AASL AFFILIATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2012
OMNI DALLAS HOTEL, FAIR PARK 2

With due notice having been given the AASL Affiliate Executive Committee Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Affiliate Chair Gerri Fagan.

Members in attendance were: Michelle Luhtala, CT; Buffy Edwards, OK; Devona Pendergass, Affiliate Secretary; Susie Parks Grissom, TX; Nancy Dickinson, TN; Pam Renfrow, TN; Cecelia Solomon, FL; David Sonnen, WA; Sarah Thornberry, OH; Kathy Carroll, SC; Susan Ballard, AASL President Elect; Nancy Everhart, AASL Past President; Gwen Lehman, KS; Juanita Jameson, KS; Linda Roberts, Director Region IX; Cindy Pfeiffer, Director Elect Region IX; Deb Christensen, Director, Region IV; Karen Egger, Director Region VII; Cathie Marriott, Director Elect Region II; Susan Nickel, Director Elect Region VIII; Jessica Gillis, Director Elect Region VII; Jennifer Habley and Julie Walker, AASL Office.

Welcome and introductions were given by Chairperson Fegan. She instructed the members to look for the agenda handouts which included tonight’s agenda as well as the affiliate assembly agenda for Sunday morning. Members were instructed to sign the sheet being passed around the room to confirm their attendance. Introductions were made by having each attendee state their name and then the title of a book that best represents the story of their lives.

Chair Fegan asked for a motion to approve the minutes as posted in ALA Connect. Discussion followed with Nancy Dickenson reading the minutes aloud as requested by those in attendance who had not read the minutes prior to the meeting. After the oral reading of the minutes some corrections were noted from the executive committee minutes from NOLA and they were revised. Michelle Luhtatala made a motion that the annual minutes of NOLA be revised to reflect the necessary corrections. Motion seconded by Sara Thronberry. Motion carried.

Cecilia Solomon made a motion to approve the minutes of Affiliate Assembly One in NOLA. Michele Luhtatala seconded. Motion carried.

Cindy Pfeiffer made a motion to approve the minutes of Affiliate Assembly Two in NOLA. Buffy Edwards seconded. Motion carried.

The committee then perused the agenda for the Affiliate Assembly in Dallas. Kathy Carroll made a motion to approve the Affiliate Assembly agenda. The motion was seconded by Susie Parks Grissom. Motion carried.

Jessica Gillis made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight’s affiliate executive committee meeting and the motion was seconded by Pam Renfrow. Motion carried.
Nancy Everhart, AASL Past President gave her report on the concerns and commendations submitted to the ALA board after the annual conference in New Orleans.

**Concern #1 — Race to the Top funds linked to school librarian effectiveness**

State Concern: Race to the Top, which impacts all the states, requires school districts to measure teacher effectiveness based on student growth. States are struggling with how to measure effectiveness of school librarians. In the absence of tools, the process has been frustrating. A variety of nationally recognized instruments are needed to measure the impact the school librarian has on student growth.

Action Requested of AASL: Form a task force to find and/or develop tools for measuring the school librarian’s impact on student growth.

Action by EC: Sent to Essential Links group and added an area for AASL’s L4L Sample School Librarian Performance and Evaluation System (Charlotte Danielson model) under *Performance Evaluation of School Librarians* in Essential Links; will publicize each time a link is added to the AASL Blog. There is school librarian evaluation publication coming out from AASL and should be available at Annual.

**Concern #4 — filtering and access**

State Concern: In Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Media Programs, AASL encourages the creation of a flexible 21st-Century learning environment and notes that "the use of multimedia and global resources can help create authentic learning experiences that teach 21st Century skills and connect what students are learning to the outside world." However, the reality is that in many schools, access to resources and experiences for students and teachers in the digital world are limited due to restrictions (filters, firewalls, bandwidth, etc.) imposed by technology coordinators without consultation or input from educators, especially from state credentialed school librarians. These library teachers have expertise in evaluating information resources and are in a unique position to apply standard selection criteria to determine the suitability of digital resources to support the curriculum, instruction and learning.

**Action (if any) taken by Affiliate Organization**

Action Requested of AASL:
- Specify legal requirements for restricting access in schools;
- Poll states to determine the severity of the problem; what are the issues restricting the use of educational tools within schools;
- Develop a "Guide to School Library/IT Collaboration" to promote the use of educational tools in schools;
- Develop a resource list of schools promoting student achievement going beyond pen & paper or PowerPoint, using “content creation tools”;
- Develop a position paper with recommendations;
- Develop a joint statement with other professional organization(s).
Action by EC: Possible session for Fall Forum; add the question to the School Libraries Count Survey; add more information on Essential Links for Banned Sites day (Note: Barracuda Network is used for individual school level filtering – lots of material available through COSN)

Concern #5—AASL white paper on CIPA and eBooks
State Concern: There is an increasing interest in using e-books in schools. School librarians are unable to find credible/authoritative guidance regarding the legal purchase and legal use of e-books and e-readers in the school environment.

Action Requested of AASL: Establish a task force to create a tool (tool kit, white paper, etc.) to include information on legal parameters (including CIPA, copyright), purchasing models (devices and/or content), and circulation and lending models relating to both e-readers and e-books.

Action by EC: Molly is putting together a task force on digital content (ALA Digital Content Committee) – should ensure AASL representation. Need names for Digital Content and Libraries group and subgroups. Don’t need to be really techie; policy issues, etc. Carl will need names of volunteers. Chris Harris has been put on this group. They are forming some subgroup working groups and hopefully we’ll be able to get some AASL representation on those as well. For example some subgroups are accessibility, privacy and ethics, communication for the library community and communication beyond the library community. It would be a good idea to ask Chris Harris to report at Affiliate Assembly at Annual.

Concern #7—Task Force on Capstone senior projects
State Concern: Involving librarians as integral to information literacy culmination such as student-centered Capstone Projects (CP)/Senior Projects may alleviate pressure to remove school librarian positions as non-essential to academic achievement.

Action Requested of AASL: AASL needs to coordinate state, regional, national and global information literacy efforts to mainstream CP/Senior Project, as well as, improve program quality and quantity.
• Form a Task Force to gather exemplary implementation of Capstone/Senior Projects. After the Task Force has convened, share their findings with the Affiliate during the MidWinter Meeting.
• Task Force will work with other divisions, such as, ACRL, to bring together people representing specific interests to address the concern and expand Senior Project support networks locally, nationwide, and internationally.
Action taken by EC: Carl and the Board formed this committee at the Board II meeting. Carl needs names of volunteers.

**Concern #11—Position statement on school librarians and federally mandated programs**

State Concern: Response to Intervention (RtI) programs are being implemented in schools throughout the nation. The library media center and the school librarian play a central role in a school’s educational program and thus can be a key component of a school-wide RtI program. For the school library program to become an effective partner in improving student achievement the following are necessary:

- a set of best practices for school librarians involved in RtI
- School librarians are integral partners in the RtI program
- Maintain equity of access to the library for all school library patrons
- School librarian education programs should include concepts of working with educational reform initiatives such as RtI into their curricula

Action Requested of AASL:

- a position statement on the school librarian’s role in RtI
- a toolkit to support librarians in implementing educational reform initiatives such as RtI
- Ask the pre-service task force to include a request that graduate school library training programs make students aware of their role in implementing educational initiatives

Action by EC: This is the Role of the School Library Program position statement. It is also on the agenda for MW Board II. Cassandra Barnett worked on a draft. We also contacted the pre-service Task Force and asked them to consider this as they worked, too. Carl will send a request to the Blog group or post on the AASL Blog when it is completed.

**Concern #14—Guidelines for school library staffing**

State Concern: There are no national recommendations on school library staffing.

- The students of today and tomorrow are being short-changed by the lack of understanding of the value that libraries and school librarians play in their educational lives.
- Without real guidelines for school boards and departments of education the staffing of school libraries has become haphazard nation-wide. Increasingly the teaching capabilities of school librarians have been trivialized. Recognition of the value of teaching reading through use of a trained librarian is being ignored.
- As we know and agree, trained librarians provide a consistent teaching standard for information literacy and for promoting reading.
• We feel that students of America need and deserve the highest quality of education; that includes recognizing the integral part that trained school librarians provide.

Action Requested of AASL: Request that AASL develop suggested guidelines for staffing of school libraries nationwide. Request that AASL develop a targeted campaign to the Parent Teacher Organizations nationwide to inform why they need a school library and a certified school librarian.

Action by EC: Carl and the Board formed a task force to explore this issue and explore avenues to accomplish the request. Much of the other work is already being done with the exception of quantitative standards; there is a recommendation in the staffing position statement; also ALA “crisis” committee may be working on this Action: already being worked on from a variety of perspectives.

Nancy also reported that the approved Commendations are posted on ALA Connect for all to see.

Announcements

AASL President Carl Harvey reported on the petition for school libraries drive that is posted on the White House “We the People” site. We need 25,000 signatures by February 4th, 2012 to reach our goal. Currently we have 10,400 signees. President Harvey also talked about a possible restructuring of the board that might impact the affiliate assembly. More information will be available after the board meets on Monday.

AASL President Elect Susan Ballard will be appointing committees for 2012-2013. She needs a good representation of AASL members on the various ALA boards and encouraged all of the executive committee to go back to our local divisions and put names into the volunteer bank so that ALA President Molly Raphael will have volunteers to fill the committee seats. She also reported that Molly Raphael has a special ALA level task force on school libraries. Susan and Pat are working with office staff to create a targeted campaign to raise awareness of the importance of school librarians to student achievement. There is a good cross section of committee members on this task force which include PLA, ALTAFF, ALA Staff and members of both ALA and AASL. All the committee members have worked hard to learn the value of a school librarian task force and to create teams of committee members to visit congressional delegates in their own states to promote school library agendas such as getting the SKILLS act reinstated. The committee has 5 goals they are working on including higher visibility and greater value in their respective schools.
**Discussion Items**

A task force is needed to plan and present the AASL 101 at the Annual Conference in Anaheim. There is currently a PowerPoint which gives directions, a road to leadership and video testaments. People are still needed to put their voices of experience into the presentation and promotions.

**Review of Concerns and Commendations Timeline**

Chairperson Fegan discussed the process and timelines for concerns and commendations for the AASL Affiliate Assembly meetings in Anaheim this summer. All affiliate members need to make sure they are on ALA Connect and they must make sure they check the default setup to ensure they are set to receive all concerns, commendations and posts that are being posted on the ALA Connect site. If anyone needs further instructions they should contact Jennifer Habley at AASL. Concerns and Commendations forms have been changed to reflect the impact made by the program that nominated for commendations. Jennifer has also placed a rubric, the forms and directions to fill out the forms on the ALA website.

All forms must be to the affiliate directors by May 15th. Directors are to check and fix any forms necessary and turn into Chairperson Fegan by May 30th.

All Affiliates must fill out their reaffiliate forms in 2012. These reaffiliation forms are due at the end of the Annual conference. To complete the forms affiliates must collect information about their state organizations including conference dates, newsletters, legislative contacts, Intellectual Freedom Chairs and copies of their bylaws and constitutions. At least 25 people or 10% of the membership must be ALA members.

Having concluded the agenda items at 9:12 p.m. Sarah Thornberry made a motion to adjourn. Cecilia Solomon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Devona J. Pendergrass, AASL Affiliate Secretary.