

# **NEEMA Virtual Meeting Minutes**

**November 15, 2005**

Finalized 12/11/05

**Present:** Susan Ballard, Dorothy Grazier, Nancy Grant, Sandy Kelly, Irene Kwidzinski, Carolyn Markuson, Merlyn Miller, Sylvia Norton, and Jenifer O'Connor.

**Absent:** Gretchen Asam, Diane Beaman, Bette-Jean Black, Rebecca Cochrane, Valerie Diggs, Audrey Friend, Carol Gordon, Dan Greene, Phyllis Humphrey, Marilyn Joyce, Dianne Kimball, Kathy Lowe, Douglas Maitland, Katrina Palazzolo, Charlie White.

## **Call to Order:**

5:11 p.m.

## **Secretary's Report:**

Minutes: Susan Ballard moved to table the minutes to the next meeting; Merlyn Miller Seconded. Vote unanimous. In the absence of the secretary, Carolyn Markuson volunteered to keep the minutes.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Irene Kwidzinski moved to table the treasurer report to the next meeting; Dorothy Grazier seconded. Vote unanimous.

## **State Reports:**

### **Connecticut CEMA**

Successful conference

### **Massachusetts MSLMA** submitted by Sandy Kelley, MSLMA Rep.

Reported a successful conference on October 23-24 with an increased Sunday attendance. Participants were given a sneak preview of the *Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*. MSLMA agreed to cosponsor the Jamie Mackenzie December conference. The Standards and Curriculum Committee are working to craft an alignment with the DOE MA Frameworks. A membership discussion on library support staff and ideas to reach out to independent schools is underway. Several members attended AASL in Pittsburgh. Kathy Lowe, Ann Perham, Sandy Kelly, and Valerie Diggs are planning to attend ALA midwinter in San Antonio.

### **Maine MASL**

No report

## **New Hampshire NHEMA** submitted by Dot Grazier, NHEMA President.

NHEMA will hold two conferences this year -- one a one-day workshop for people interested in becoming school librarians to be held at the DOE. Criteria on ways to become certified will be explained. This will be held on April 7, 2006 (a result of having NH DOE standards call for school library media specialists at the MS and HS levels). NHEMA will be having its own conference May 25 at Plymouth State University with a larger focus on technology in addition to literature. The organization will be conducting a survey to determine what staffing at MS and HS is in place and to put pressure on schools not complying with the new state standards.

## **Rhode Island RI EMA**

No report

## **Vermont VEMA** submitted by Merlyn Miller, VEMA Rep

One of VEMA's main concerns is still the fact that there has been no appointment of a school library media consultant at the Department of Education. The VEMA president Dan Greene has written another plea to Commissioner Cate but his reply was to set up another meeting for discussion rather than an action response. Because many Vermont school librarians work in isolation, the guidance, support and wisdom a school library media consultant position is even more vital. To address this issue they wait for Commissioner Cate to make an appointment, VEMA is working on a mentoring program in conjunction with UVM. The mentoring program will match potential school librarians going through the UVM sequence, which requires a 60 hour practicum, with working librarians. The list of mentors will also be used to assist new VT school librarians.

## **AASL:**

Irene Kwidzinski is a member of the Teaching and Learning committee which will be sponsoring the 2006 Fall Forum on October 13-15 in Warwick, RI. Keynote speaker will be Violet Harada, author of "Assessing Learning." The main question is what is "assessment" and why is it so important that the school librarian be both knowledgeable and involved. Other speakers are being pursued: Barbara Stripling, Debbie Abilock, someone from Understanding by Design, etc.

Irene reminded us to check our affiliation status (Diane Chen at ALA/AASL) and to identify the Affiliate Representatives for Midwinter in San Antonio. This can be checked at <http://www.ala.org/aasltemplate.cfm?section=affiliateassembly&template=/cfapps/aasl/affiliateassembly/directory.cfm#AL>

To communicate the representatives for Affiliate Assembly, contact Jennifer Habley at [jhabley@ala.org](mailto:jhabley@ala.org)

Affiliate Assembly reps for NEEMA are Frances Nadeau and Sylvia Norton with Merlyn Miller (backup for Sylvia)

**AECT:** No report. Irene suggested that we look at the website for latest news

## **Old Business:**

### **Membership**

180 renewal notices went out, 46 by snail mail. To date, 43 renewals have been received. Remind everyone to send in their renewals to Merlyn. Carolyn suggested that state organizations may be willing to share their current email addresses with us to update our records and allow more email notices.

### **FOSL**

Focus is getting the website up and running. A template has been posted; additional links and information will be forthcoming. A target date of December 1, 2005 will be suggested to Dan. Carol Gordon has volunteered to share her links and use Contribute to post, and is willing to assume responsibility for content updating in the short term.

### **NEEMA Leadership Conference 2006**

Read Carol's letter summarizing the layout of the conference. Changes: speakers for session after lunch may change. Time frame is 8 a.m. To 4:30 p.m. Registration form to be sent out shortly after the board meeting. Please post in states so people needing to register early can do so.

Registration fees were sent out for email approval; Board revisited and approved them at the meeting. Fees: \$100/member, \$130/new or renewing member, \$150/non-member and \$25.00 late fee after Feb 1, 2006. 25 rooms are reserved at Seaport Hotel @ \$172/dbl (across from World Trade Center). A list of other less expensive hotels on city outer limits will be explored. The topic appears to be a hot button issue, namely "Formative Assessment." States are looking for data driven decisions if they are to meet NCLB by 2014.

There is a need for the states to assist Carol in identifying: a). each state's DOE person in charge of formative assessment (data warehousing etc.). NEEMA wants to invite them to come; Carol will make the contact. These are the state people who are helping districts use local data to diagnose test results and ultimately make changes in the way some groups of students are taught. Carol is also looking at what questions need to be asked regarding school library curriculum and how these are incorporated into our practice. These DOE contacts will be invited to speak at a roundtable about what each state is doing with the data. Funding, typically \$40,000/year, is already being put into place to support these initiatives. The impact for LMS could be important to show that information literacy skills are important. We must be thinking about how a "technology driven system of data collection, warehousing and data mining relate to what we do everyday."

A call for Poster Sessions (each state) for participants to peruse while lunching. Some suggestions were the MSLMA Exploratorium; MSLMA legislation efforts and lobbyist; NH the success at having LMS at MS and HS required by the DOE; etc. Please contact Carol Gordon directly with ideas and presentations for the remaining states (CT, RI, VT)

### **NEEMA VIEWS**

Fall issue is in the mail and ready to be posted on the website (under development – aim is Dec. 1!) The next issue will be after Midwinter and prior to Leadership. Next edition will be

electronic only.

## **New Business:**

### **Tax-free Status**

501c3 status The conference venue this year alerted us to the desirability of becoming a 501c3 organization (charitable/educational). It can be a difficult application to file, but because NEEMA is so small and has low revenues, it may be possible. Susan Ballard moved that we investigate further and apply for a 501c3 status; seconded by Sandy Kelly. A discussion ensued and Carolyn noted that we may have to write an Articles of Organization statement that more clearly defines our purpose to meet the federal guidelines template. This will be developed and sent to the board for approval prior to submission.

### **Web Site**

Check out the template at [www.neema.org](http://www.neema.org). Dan McLeod (Webmaster) is working on some technical issues that need to be resolved with the host. He is to be asked to set up the website to accept an electronic ballot vote. A review of the Constitution and Bylaws will be made to see if this mode is allowed.

### **Meeting Dates**

Confusion on board meeting dates set at the September meeting are the result of late publication of minutes and conflicts/changes in the Conference date. It was decided that the next Board Meeting will be moved from Saturday March 4 to the dinner meeting prior to the conference on March 2. Venue to be determined (but in close proximity to the Seaport Hotel and Moakley Courthouse).

There will be a Face-to-Face Meeting on April 29, 2006 at Londonderry Public Schools Office. [Concerns and commendations for ALA/AASL Affiliate Assembly will be due at this meeting so ideas can be finalized and submitted to AASL in time for the annual conference.

### **Proposed Meeting Dates Summary**

Thursday, March 2 Board Meeting Prior to Leadership Conference  
Saturday, April 29 Face-to-Face Board Meeting in Londonderry, NH

## **Adjournment:**

There being no other subjects for the meeting, Sandy Kelly moved to adjourn at 5:56 p.m.; seconded by Dorothy Grazier.

Note: Special thanks to Sandy Kelly for her excellent note taking at virtual and her written report to MSLMA the next day. It added much to the notes Carolyn made while the meeting was going on!

Enhancements to Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Palazzolo