



Montana Library Association

From the Mountains to the Prairies

MLA BOARD REPORTS

Office held/Chair of: School Library Division Co-chair

Reported By: Brittany Alberson

Date: 3/26/2020

Progress or Successes Since Our Last Meeting:

Planning on this year's SLD summer retreat began though has been derailed slightly by new COVID-19 restrictions.

Call for nominations for new SLD co-chair was sent out via WIRED. As of 3/26, no nominations have been received by me.

New Issues:

COVID-19 and its impacts on day-to-day operations and future planning continues to be negotiated. MSU, which usually hosts our summer retreat, is projecting that they will not be holding large group events on campus even through the summer. I have been in contact with Ann Ewbank about this new wrinkle and we are working on setting up a time to start discussing alternative venues, including the possibility of hosting the entire retreat online.

New school library media standards have been reviewed by the Negotiated Rule-making Committee (NRC) and have been sent on to OPI and the state superintendent of public instruction for review/approval. Public comment is still open and the next step in the approval process is an Economic Impact Survey. Public comment can be submitted to Colet Bartow via email at cbartow@mt.gov. There was some notable resistance to the robustness and comprehensiveness of these standards during the public NRC meetings and I recommend that MLA submit a letter of support for the standards which specifically champions the strength of the standards.

Board Action Requested:

Approval of MLA letter of support for statewide school library media standards currently under review.

Do we need to take official board action to consider the possibility of conducting the summer retreat online instead of in-person?

Other Comments:

Financial Report: FY 2019 budget: _____

Amount spent: _____

(If unknown, please contact Executive Director)