

**Approved at SLMS Board Meeting
August 3 – 4, 2010**



**SLMS Board Meeting Minutes
April 30, 2010
Crown Plaza Hotel, Albany NY
Thursday, 2:00 – 5:00 PM**

In attendance: Rosina Alaimo, John Brock, Jim Clark, Heather Damico, Sally Daniels, Beth Davis, Marcia Eggleston, Mary Beth Farr, Pauline Herr, Sara Kelly Johns, Maxine Kamin, Sara Kardasz (for Jane Herbst), Mary Ann Karre, “Charlie” Jennifer Kelly, Sue Kowlaski, Carole Kupelian, Jill Leinung, Patty Martire, Karen O’Donnell, Anne Paulson, Lisa Perkowski, Beth Pollicino, Laura Reed, Fran Roscello, Livia Sabourin, Pat Shanley, Karen Sperrazza, Bethanne Stancl, Kelly Wilson.

Administration-Fran Roscello, President

- The meeting commenced at 2:13 PM
- **Approval of the agenda**

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.

Motion made by Karen Sperrazza, seconded by Livia Sabourin. *Motion carried.*

- Board Briefs: Charlie Kelly
- **Approval of January 2010 Board Meeting Minutes: Pauline Herr, Secretary**
 - Online voting review
 - **MOTION:** For SLMS to pay for the registration fees for Cathie Marriott, Fran Roscello and Sara Kelly Johns, presenters at the 2010 summer leadership retreat. *Motion carried.*
 - **MOTION:** To accept the application form SLST-East to host the 2012 SLMS Conference. *Motion carried.*

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the January 2010 Board Meeting.

Motion made by Anne Paulson, seconded by Karen Sperrazza. *Motion carried.*

- Additional communication: Christine Hatami, Region 2 Representative, has resigned.

- **Finances: Patty Martire, Treasurer**
 - 2009 Treasurer's Report and Approval
 - An outstanding check was cashed. NYLA lent us some money and we needed to pay them back \$500.
 - We refunded a board member who could not attend the meeting.
 - Checking account balance as of 12/31/09: \$43,752.82

MOTION: To accept the 2009 Treasurer's Report as presented.

Motion made by Carole Kupelian, seconded by Livia Sabourin. *Motion carried.*

- 2010 Treasurer's Report and Approval
 - Expenses include the sales tax Ways and Means must pay. A \$1000 down payment for the Leadership Retreat was made. The cost of the January meeting was \$2900. We will discuss ways to lessen this at our meeting in August.
 - Working with Galena and getting reports in a timely manner is improving.

MOTION: To accept the 2010 Treasurer's Report as presented.

Motion made by Charlie Kelly, seconded by Carole Kupelian. *Motion carried.*

- **President's Update—Fran Roscello**
 - Fran commented on the cuts school districts are making regarding librarians. These cannot be ignored. She has written over 50 letters in their support. Bernie Margolis has also written letters. A few districts rescinded the cuts after receiving these communications. We all need to be proactive and write or call our legislators!
 - Laura Wedge was the 1968 SLMS President. She had a model library program and started the first SLMS Conference, which took place in Albany. Laura left SLMS a \$2500 bequest.
 - At the January meeting, we discussed the possibility of a name change due to AASL changing our name from School Library Media Specialist to School Librarian. We will continue this discussion.
 - We also want to consider ways to make our information more transparent to our members. What information should be public and what information should be only for the board?

Action Items from Reports

- **Bequest from Laura Wedge, former SLMS President**
 - Discussion ensued as to what to do with this bequest. Suggestions included: establish a scholarship for the Leadership Conference, use it for a Keynote Speaker, invest it to keep it growing, and establish a scholarship to the SLMS Conference for a "veteran" school librarian, as we have scholarships set up for "newbies."

MOTION: To establish The Laura Wedge Scholarship to be awarded to a school librarian who is a veteran in the field.

Motion made by Carole Kupelian, seconded by Livia Sabourin.

Discussion: The Program Rubric may be a way to choose the award recipient. The recipient should have ten or more year's experience.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION: To establish The Laura Wedge Scholarship to be awarded to a school librarian who is a veteran in the field and to assign this task to Maxine Kamin to work out the specifics and report back to the board.

Motion made by Carole Kupelian, seconded by Livia Sabourin. *Motion carried.*

- **SLMSGram Advertising—Bea Angus (absent)**
 - Members are asked to send contact for potential advertisers not on the current list. See the report on Google docs for this list.
- **SLMS Conference 2012 approval of dates—Karen Sperrazza**
 - It was noted that the suggested dates are May 4-5, 2012. This is *not* Mother's Day weekend.

MOTION: To approve the dates of May 4-5 for the 2012 SLMS Conference.

Motion made by Carole Kupelian, seconded by Livia Sabourin. *Motion carried.*

- **Outstanding School Library Request—Nancy Everhart, AASL President-Elect**
 - Nancy has asked us to look for libraries with outstanding programs for her to visit when she is in New York. Candidates must be a member of AASL, have an exemplary program and allow cameras in the library. Each affiliate should send suggestions to Sally Daniels, our AASL Delegate (sdaniels@ncsd.org).
- **Advocacy Statewide—Jane Herbst, Region 1 Report**
 - Jane would like to see us do more to promote library programs as we help to boost student achievement. She would like to know how we, as an organization, advocate and what more can we do.
 - It was decided to table this issue for August when we have more time for discussion.

Discussion Items from previous meeting(s)

- **Possible organization name change—Sally Daniels, AASL Delegate**
 - At the last Board Meeting it was suggested that we change our name from School Library Media Specialists to School Librarians, as the AASL has done. This may require other changes (logo, banner, pamphlets, etc.).
 - Michael Borges thinks this will be simple to do should we decide to go ahead. Is this a good time to do so?
 - Some affiliates are not changing due to the time and expense of doing so. It is up to us to define what we do; our role is not the same as it was when many of

us started in the profession. Our role has changed, but we still work in a library.

MOTION: To call our organization (NYLA Section) School Librarians instead of School Library Media Specialists. A naming committee will come to the board for a vote to determine the official name of the organization.

Motion made by Beth Davis, seconded by Carole Kupelian. *Motion carried.*

- Sally Daniels will work with Sue Kowalski and Karen Sperrazza on the name and to determine what other changes will need to be made.
- Once this is accomplished, changes will be implemented in our bylaws by having a vote by the membership.
- John noted that getting together on the small issues will allow us to better advocate on the larger issues.

Discussion items

- **SLMS Conferences—Conference manual, policies, publicity, reporting—Karen Sperrazza, VP Conferences**

- **2010—Melissa Bergin, Conference Chair**

Melissa was busy but left word that all is going well.

- **2011—James Clark and Bethanne Stancl, Conference Chairs**

- The conference is scheduled for May 6-7 at the Adams Mark, Buffalo.
- The theme is Learning4Life. Jim and Bethanne credited AASL for this.
- Keynote: Marsha Mardis. She has grant funding so we only need pay for her travel and lodging. She will talk about her research on the ways that school libraries can successfully integrate digital library “open content” in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) into their collections and services.
- The Friday luncheon speaker will be Buffy Hamilton, the “Unquiet Librarian” blogger. She has asked for \$1000 as a speaker with an additional \$450 to present a workshop. Discussion ensued. We are concerned about setting a precedent, but do try to give the committee some autonomy since they know their costs. It was suggested the committee try to negotiate since a contract has not yet been signed.
- Author Sue Bartoletti is the Saturday luncheon speaker.
- The committee is enthusiastically working hard; all chairpersons are in place.
- Rosina is helping to open a bank account for the conference and needs a letter from Patty Martire.

- **2012--Karen Sperrazza**

MOTION: To approve the dates of May 4-5 for the 2012 SLMS Conference in Binghamton.

Motion made by Carole Kupelian, seconded by Beth Davis. *Motion carried.*

- **SLMS Conference: Frequency, format, etc. – Fran Roscello**

- We need a committee for Karen to look what we need to do with these things. **Rosina, Patty Martire, Beth Davis and Ellen Rubin** will help her. The guidelines and manual are two different things, with the manual being more procedural.
- Jim and Bethanne brought up several questions that point to the seriousness of this need.
- Any changes would not effect the next two years. This needs to be discussed with more time. We will put this on Google Docs for suggestions. **Karen Sperrazza, Sue Kowalski and Charlie Kelly** will pull the suggestions into a report.
- Charlie asked about student volunteers. They can be used, depending upon location (if there is a school nearby).
- **BEDS Reports—John Brock, SED/EMSC Liaison**
 - The BEDS forms were changed last year and it received attention and the feedback was excellent. There is a survey for principals to fill out. NYSED (in collaboration with SLMS and SLSA) will provide recommendations for review and revision of the school library sections. The revisions should complement and align with the SLMPE rubric and Middle Level Checklist.
 - **Charlie Kelly, Karen O'Donnell, Beth Davis and Pauline Herr** will work with John to evaluate revisions before they are finalized in July.
- **Transparency of Organization/Communications—Fran Roscello**
 - **Transparency:** We need to consider what we put up on our site for our members. Although we put the board briefs in the SLMSGram, is this enough? Plan to discuss this further at the August meeting.
 - **Board Meetings:** Currently, the board meets four times/year. The January and August meetings are 1^{1/2} days long. These are valuable, but costly. If we had to cancel the January meeting due to weather, we still would have had to pay. NYLA is subsidized because it is hard for members to attend (cost and time). However, it is expected that board members attend SLMS. Although retirees find it easier to attend meetings (due to available time), we do want a diverse board.
 - We can use electronic means of communications—email, Google Docs, wikis, etc.
 - We can try conference calling for the NYLA Conference.
 - January possibilities:
 - NYLA had a conference call from 10-3 with a break for lunch. Can we do the same?
 - Can we find another hotel that won't charge if we need to change due to weather?
 - Suggestion: have our meetings in the new NYLA building and stay in Albany rather than Syracuse.
 - Suggestion: consider moving our meetings (Board/Membership) closer together during NYLA. We may look into moving the Board meeting to Saturday. We might also try to arrange for the SLMS programs to be held on Friday/Saturday to make it easier for our membership to attend.

Announcements

- **Summer Retreat and L4L—Marcia Eggleston, Educational Leadership Chair & Sara Kelly Johns, NY L4L Coordinator.**
 - The retreat started as leadership development for the board, but was then opened to all.
 - This is our most important board meeting of the year.
 - Board members pay \$100 (\$125 if a single room is requested).
 - The Board meeting runs from about 1:00-5:00 on Tuesday. There are committee meetings in the evening. The Board reconvenes Wednesday from 8-12 PM. Board information is now on Google Docs and the Board webpage is dormant. New information will be put on Google Docs or the member pages.
- **Membership Statistics—Rosina Alaimo, Membership Chair**
 - Our goal is to get as close to a membership of 1000, if not more. We are presently at 880.
 - Remind librarians that SLMS is free when joining NYLA. Lisa will print up more membership brochures.

MOTION: To invest in a limited number of brochures to get us through the rest of the year.

Motion made by Carole Kupelian.

AMENDMENT: To invest in a limited number of brochures with changes from Rosina. Rosina will discuss the changes with SLMS leadership. She will consider the audience and if the brochure needs updating.

Seconded by Anne Paulson. *Motion carried.*

- **RAC Report—Sara Kelly Johns**
 - Sarah reported about the recent Regents Advisory Council report to the Regents. There are 279 unfunded mandates (see the list John emailed to us), librarians among them. We want to be sure to be careful when asking for mandate relief.
 - Send information to Fran and John when positions are lost due to the lack of funded mandates. The RAC is looking for ways to use this information. Contact Bridget Quinn-Carey with questions concerning the Council's 2010 report to the Board of Regents. For more information about the Council: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/advscns/rac/index.html>
- **Learning Experiences—John Brock**
 - We must use data to support our position. The BEDS are self-reporting and that can be difficult.
 - SED Assistant Director, Anne Schiano, prepared a letter for District Superintendents and School Board members on the importance for student achievement of a strong school library staffed with a certified school librarian.
 - We can communicate information literacy by sending lesson plans to SED. These will be peer-reviewed. We can also put our name in to be on a peer review team. There isn't a deadline. This is presently in draft form. Contact John Brock

if you're interested.

- **AASL News—Sally Daniels, AASL Delegate**
 - AASL's 2010 National Longitudinal Survey of School Library Programs is still ongoing. Please take the time to fill out the short survey.
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/researchandstatistics/slcsurvey/slcsurvey.cfm>
 - For this year, Library Advocacy Day will replace National Library Legislative Day (NLLD). It will be held during on June 29 during the ALA Conference in Washington, DC.
 - Continue to contact your legislators to support libraries.
- **Legislative Update—Jill Leinung, Legislative Chair**
 - The NYS Senate and the Assembly want to restore funding to libraries – the Senate wants to restore all of it, The Assembly wants to restore 40% of it. We should keep sending letters via NYLA's Online Advocacy Center until the budget passes.
 - Unfortunately, as time gets short, any restoration of Education Funding from the Legislature will be too late to restore school library jobs because as soon as a school board adopts its budget any additional monies can only go to lowering the tax levy.
 - Please also check out NY Libraries Essential – You can join via Facebook – it is an ongoing advocacy tool that can only gain in strength. This helped to expand our base of advocates – but they need more respondents to pin the local angle.
- **Summer Reading—Mary Beth Farr, SED/DLD Liaison**
 - SLS State Aid 2010-11: We won't know exact amounts for SLS, including whether or not supplemental aid will be included in 2010-11 payments and any exact reductions to state aid until we have a state budget.
 - Summer Reading: visit the website
<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/> for downloadable materials.
 - A new "Summerreadingnys.org" web page will be launched in the next few weeks.
- **LMP Evidence Checklist—John Brock**
 - As one of the action steps, NYSED (in collaboration with SLMS and SLSA), will identify building-level school library media program and student indicator data for consideration in P-16 data system. A version of the SLMPE rubric has been modified into an "Evidence Checklist" for consideration and comment. Contact John at jbrock@mail.nysed.gov for a draft version and to comment.
- **Board Book Revision—Carole Kupelian**
 - Tabled for our next meeting.

Additional Highlights And/Or Issues From Reports

Identifying Mega Issues facing school library media specialists and SLMS/NYLA (as time permits)

Closing Remarks and Next Meeting

August 3 beginning at 1:00 PM and ending at 12-noon August 4, 2010 after Educational Leadership Retreat at Cornell.

Carole Kupelian purchased a card for us to sign and send to Bernie Margolis, who is in Boston awaiting a bone marrow transplant.

Respectfully submitted,

Pauline Herr, Secretary