Merlyn Miller, affiliate chair, called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. in the Livorno Room. Member in attendance were: Merlyn Miller, Carrie Turner, Juanita Jameson, Ken Stewart, Linda Witherspoon, Eileen Kern, Elizabeth Philippi, Dave Sonnen, Nancy Sullivan (for Susan Stone), Cecelia Solomon, Susan Ballard, Gail Dickinson, Terri Grief, Sylvia Norton, and Cindy Pfeiffer.

Minutes of the Midwinter Executive Committee meeting were reviewed. Eileen Kern moved to accept the minutes; Ken Stewart seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Discussion followed on the name for this group. Eileen Kern made a motion to change the name to Affiliate Assembly Coordinating Team (AACT). Carrie Turner seconded the motion, discussion was held and the motion passed.

Affiliate Assembly I agenda was discussed and changes made to include clarification on the voting procedure for the regional representative and alternate positions. Carrie Turner moved to accept the agenda with the noted changes. Ken Stewart seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Eileen Kern moved to accept the Affiliate Assembly II agenda with the addition of calling for regional representative voting, Elizabeth Philippi seconded the motion and it passed.

AASL STATEMENT OF COMMENDATIONS

Commendations were discussed and the following action was taken in regards to each:

**Commendation #1**: Battle of the Books (Carroll County Public Library in partnership with Carroll County Public Schools) This was recommended by Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL)
Carrie Turner moved to not move this commendation forward, Elizabeth Philippi seconded and it passed.

**Commendation #2**: LibraryLinkNJ This was sent for commendation by New Jersey Association of School Librarians. Linda Witherspoon moved not to send this commendation forward, Carrie Turner seconded and it passed.

**Commendation #3**: Indiana Pacers (and Foundation) sent for commendation by Association of Indiana School Library Educators (AISLE)
Linda Witherspoon moved to send this forward, Cecilia Solomon seconded and it passed.

**Commendation #4**: Homeport’s Bright Ideas Book Bank was sent forward for commendation by Ohio Educational Library Media Association
Linda Witherspoon moved to advance this commendation, Carrie Turner seconded and it passed.

**Commendation #5**: Hoosier Family of Readers was proposed for a commendation by Association of Indiana School Library Educators (AISLE)
Linda Witherspoon moved to send this commendation forward, Elizabeth Philippi seconded the motion and it passed.

**Commendation #6**: Reading Rocks! This commendation was from the North Carolina School Library Media Association
Eileen Kern moved to send this forward, seconded by Linda Witherspoon and it passed.

**Commendation #7**: Race to Read was recommended for commendation by South Carolina Association of School Librarians
Carrie Turner moved to not send this forward; it was seconded by Linda Witherspoon and passed.
Commendation #8: Limitless Libraries www.limitlesslibraries.org This commendation was recommended by Tennessee Association of School Librarians
Carrie Turner moved to not send this forward; it was seconded by Elizabeth Philippi and passed.

Commendation #9: Virginia is for Lovers of Summer Reading! This program was recommended for commendation by Virginia Association of School Librarians
Cecilia Solomon moved not to send this forward; it was seconded by Carrie Turner and passed.

Commendation #10: Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records Library Development. This was recommended for commendation by Arizona Library Association-Teacher Librarian Division
Eileen Kern moved not to send this forward; it was seconded by Carrie Turner and passed.

Commendation #11: School Librarians’ Day University of Nebraska, Omaha was recommended for commendation by Nebraska School Librarians Association (NSLA)
Elizabeth Philippi moved to send this forward, Linda Witherspoon seconded it and it passed.

Commendation #12: College Readiness Dialogues: Together We Learn! Region IX sent this forward for commendation.
Elizabeth Philippi moved to send this forward and Cindy Pfeiffer seconded it, it passed.

AASL AFFILIATE ASSEMBLY STATEMENT OF CONCERN

Concern #1: Maine Association of School Librarians
School districts in our state, like those across the country, are frequently targeting school library programs - certified librarians as well as support staff. Due to budget constraints these jobs are being cut or eliminated.
This action decimates any library program that has already been developed and keeps the program from being effective.

Action requested:
National publicity campaign to educate parents, administrators, and librarians regarding what a school librarian should and can do given excellent support within a school department. Look for state-wide exemplars and publicize nationally outside of the school library community.

Elizabeth Philippi moved to combine Concerns 1-3-7, Carrie Turner seconded the motion and it passed.

Concern #2: Massachusetts School Library Association
We are concerned about declining memberships in school library associations state and nationwide.

Action requested:
Creating a link to state school library associations on the AASL membership form and a reciprocal link on the state membership forms would strengthen and encourage membership at both levels benefitting both state and national associations.

Elizabeth Philippi moved to combine this concern with number nine, Nancy Sullivan seconded the motion and it passed.

Concern #3: New England School Library Association
We are concerned about declining memberships in school library associations state and nationwide.

Action requested:
We would like AASL to develop a PR campaign that would showcase exemplary school libraries to showcase what a 21st century library looks like, thereby informing decision makers, potential school librarians, parents and the general public about the current role of school librarians.

(Combined with #1 and 7)
Concern #4: New England School Library Association

We are concerned about the impact of online programs that make it difficult to assess whether a school library candidate has the personal skills required to take leadership and to interact effectively with students, teachers and administrators in an effective and dynamic way.

Action requested:
We would like AASL to review and enforce ALA/AASL Standards for Initial Preparation for School Librarians. Linda Witherspoon moved and Carrie Turner seconded a motion stating that this is something that AASL cannot effectively resolve. The motion passed.

Concern #5: New England School Library Association

We are concerned that school library positions are going unfilled without dynamic, qualified, certified candidates for the available positions.

Action requested:
We would like AASL to develop a recruitment campaign to identify and encourage appropriate candidates including a self-assessment tool and identification of some exemplary practitioners and school library candidates.

Linda Witherspoon moved to send forward concerns 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 14. Elizabeth Philippi seconded the motion and it carried.

Concern #6: Pennsylvania School Librarians Association

The results of many concerns addressed by Affiliate Assembly and supported by board action have not been communicated adequately or publicly to membership.

Action requested:
Within the Statement of Concern database, communicate the action, status or result of each concern in the timely manner.

Concern #7: New Jersey Association of School Librarians

The message of the value of school library programs is not reaching the parents, who are valuable stakeholders.

Action requested:
Review and update the content of the Parent Advocate Toolkit. Identify and use delivery methods including social media, infographics, and branding that correlate to parents’ information seeking behavior. Develop an action plan for disseminating it to the members and other partner organizations (i.e., PTA and PTO).

Concern #8: Missouri Association of School Librarians

In recent weeks, the topic of public libraries managing school libraries has been discussed in various online social media sites. This evolving practice seems to be increasing in its occurrence with Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey being states where this is happening. When looking at the goals of AASL, it does not seem that public libraries would be able to focus on helping students and schools meet their educational needs. Whereas school libraries staffed by certified school librarians who have been trained in educational theory and practice are able to work cooperatively with students and staff to meet achievement goals. School library positions across the nation are continually being cut and many school libraries are being closed. This step that some states and cities seem to be taking is another piece toward eroding the importance of school libraries that are staffed with quality school librarians.

Action requested:
Would like AASL to develop a position paper opposing the practice of public libraries managing school libraries based on:
• the unique differences between school and public library programs
• the differences between the mission of school and public library programs
• the requirements for preparation to become a school or public librarian
• the school librarian and their program’s positive influence on students and their developing reading skills
• the school librarian and their program’s positive influence on increased student achievement
• the negative impact on the public librarian and their program with the increased work load.
Would also like AASL to:
• Begin a discussion with the Public Library Association leadership to reinforce the ALA initiative for supporting school libraries.

Concern #9: Tennessee Association of School Librarians

TASL is concerned that, although much time is spent discussing how ALA/AASL can assist affiliates and vice-versa, it seems very little tangible action is taken to strengthen those bonds.

Action requested:
To encourage membership in the state affiliate organizations, TASL would like to see AASL amend their section selection in the ALA online membership registration process to include a question regarding the status of the registrant’s state membership, as well as a link to the affiliated school library association’s membership process.

Concern #10: Virginia Association of School Librarians

With the advent of the Race to the Top Grants and waivers from NCLB, states have been mandated to have teacher evaluations tied to student progress. Librarians in many school districts are being evaluated on either a teacher rubric or “other personnel” rubric. Many states have mandated that a certain percentage (40-50%) of librarians’ evaluations to be based on student academic progress or district determined measures (DDMs). Demonstrating this progress has been confusing to many librarians across the country.

Action requested:
To develop a toolkit of best practices for portfolio development and assessments that can be used to demonstrate district determined measures (DDMs)

Concern #11: Arkansas Association of School Librarians

Recently a school librarian in Arkansas won her district’s teacher of the year award. Her district directed her to apply for the State Teacher of the Year and she was told NO by the state department of education because school librarians are not eligible because they are not classified as teachers.

Action requested:
Until we are classified as teachers and librarians by the department of education this will continue to happen. I would like to see a more concerted effort by AASL to have our designations reviewed.
Carrie Turner moved and Cecilia Solomon seconded a motion not to forward this concern. It passed.

Concern #12: California School Library Association

Affiliate attendance at Annual and Midwinter meetings from the western states is often sparse so it is difficult for regions to communicate as a whole. Given the technology available we think it should be possible to have virtual attendance at Affiliate Assembly meetings, at least during the times when regions have their time to meet together.

Action requested:
Provide a virtual forum such as Blackboard or other group virtual meeting space to be used during Affiliate Assembly and other meeting times. Adjust the Affiliate handbook to suggest all Affiliate Assembly members be prepared to meet during Annual and Midwinter meetings either in person or virtually.

Concern #13: Ken Stewart Blue Valley

We, in AASL, require a more straightforward method of communication with both fellow members and other divisions within ALA. At present, there is no effective means to search the ALA directory and locate AASL/ALA members in your area, state, or region. This is duplicated in trying to locate members of other ALA divisions. The ALA membership directory needs to be able to be sorted by division, state, and region; we need access to be able to find who is in our immediate area, not only within AASL, but also within ACRL, PLA, etc. We need an effective means of communication among members.
Action requested:
Provide a members only searchable directory. The ALA membership directory needs to be able to be sorted by division, state, and region. Members need to be informed as to how to reach out to cohorts in their own state, region or nationally.

Concern #14: Ken Stewart Region IX

The Directors of AASL need to be in direct communication with the members of their regions. Some states have information disbursed through their state AASL organization; some receive it through their state ALA chapter. This disconnect makes communication difficult.

Provide Directors with memberships both in the various AASL state organizations and in the ALA chapters within their region for the duration of their position.

(See previous motion concerning numbers 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 14 forward to Affiliate Assembly.)

Volunteers to lead discussion at Affiliate Assembly I are:
Concern 1-3-7—Carrie Turner
Concern 2-9—Eileen Kern
Concern 5—Elizabeth Philippi
Concern 6—will move forward with no discussion needed
Concern 8—Linda Witherspoon
Concern 10—Cecilia Solomon
Concern 12—Nancy Sullivan
Concern 13-14—Ken Stewart

Linda Witherspoon moved to adjourn, Eileen Kern seconded and it passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Juanita Jameson
Affiliate Assembly Recording Secretary