

Minutes from ISS Meeting Monday, July 13, 2009

ALA Annual Conference, Chicago

Members Present: Alice Bryant, Carla Bosco, Debbie Abilock, Jen Cotton, Laura Pearle, Elizabeth Burke, Cheryl Steele, Kathleen Ellis, Alison Ernst, Melissa Cavender, Dorcas Hand, Megan Dolan, Teresa Copeland, Carl W. Feucht, Susan G. Williamson

Reflections on the conference:

- Serving Students Along the Autism Spectrum ISS Session Report
 - ISS sponsored a session on serving students with Autism through the library program.
 - The main goal of the session was to begin the conversation and raise awareness.
 - The session was very well received and well attended, the room was packed.
 - Attendees were very grateful and appreciated the topic covered.
 - Attendees want more information even than could be covered in the session, and a follow up session is being pursued.
 - School Library Journal is coming out with an issue that will cover Autism and Libraries. Allison Ernst has been in contact with SLJ regarding the issue.
- Dissatisfaction with AASL's treatment of our section was raised. The following issues were discussed:
 - We are unable to count on AASL, we don't get an official tent, we don't get an official table at all committee meetings, they don't follow up with information on ISS tours, etc.
 - Is there a way for us to debrief AASL on the ways that they fall short in serving us? Cassandra Barnett, President of AASL needs to be made aware of our concerns. We have got to have the timetables for deadlines for session proposals and other things.

ALA 2010 in D.C.: Evening Events and School Tours

- One proposed idea was to have the school tours be an evening event to avoid rushing and also to provide a social event for those who may attend the conference alone. This could happen via a progressive style dinner at 3 locations, or with tours of the 3 schools followed by dinner at one school
 - We need to explore cost and ensure that it is not prohibitive.
 - To decrease cost, dinner at the end could be an add-on option for the tour.
 - It was agreed that keeping the cost between \$60-75 for the tour and a dinner would be reasonable.
- Potential Schools for Tours
 - St. Alban's
 - The Lab School
 - Georgetown Visitation
 - Maret School

- The D.C. Duck Boat Tours is an evening option, which seems like a fun idea. Could be organized for either before or after dinner. The Duck Boat Tours are tours of D.C. that involve amphibious vehicles and take place on land and on the Potomac River.
- A show or baseball game.
- A possible Sunday event would be to go to Martha Daley's house (She has generously offered to host an event) and would be a great opportunity to have cocktails or a happy hour in a cozy setting. Liz Burke is pursuing sponsorship from Proquest for the event.

ALA 2010 ISS sponsored session: Graphic Novels Panel

- We had missed the deadline for regular session proposals but are pursuing a pre conference session.
- Holly Black has agreed to speak at our session and has suggested several other authors as well.
- Potential topics were brainstormed:
 - We need to make sure our approach is fresh and new, there have been many many graphic novel panels over the years.
 - Initial thinking was to create a panel of authors who have published both graphic and standard novels.
 - What it takes to produce a graphic novel
 - Roger Sutton at HornBook said he would like to hear about how one goes about reading a graphic novel and how it is different. We agreed this is a more adult approach to reading graphic novels, youngsters don't have this problem.
 - Why do graphic novels appeal to reluctant readers? Why can kids with disabilities be more attracted to graphic novels?
 - Recent studies on the reluctant reader or connecting graphic novels to teaching and learning.
 - Covering the social aspects of sharing around comics.
 - A teacher talking about teaching a graphic novel and how it develops a new literacy.
 - Connect to the Folger Shakespeare Theater and Library in D.C. Include a teacher who teaches Shakespeare using graphic novels. This session could be called "interpreting Shakespeare through various media".
- The possibility of an Autism focus preconference for ALA 2010 D.C. was raised since we have missed the deadline for regular session conferences.

AASL Charlotte

- There will be an ISS Social and school tours. The school tours at Charlotte will be an all day event.
- There will be a session on the book that Dorcas Hand is writing.

The Possibility of staffing an ISS Booth at future conferences was raised

- This would be an opportunity to raise exposure at the exhibits.

- Proquest may be interested in sponsoring us.
- There is an ISS Space at the membership area and we could staff the booth with volunteers from ISS Schools.

Updates on ISS Website from Teresa Copeland

- The information has been updated but the look is still the same. We have a lot of options as far as layout and could make changes.
- We need a link to NAIS best practices of school libraries.
- We need to discuss with ALA why it is so difficult for us to be found on the ALA website. We are pursuing purchasing a more basic domain name and having it redirect to our ALA site, whose URL is unbelievably long.
- Items to make more explicit on our website: How to connect to ISS listserve, a link to ALA Connect so that we can see our members, the twitter feed, the wiki, volunteer form which must be filled out to serve on committees.
- We will form a website committee to look into website maintenance and improvements, anyone interested should contact Teresa Copeland. The president elect will automatically be on the website committee and should have blogging access on AASL's blog.

AASL Board Report from Alice Bryant

Strategic planning was covered. The guiding question was: "How can AASL ensure visibility for SLMS in the current movement towards 21st Century standards?" AASL is going to start a planned giving campaign so that we fund research grants.

The recession and ways that it has affected AASL and ALA were discussed. Although membership is down, attendance at the Chicago conference was up and overall we are still a healthy organization. Money has been going towards research and studies. The biggest money making revenue for us is the publication on the new standards.

President's program: Libraries are at the heart of communities. The Learning for Life Initiative has been a big deal.

Data Committee Report from Susan Williamson

Susan Williamson will be retiring and needs a replacement. Susan hopes to be able to forward the names of the schools that have participated in the longitudinal study, but has had difficulty procuring it. Susan will email Cheryl Steele with all the information that needs to be known about the data committee so that we can proceed with finding a replacement for Susan and let the membership know about the data committee.

ISS Committees and Participation

We would like to boost participation at ISS all committee meetings. We would like to increase official involvement in ISS by forming and maintaining more committees such as a program committee, a

conference planning committee, a website committee. Jen Cotton volunteered to chair the advocacy committee which will encompass the following issues: membership, statewide groups, hospitality, and advocacy. A communications committee is also being pursued which would be chance for virtual participation.

Other Business:

- Information Commons Program is coming along well and will be a session at AASL, attendance by ISS members is desired. The session is titled "Information Commons, Learning Commons, and Library Media Center, What's in a name?"
- ALA 2010 Deadlines: We need to discover when the deadlines are for publication of ISS information in ALA materials, etc. are so we can make them
- The Pamphlet we published titled *Evaluating a School Library Media Center* for parents and administrators has been buried and access to it is lost. Cheryl Steele will look into it.