & Jen Varney

Proposed policy language changes regarding MSLA national conference reimbursements

Current policy:

National Conference Reimbursement: Reimbursable expenses include conference registration fees and associated travel costs up to $5000 for a maximum of 5 attendees. Each attendee will be responsible for any overage. Reimbursements will be provided upon presentation of receipts. Members will reimburse MSLA if they must cancel registrations and/or reservations that are not 100% refundable and previously paid by the organization.

Proposed policy:

National Conference Reimbursement: Reimbursable expenses include conference registration fees, associated travel costs, and hotel at the double occupancy rate up to $1000 per attendee for a maximum of 5 attendees. Each attendee will be responsible for any overage. Qualifying expenses may be paid in advance on the MSLA credit card with permission of the Executive Director or reimbursements will be provided upon presentation of receipts. Members will reimburse MSLA if they must cancel registrations and/or reservations that are not 100% refundable and previously paid by the organization.

The Board approved the language change, and Kathy L. reminded the Board that another vote will need to take at the November meeting because policy language changes require two votes for approval.

***Contest for Legislative Day*** - Anita Cellucci & Ariel Dagan

Ariel D., co-chair of Advocacy, met with Linda Coviello and Cathy Collins to discuss changes to the Bookmark Contest to bring in the use of more technology. For the redesign of the bookmark, Ariel suggested using the [Aurasma app](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/aurasma/id432526396?mt=8) - (perhaps for the winning school) and put QR code on the back of bookmark. Another action item that came from the new Bookmark Committee was to make sure that students attending the Legislative Day have something meaningful to do. Also, in addition to MLS and authors judging the bookmark submissions, Ariel mentioned expanding the vote to the schools that participate. Theme is still in development, but hoping to keep it in line with the Beyond the Binding theme of the Spring Conference.

***Awards*** - Amy Short

The Awards portal is opened and Amy S. sent out notification to MSLA members yesterday. The award nominations are due in January. Information about the website evaluation for nominees will be forthcoming.

**New Business**

***MassCUE - MSLA presentation*** - Anita Cellucci

Even though there are already several sessions booked at MassCUE, Anita C. mentioned that there is still one session slot open. Kathy L. mentioned the session could be about ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). Laura D. suggested that we also have ESSA information at the booth. At this point, we don’t have the exact time and day slot.

Laura D. suggested that we add some new signage and advertising to the travel suitcase of materials. Materials should be more eye catching to draw people over to the booth. The booth at MassCUE is near the KidCUE booth which gets a lot of attention.

Ariel suggested that we could use sticky notes and have people write responses on them and display them. Jen Dimmick suggested that we focus on technology related goals and collaborations. Laura D. and Laura G. will work on signage for the booth. Chani C. suggested that we employ Aurasma and QR codes to engage the tech crowd. Julie F. suggested setting up a Cahoot with questions on library services. Leslie L. suggested that we highlight the digital resources librarians provide for their learning community. Board members suggested that we provide evidence of database and technology use.

Leslie L. suggested that we put on our agenda the MLS budget database cutting. Laura L. is the MSLA representative to the MLS Executive Board. The funding is decided for this year. Kathy L. reminded us that school librarians are the largest shareholders in the Mass Library System, and suggested that librarians attend the upcoming breakfast on November 7 at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. Liz S. and Rachel B. will reach out to retirees to recruit additional supporters. What we are losing include delivery days, and some of the databases, but we don’t know which ones yet.

Laura L. mentioned that the other component to this database cutting issue, then direct advocacy to MBLC since their decisions are not finalized. Make sure they know about the impact of databases on students. Jen D. suggested that someone volunteer to write an article about the upcoming changes to the databases in schools as a consequence to schools and what librarians can do about it in the next *Forum* issue. Laura L., Laura D., and Laura G. will co-write the article for the winter edition of *The Forum* and promote awareness on this issue.

Kathy L. suggested sending out a legislative letter template to members to send to the MBLC and legislators.

***Heifer International Discussion*** - Anita Cellucci

Ariel D. volunteered to promote in the vocational education community within his school.

Jenn V. discussed some concerns about Heifer because she feels that we might not be addressing local concerns of inequity in our state. Many librarians have students that are poor and do not have sufficient food in their own homes. Anita C. mentioned that you can integrate the curriculum without doing the fundraising. Leslie L. mentioned that we need to clarify our mission statement so that we understand what our mission is as an organization, and that we may leave it up to individual schools to choose how and if they would like to participate. Reba T. suggested we discuss how Mass Reading Association (MRA) supported Heifer. Julie F., as well as other Board members, suggested that we can offer them opportunities to get the word out about Heifer, but that we should not be openly supporting Heifer as an organization.

***Action Plans*** - Anita Cellucci

Anita would like to coalesce all the action plans into one document, which the Board will review and align with the strategic plan.

***Website Updates***

Board members worked in groups to update website materials, utilizing materials prepared ahead of today’s meeting.

***Small Group Work***

Board members worked together in their respective groups on items/projects/etc.:

AD’s

Advocacy/Contest for Legislative day

Forum

PLC

Legislation

Liaisons

ED/Treasurer/Awards

President - available to have conversations, etc.

Adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn York