

NEEMA Board Minutes
Tuesday, February 13, 2007
Virtual Meeting
Finalized 5/5/07

Present:

Susan Ballard, Marilyn Joyce, Merlyn Miller, Nancy Grant, Jen Smolnik, Chris Barlow, Katrina Palazzolo, Barbara Ashby (RI), Carolyn Markuson, Irene Kwidzinski, Sylvia Norton

Absent:

Doug Maitland, Charlie White, Kathy Lowe, Janet Roche, Sue Eblen, Teri Caouette, Valerie Diggs, Sandy Kelly, Diane Beaman, Sarah Morenon, Jacquelyn Lamoreaux, Anne Gallivan, Alexis Baker

Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m.

Secretary's Report:

Motion to approve the minutes from 9/30/06 and 11/30/06 (Carolyn/Nancy G.).
Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

No report.

State Reports:

Connecticut-CEMA reported by Chris Barlow, CEMA rep to NEEMA
CEMA has completed a name change survey with its membership via Survey Monkey with 208 responses. The name with the highest votes is CASL-Connecticut Association of School Librarians. The next step is to take this information to the next board meeting in March. A final vote will be held via Survey Monkey.

Because Connecticut has held recent workshops with low attendance, CEMA is applying a new model of CEMA liaisons to "get the word out" on CEMA events. Basically, there is one volunteer – a CEMA liaison -- in each school district who will receive emails from CEMA and then forward them to the other library media specialists in their school district because not all library media specialists are members of the CEMA listserv.

In addition, CEMA is make changes to its constitution to re-organize its board in an effort to attract and retain new leadership on the CEMA board. Currently, CEMA is looking for a volunteer to fill the position of Vice-President.

CEMA's 2007 conference is a joint conference with CECA – the Computer Educators of Connecticut – scheduled for the Connecticut Convention Center in downtown Hartford on Tuesday, October 23, 2007. Right now, the committee is seeking proposals from presenters that are due March 6, 2007.

Massachusetts-MSLA reported by Kathy Lowe, MASL President

Membership We currently have 719 members. Area Directors are contacting lapsed members to encourage them to renew and sending welcome emails to new members. We are experimenting with a membership incentive contest - each member who recruits a new member will be entered into a drawing for a free conference registration.

We have posted our membership directory on the MSLA web site, accessed with a member-only password. We have also posted a list of members who indicated a willingness to share their expertise with their colleagues on their membership renewal forms. Now colleagues looking for help will know who they can contact.

Conference After having our most profitable conference ever in 2006, the conference committee has been grappling with the ramifications of holding our 2007 conference on Veteran's Day Sunday and the day after (November 11-12). We have tentative commitments to speak from Chris Harris, Meredith Farkas, Nancy Polette, Brian Kenney, Allison Zmuda, Sara Kelly Johns and Alice Yucht (via ABC CLIO). Rosen Publishing has agreed to come on as a new sponsor.

We have posted a call for proposals for conference presentations on the MSLA web site and invite all NEEMA board members to consider submitting a proposal and to pass this information along to any of your colleagues that might be interested in doing a presentation. Proposals are due February 23rd.

PR/Advocacy Documents Now that our logo and address have change, we are reviewing all of the former MSLMA documents to decide which ones to update, revise or adapt for continued use. We selected documents to include in advocacy packets for our annual Legislation Day at the State House on March 8th. Packets will include our program standards and rubrics, MLA/MSLA joint statement on the similarities and differences between school and public libraries, our position statement on school library staffing, a copy of the fall issue of MSLA Forum, some fact sheets from the Massachusetts Power book, and winning bookmarks from this year's contest. We had postcards printed and mailed to our members to promote Legislation Day. The postcards have a tear-off card for members to send to their legislators inviting them to attend our exhibit and bookmark contest awards ceremony. We have been working with a graphic artist to design a new PR brochure and membership form. These will be professionally printed in time to include in the packets for Legislative Day and distributed widely to promote school libraries and membership in MSLA.

Legislation We have once again filed our bill to include school libraries in the Education Reform law. If it passes this year, we will follow up with a bill for funding for school library programs.

Executive Board Job Descriptions President-elect Sandy Kelly is overseeing the writing of job descriptions for all executive board positions that will be included in a manual for new board members.

Student SIG The co-presidents of the MSLA Student SIG are organizing a mini-conference to be held at Simmons College on March 24th for students in the GSLIS program. Some of the topics students would like to learn about are: collaboration with teachers, relationship with principals, storytelling, technology, book talks, automation systems, library layout, and book binding for children. They are asking seasoned MSLA members to volunteer to do presentations on these topics.

Information Fluency Standards The final draft of the *Massachusetts Recommended PreK-12 Information Fluency Standards* is posted on the MSLA web site. Next step is to get the DOE to approve and sanction this document.

New Hampshire-NHEMA No report

Vermont-VEMA reported by Merlyn Miller, VEMA rep to NEEMA

- The VEMA board has chosen two goals: refining the curriculum documents from 2000 and initiating a stronger relationship with the Vermont Information Technology Association.

Rhode Island-RIEMA reported by Barbara Ashby, Vice-Pres. Of RIEMA

- Conference 2007 will be held April 27, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick. Our theme is School Libraries: The Quest For Wisdom with keynote speaker, Bernie Dodge and author Will Hobbs.
- RIEMA has just started a RIEMA blog. People have logged on but nothing yet has been posted. The last board meeting focused on state standards for library staffing in large high schools. For example, in Providence they have cut three of the large high schools the staff from 2 full-time to 1 full-time person. There are constant challenges to staffing. Right now, RIEMA is monitoring how well the high school libraries have been able to serve their students and teachers and quantifying the level of service with reduced staff. There are a few individuals and the commissioner within the state government who have been supportive.

Maine-MASL reported by Nancy Grant, MASL rep to NEEMA

- The joint conference with the Maine Library Association will be held November 4-6, 2007 in Augusta, ME.
- MASL approved paying the NEEMA membership for all MASL Board members.
- Maine's governor has proposed reducing the 152 school districts in Maine to 26 districts to match the geographic boundaries of the Career Technical Centers. This will shift resources from administration to the classroom, saving over \$250 million over the next 3 years. Another goal is to lower the student teacher ratio to 17 to 1. The goal is for the law to pass this year and go into effect July 1, 2008. "Maine is on the move!"

AASL report submitted by Irene Kwidzinski, AASL Director

Marilyn Joyce proposed the following schedule for collecting concerns and commendations this spring.

April 15	States and NEEMA send concerns and commendations to Marilyn
May 5	NEEMA face-to-face meeting – discussions of concerns
May 15	Final copies of concerns and commendations to Marilyn. Forms are in the affiliate assembly notebook at http://www.ala.org/aasl/affiliates
May 30	Everything is due!

Marilyn said it is "very easy to put concerns together with NEEMA as a vehicle." If anyone needs to be put on the affiliate assembly email list, please contact Marilyn Joyce.

Irene submitted the following report below but two key items are **elections in the spring** (everyone should vote to get as many school librarians in as possible) and the **Legislative Day in May**. If you can't get down to the Legislative Day you can schedule a virtual meeting with your legislator to discuss issues. Sylvia noted that the best way to get legislators to hear your concerns (especially on the HQT for NCLB) is to fax them "your story" because the stories are what help the legislators understand the issue and they are more likely to receive your information if you fax them – why we want library media specialists to be highly qualified.

AASL Board Meeting-ALA Mid-Winter-Seattle, WA-January 2007 submitted by Irene Kwidzinski
The AASL board began its mid-winter meeting with a four-hour strategic planning workshop on Friday to analyze the association structure. We reviewed the current strategic plan making sure that our assumptions about the future haven't changed.

We did make some adjustments to our thoughts. Regarding demographics, we said that resources will be disproportionately allotted to the "have nots"; that in addition to an increase in home schooling there will probably be more virtual learning; and that social networking tools will continue to grow. We agreed that the business influence on education as a potential market will increase, and that copyright issues will become more global and therefore more complex. In science and technology, we thought that new developments in brain research will impact teaching and learning; that personal interactivity through technology has and will continue to increase; that technology developments will change copyright issues; and that technology purchasing decisions will increasingly fall outside of the school library media program.

We reassessed our strategic long-range goal to make the profession viable in the future. The three main categories are advocacy, professionalism and alliances. Under advocacy, we are doing an advocacy campaign, we did successfully campaign against the 65% solution, we expanded NCLB lobbying, and we used the AASL blog to gather information. Under professionalism, we have grown the profession by establishing the professional learning community, and are maintaining quality control in SLM preparation programs by giving input in the changes in and monitoring the progress of accreditation & NCATE standards.

We decided that we had achieved the goal at a satisfactory pace, but that we wanted to increase our relevancy in the greater educational community by concentrating on alliances. Under alliances, we are reviewing the language of the standards and guidelines of other groups as we develop the new standards and guidelines for our profession (review the second draft of the learning standards <http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslproftools/learningstandards/standards.htm>). We decided that we could increase our relevancy in the educational community by concentrating on alliances with business, education and accreditation organizations; making presentations at conferences of other organizations; and building coalitions with other associations through forums.

Four Hour Board Meeting on Saturday

We had twenty-four consent/information items on the agenda. I will highlight some of them.

1. One of the items that I want to highlight is the work of Knowledge Quest; it is a wonderful resource that you should examine. To find out what the print version has to offer, go to <http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslpubsandjournals/kqweb/aboutkq/aboutkq.htm> and also check out its new media kit. There is an online companion to the journal at <http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslpubsandjournals/kqweb/kqweb.htm> that enhances the experience. The next topics are broadening perspectives across cultures and countries, small changes (facilities), ICT and the conference issue.
2. The 13th annual AASL conference "The Future Begins @ your library" will take place in Reno, Nevada October 25 – 28, 2007. Take advantage of the early bird discount by registering by July 6th. To find out about the pre-conference and conference programs go to <http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/conferencesandevents/national/reno2007.htm> . If you missed the fall forum on assessment in October, you might want to go the Assessing for Learning pre-conference with Vi Harada and her co-author of *Assessing Learning* (a terrific resource) Joan Yoshina. You also don't want to miss best-selling author and expert on innovation, competition and the changing world of work, Dan Pink or Omar Wasow on-air technology analyst and the co-founder of BlackPlanet.com.

3. Go to Cable in the Classroom <http://www.ciconline.org/reports> to view its report that shows media literacy is a vital and underserved need in schools.
4. Consider applying for the many awards available through ALA and AASL <http://www.ala.org/aasltemplate.cfm?Section=aaslawards> .
5. Participate in the conversation about your profession and monitor the latest information. Check out and participate in the AASL blog <http://blogs.ala.org/aasl.php> or join one of the professional learning communities <http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aasleducation/professionallearningcommunities/tflc.htm> .
6. At the state level, in preparation for Legislative Day on May 1-2, strengthen your message by aligning with the six themes in ALA's National Agenda for Libraries http://wikis.ala.org/nationallibraryagenda/images/f/f4/Discussion_Draft_MW_2007_final_1-11-07.pdf . For example, engaged students stay in school and improve economic development, support democracy and strengthen communities. I am sure you can make school connections with each of the themes and use them as talking points with your legislators. Share SLMP stories or anecdotes with legislators. Give legislators copies of Scholastics *School Libraries Work* and tell them that we want to be included as highly qualified teachers as defined in your state so that we can receive staff development funding.
7. AASL is working jointly with ACRL on an Information Literacy toolkit.
8. The State Department Inquiry Task Force plans to develop a position paper defining the role and value of the position by June 2007.
9. The Quantitative Task Force plans to identify states that have quantitative guidelines or formulas and develop a matrix that captures essential information. I volunteered to be a member of that task force knowing that our region requested that information.
10. Task Force the refresh the AASL mission statement. I also volunteered for this task force to make sure that our mission statement reflects current practice by tweaking some of its wording.

Don't Forget: Vote!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Both candidates for AASL president, Ann Martin and Floyd Pentlin, strongly encourage you to vote. *Bullet your vote to target school librarians and increase our influence within ALA.*

Merlyn Miller from Vermont and Ann Perham from Massachusetts are running for Director-Elect for our region. Both have served well in their state associations and NEEMA.

ALA is focusing on school libraries. Encourage ALA to stay the course and VOTE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

For Your 2007 Calendar

Fri., June 22 Affiliate Assembly 8 – 10 p.m., Washington D.C.

Sun., June 25 Affiliate Assembly 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., Washington D.C. www.ala.org

AECT No report

Leadership Conference:

Merlyn reported that at this moment, 43 are registered for the Leadership Conference: 13 for only the first day, 11 for only the second day, 19 for both days, 6 for the Pier IV Dinner, 3 “Teen Space” books, and 6 “Designing School Library” books. 8 new memberships were included in the conference registration forms. Early registration must be postmarked by this Thursday, Feb. 15. **Susan**

B. will send out email containing a reminder regarding the early bird registration postmark date for this Thursday, Feb. 15th. Carolyn reported that she has posted the conference on the site of the American Institute of Architects + 27 other architect groups + sent to 6 regions in the MA area and one region (metro west) is having Kim Bolan, without telling us, all day on Friday. Carolyn is trying to get that metro west region in MA to pay for half of Bolan's airfare. Rolf sent conference info to DesignShare – everything is on their blog. We want to encourage architects to attend.

Merlyn has a question about our Federal ID Number and registrations. Doug's and Carolyn's IDs given to Merlyn are 2 different numbers. **Merlyn should call Doug (around dinner time or prior to 7:30 a.m. – or call Audrey Friend and she will get a hold of Doug) to resolve this confusion with the Federal ID#.**

Merlyn also has another question about who needs to know all of the info – number of meals and books -- that she has been collected through the registrations? In order for the books to get ordered, **Carolyn will need that information by March 1st for ALA to ship. Carolyn will need the information for meals by March 20th. Carolyn will be back home March 4th.**

Merlyn also has a question about membership on the Conference Registration. It says that memberships will be good through August 2008. Question about the fixed date for membership vs. a rolling date for membership. Right now, the people who get membership with conference registration will have their membership good through August 2008. Anyone who has registered on their conference form will get an expiration date of August 2008 with the assumption that the membership will take effect on March 29, 2007. What is fair? **Put discussion of fixed-date vs. rolling date for membership on May meeting agenda. Next year, also make sure people fill out only one conference registration form per person.**

Carolyn suggested that we look into weather insurance to cover the conference meals – like what people do for weddings. She doesn't know the details regarding this insurance (she saw this on CNN), but she knows it has to be purchased by 7 days in advance of the event. **We need to find out from Doug how much are the meals for the two days of conference. Ballard will look into weather insurance for Leadership.**

We have two sponsors for Leadership – Follett and Scholastic. Follett would like a full-page ad within a conference booklet. Carolyn will put together a conference booklet if people send her citations of articles regarding that we could reproduce regarding for facilities and Friday's topic. We also have 2 tables and a couple of small ads – the Bretford rep wants a table and a small business card ad. Doug sent Ballard the card. We have three times the amount of sponsorship than last time. Carolyn is still waiting for a solid sponsor for the food. Ballard heard from netTrekker will possibly offer a door prize – a subscription or a laptop

bag, but they might be interested in a booth. Not sure whether netTrekker is interested in Thursday or Friday. Overall, still tracking down sponsors. Jen has had no luck with World Book.

Carolyn and Susan B will work on a booklet of seminal articles like the *Time* article from December 10th and Katrina will put up sponsor logos on the web site as we get sponsors. Please send article citations to Carolyn. Please send sponsor logos to Katrina for web page.

Old Business:

Membership reported by Merlyn Miller, Membership Chair

At this moment, there are 156 members.

22 from CT, 58 from MA, 31 from VT, 14 from ME, 22 from NH, 6 from RI, 1 from SC, 1 from NJ, and 1 from PA.

NEEMA Credit Card: no report

FOSL: no report

Web Site: reported by Katrina Palazzolo, Secretary to NEEMA

Overall, the web site is working; however we should **put on the agenda for the next face-to-face meeting discussion of web pages that we put into our original site design that still have no content.**

New Business:

Advocacy: tabled for now

501c3 status: tabled for now

Concern that the benefits are not worth the effort.

AASL Vision Summit

Diane Beaman, Valerie Diggs, Susan Ballard, David Bilmes, Merlyn Miller, Peggy Dexworth represented New England at the AASL Vision Conference in Chicago.

Susan will write a formal report on this for NEEMA. Susan B. reported that the AASL Vision Summit was a “facilitated think tank” to consider the role of library media specialists and how it needs to change in the 21st century to be relevant and to add value to the learning experience. There were exercises to envision the future of the library media profession. Currently, participants are

embargoed from discussing a portion of the work of the summit at this time. Participants expected more follow-up with the association, but they have not had much follow-up outside of a PDF document listing the email addresses of the participants.

SLJ Summit

Sylvia noted that there was a supplement to the *SLJ* January issue regarding the Learning in the 21st century –the role of the library media program
<http://extras.schoollibraryjournal.com/summit/>

New England Reading Association:

Conference is September 27 & 28, 2007 at the Augusta Civic Center in Augusta, ME. Keynotes include Don Leu from UCONN. **Marilyn will find out more about the Board and activities of the New England Reading Association and how we can connect with them because we both have interest in New Literacies.**

NEEMA Views no report

Constitution Revisions: none

News

- Susan Ballard reports that at Londonderry's High School (1700 students and 3 support staff) the number of Library Media Specialists is increasing from 2.7 to 3.0 positions. Also, the Londonderry Superintendent was nominated for AASL Distinguished School Administrator Award.
- Dec. 10, 2006 issue of *Time* magazine contained an article entitled "How to bring schools out of the 20th century"
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1568480,00.html>

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 6:13 p.m. (Katrina/Irene).

Proposed Meeting Dates

- March 29th & 30th Leadership Conference, Boston
- May 5th, NEEMA Face-to-Face Dublin, NH at Carolyn's @10:00

State Conferences:

- Connecticut Oct. 23, 2007 (Joint with CECA) Hartford, CT
- Maine November 4-6, 2007
- Mass. November 11 & 12, 2007

- New Hampshire May 17 & 18, 2007 Mount Washington Hotel
- Rhode Island April 27, 2007 Warwick, RI
- Vermont May 15 & 16, 2007 Burlington, VT
- AASL October 25-28, 2007 Reno, NV
- AECT Oct. 23-27, 2007 Anaheim, CA
- ALA June 21-27, 2007 Washington, D.C.
- NELA October 14-16, 2007 Sturbridge, MA

Affiliate Assembly

Fri., June 22 Affiliate Assembly, 8-10 p.m. Washington, D.C.

Sun., June 25 Affiliate Assembly 8-12 noon Washington, D.C.

Respectfully submitted,

Katrina Palazzolo