

MLA Board Meeting Minutes

Held at Jefferson Room, Holiday Inn, Bozeman, MT

April 8, 2015, 1:00 p.m.-4:00

In attendance: Sheila Bonnard, Dawn Kingstad, Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Della Dubbe, Debbi Kramer, Judy Hart, Matt Beckstrom, Kirsten Bryson, Marje Doyle, Dana Carmichael, Niki Keuch, Kari Eliason, Samantha Hines, Susan Gregory, Beth Boyson, Sarah McHugh, Eileen Wright, and Eva English.

Call to Order

A. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Jan. 16, 2015 board meeting minutes.

With change to name for PLD Chair (should be Rick Ball) move to approve the board minutes from the previous meeting.

1st: Beth Boyson

2nd: Marje Doyle

Approved

B. Agenda review – Nothing added.

C. Association reports. All reports submitted prior to meeting.

Some may still not be getting all the reports in Google groups. Try to use gmail address if possible. It seems to work better.

No other additions to the association reports.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of the strategic plan needs to be done at every meeting to see what has been accomplished and what still needs to be done. Board approved a one-year extension of strategic plan at summer retreat.

B. Debbi Kramer reported that the budget looks good.

C. Conference Planning. Debbi and Kari discussed the need for a way to get conference information out to people who are not on Wired. Debbi will send out the conference numbers summary for this year's conference. She will also send out another report comparing conference numbers from past years. This will be a discussion item at the retreat. The contract for next year's conference in Missoula has already been signed and \$1,000 paid. The conference will be at the Hilton Garden Inn. A number of people mentioned they preferred a downtown Missoula

location such as the Holiday Inn Downtown but there is not sufficient break-out rooms there for our conference. There was some discussion as to whether the board should be voting on a conference venue as we spend a lot of money for the conference. The MLA Bylaws (Art. IV, Section 1) state the board votes on location for the conference. Some boards have voted on location as the town; others have voted on the venue in the town. There needs to be clarification in the bylaws. The word location should likely be changed to city and venue.

The minutes from 10/13/14 set out locations for the MLA conferences.

2016-Missoula

2017-Big Sky or Helena

2018 – Billings

2019-Bozeman

An action item at the retreat should be to vote on city and venue.

D. Government affairs report. Judy Hart said it's been a tough session. The early literacy position is off the table. MLA has been working with the State Library to propose amendments to House Bill 2 (budget bill) in support of the MSL personal services budget. In particular MLA proposed an amendment to exempt the State Library from the 4% permanent FTE reduction approved last session, coupled with the 2% vacancy savings approved in the global motion, meaning that the State Library's personnel services budget has been reduced by 6%. Impact to MSL is an equivalent of a 1.29 FTE shortfall. All amendments failed to pass both the House and Senate. This issue may end up with the Governor.

Miscellaneous. We no longer have a Saturday conference board meeting as the board voted to do away with the traditional Saturday meeting at last year's conference Thursday board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. New report templates. Feedback indicates people seem to like it. The President needs to be responsible for following up on listed action items. People should e-mail reports to the secretary (Lisa) and the secretary will send out in one mass e-mail to Google groups.

B. ACTION ITEM: Motion for approval of bylaws changes to be presented to the membership at the membership meeting on Friday, April 10.

Some discussion and clarification ensued.

1st: Niki Keuch

2nd: Eileen Wright

Approved

C. Further review process for bylaws. There is likely further need for bylaws revision. In addition, the association's manual of procedures (Handbook) and the bylaws should match. No one is certain if they do. (The manual was last reviewed in 2008). A committee of Sheila, Lisa, Judy, and Debbi will look into this.

D. Social media account management. MLA does have a Facebook page, under the direction of Jack Albrecht. There has been a Twitter account created for some MLA-related events such as Offline. We determined that MLA should have a social media policy. Matt offered to share the policy from Lewis & Clark Public Library. We should be doing more with social media. The board will look at this for the next meeting.

E. ED evaluation process. The executive director position hasn't been evaluated for several years. This needs to be done so any increases in salary can be built into the budget. Sheila said she will attempt to get this done before the end of the fiscal year. We should be evaluating all paid MLA positions, including the executive director, the Webmaster, the conference planner, and the MLA lobbyist(s). Eileen stated that MPLA evaluates all their paid positions. All board members fill out evaluations and send them to the president. Eileen offered to share that template with Sheila. Sheila, Eileen, and Lisa will work on the process for reviewing.

F. Membership discussion. We need to get more people to renew their membership and also up attendance at conference.

1. ACTION ITEM: Proposal by Niki and Dana that there be a flat rate of \$40 for school librarians joining MLA through MEA-MFT Conference registration. A motion was made.

1st: Marje Doyle

2nd: Susan Gregory

Approved. To be reviewed after the MEA-MFT Conference.

2. Conference costs. Will be discussed at retreat.

Miscellaneous: PNLA and MPLA would like to be put on the MLA registration form. This will be discussed at retreat.

G. ACTION ITEM: Non-MLA affiliated groups at MLA events policy.

After discussion revealed this policy was not quite ready for prime time, this action item was tabled.

H. Membership meeting. Sheila briefly went through the agenda for the membership meeting. The meeting will only last an hour.

I. Executive session. Meeting closed for executive session.

J. Board retreat. The board retreat, for both outgoing and incoming MLA Board Members and committee and interest group chairs, will be June 4-6, 2015 at the Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry.

Adjourned.