With due notice, Chair Pam Renfrow called the meeting of the AASL executive committee meeting to order at 8:06 p.m. Introductions were given by those in attendance.


Kathy Carroll made a motion to approve the minutes from the executive committee meeting in Anaheim with corrections to the spelling of delegate names. The motion was seconded by Susan Nickel. Motion passed.

Susan Nickel made a motion to approve the minutes from Affiliate Assembly One in Anaheim. The motion was seconded by Michelle Luhtala. Motion passed.

Ken Steward made a motion to approve the minutes from Affiliate Assembly Two in Anaheim. The motion was seconded by Eileen Kern. Motion passed.

AASL president Susan Ballard reported to the committee the resolutions on the concerns brought forth in Anaheim.

**Concern #2 Brought forth by Region IV**

The concern states that affiliate assembly delegates are unaware of communication channels available and responsibilities of the delegate position. Not every affiliate has past delegates that mentor and support the new delegates.

The action requested:

Send an email to all new affiliate delegates that would welcome them to Affiliate Assembly and would include a link to the Affiliate Assembly handbook and links to communications channels

Create a one page list of obligations and responsibilities with a timeline

Subscribe all delegates to the AASL Affiliate Assembly ALA connect group as well as their region group

Create an orientation (affiliate assembly 101) for Affiliate Assembly delegates

Allow electronic submission of contact information
Susan explained that most new delegates felt there was a learning curve to lessen the impact. Chair Pam Renfrow just revised and updated the affiliate handbook which has covered most of the actions requested. The board agrees that communications are very important to this group. Each affiliate has a different protocol on how delegates are selected which makes it difficult for AASL to create a standard for affiliates. It is not possible for members to change their contact information on the AASL web site. AASL will attempt to change any delegate information as soon as possible.

Concern #7- Brought forth by the Kansas Association of School Librarians. (All concerns are posted on the AASL website in their entirety)

The concern states:

Many school librarians are questioning the method of arranging their library collections. The move away from Dewey classification to genres has resulted in confusion, unanswered questions, and a variety of attempts. We are seeking guidance from AASL to provide answers and guidance in their popular trend. Is it a viable way of arranging library materials; and if so, please help in setting standards and appropriate genres for different age levels.

AASL was asked to form a task force to:

Explore evidence based practices to collect data

Solicit research from the AASL research committee

Query how other ALA divisions are addressing these issues and possibly collaborate

Identify school librarians who have made the conversion; investigate the pros and cons of practitioners

Compare using special collections as a tool for customizing a collection versus complete restructuring

Inform school librarians that AASL is investigating the issue

Susan stated that the board had difficulty doing these things because there is no evidence based practices research to draw upon. When other divisions were queried on this subject none were able to offer advice because they have yet to tackle the subject. So the panel discussion at mid-winter was a beginning and the board is considering the creation of a working group to create a document to consult before changing your collection

Concern #8-Brought forth by Eileen Kern

The concern states that many research studies show the positive impact school library programs have on student achievement and the educational community. The AASL website should be the portal for this research. Educational and community leaders need an access point to easily locate and view these studies.
The action requested:

Create a comprehensive school library studies’ database for a variety of audiences containing the focus of the study, the researcher, the sponsor and a bulleted abstract linking to the executive summary of the results, that is searchable and tagged

Maintain and support the continuance of the database with AASL as the portal

Market the database to members and appropriate stakeholders using emergent technologies

Susan states that the Pennsylvania affiliate has done a great job of creating a research page for educational and community leaders. AASL was asked to create a comprehension place to find and gather research on the national stage. The board is concerned about the scope and cost of such an undertaking with limited staff and where would such a portal reside. How this would be maintained over time. Before the board explores those bigger questions it has asked the research committee to work with our educators of school librarians section to come up with a list of scientifically based materials and research and place this in our scholarly journal.

Pam asked for a task force to help plan and execute AASL 101 at the annual conference in Chicago. The session will be held on Saturday, June 29th from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. There is already a presentation put together to use at AASL 101 sessions. Michelle Luhtala has the presentation and needs to revise it to fit this session. She then wants to send the session to the affiliate organizations to use as a recruitment and advocacy tool. Michelle volunteered to get the presentation placed on ALA Connect. Merlyn Miller volunteered to help Michelle with the session and whatever needs arise. Plans are to make the session more personable for the attendees.

Concerns and commendation timelines are the same as last year. They need to be sent to the region directors on May 15th and due to Pam on May 30rd. The forms and information is available on the AASL website.

The AASL National Conference will be held in Hartford, Connecticut in November. Celebrate Conference session will be Thursday, November 14th from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m. Pam asked for a group to help with this. Michelle Luhtala, Pam Renfrow, Merlyn Miller and Eileen Kern volunteered to work on this.

AASL president elect Gail Dickinson offered her services to help with either of these sessions or any other activities we need her to help with.

At 8:43 p.m. Merlyn Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ken Stewart seconded. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.