



ALA Midwinter Meeting
Denver, CO
January 22-25, 2009

AASL Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes

AASL Board of Directors Meeting

Board Members Present: Ann M. Martin, Cassandra Barnett, Sara Kelly Johns, Floyd Pentlin, Carl Harvey, Cathie Marriott, Sylvia K. Norton, Allison Kaplan, Alice Bryant, Paul Whitsitt, Marilyn Joyce, Rosina Alaimo, Karen Lemmons, Nancy Dickinson, Lou Greco, Barbara Ray, Robbie Nickel, Linda Collins, Gail Formanack, Julie Walker

Board Members Absent: None

Directors-Elect Present: Ann Perham, Sally Daniels, Cara Cavin, Allison Roberts, Deborah Svec, Maribel Garza-Castro, Susan L. Garvin, Lorraine Monprode, Linda Roberts

Staff Present: Julie Walker, Jordan Mack, Allison Cline, Melissa Jacobsen

Guests Present: Kent Oliver, Deb Levitov, Terri Kirk, Linda Williams, Judi Moreillon, Pauletta Bracy, Roberta Stevens

The meeting of the AASL Board of Directors was called to order on Saturday, January 24, 2009, at 8:05 a.m. in room 603 of the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colorado, by Ann M. Martin, AASL President. A quorum was present.

Motion #1: The Board moved to accept the agenda with item thirteen moved off of the Agenda Consent Agenda. Motion seconded and passed.

Agenda Item 1#: President Ann M. Martin acquainted the Board with the Consent Agenda.

Announcements Martin clarified that Region 4 will have two successfully elected officials this election season; one will be director and the other director elect.

Martin thanked the staff for their efforts in support of the Board.

Agenda Item #13: President Ann M. Martin elaborated on the ALA Election Guidelines, as revised by the ALA Executive Board at their Fall 2008 meeting. There was some discussion surrounding the new guidelines and their impact on AASL representatives.

Agenda Item #16: Executive Director Julie Walker introduced the general progress of the Communication Action Plan, begun last year. Melissa Jones, Communications Specialist, showcased the changes in Hotlinks, Essential Links, and the website redesign. There was some discussion surrounding the use of the term "school library media students."

Motion #2: The Board moved to accept these new communications programs that have been developed. Motion seconded and passed.

Agenda Item #17: President Ann M. Martin reviewed the response of the AASL Executive Committee to the Concerns presented by the Affiliate Assembly at the ALA 2008 Annual Conference. A portion of the requested actions will be assigned to appropriate task forces.

Address Kent Oliver, ALA Presidential Candidate, addressed the board concerning his



candidacy and platform.

Address

Deb Levitov spoke on behalf of PRL about expanding library advocacy, possibly by using a wiki and increasing advertising. She collected suggestions on the types of messages and training that should be distributed to frontline workers.

Address

Terri Kirk, liaison from the ALA Executive Board, spoke about the Consumer Product Safety Act of 2008, its implications for libraries, and the actions that the ALA Executive Board is taking. She asked AASL Board members to call Commissioner Nord in protest. There was some discussion surrounding these advocacy efforts.

Kirk highlighted the benefits for libraries contained within the January 15 economic stimulus package.

She also mentioned the release of a new ALA toolkit, *Advocating in a Tough Economy*, and a website containing supportive data, *Add It Up*. She updated the Board on the continuing redesign of the ALA website.

Address

Roberta Stevens, ALA Presidential Candidate, talked briefly about her experience and platform.

Agenda Item #18:

Role of the Board
Liaison

The Board discussed the proper role of the Board Liaison, with an emphasis on the fact that the Board Liaison is not an active member of the committee. President Ann M. Martin encouraged frequent contact with committee chairs.

Agenda Item #19:

Proposal for
Directors/DE Outreach
to New Members

Executive Director Julie Walker introduced the idea of individually welcoming new members on a regional basis. Directors and Directors elect sought clarification on a number of issues, including how often they would receive member information, reimbursement for expenses, the creation of a form letter, and potential access to the AASL logo. Section leaders asked if it would be possible to include sections in this new welcoming process.

Walker stated that staff would discuss use of the AASL logo. She also clarified that a task force would be created to develop a process surrounding this outreach, with a possible launch at Annual Conference 2009.

Motion #3:

Proposal for
Directors/DE Outreach
to New Members

The Board moved to go ahead with the proposed initiative that the Directors and Directors-Elect in each region welcome new members on a monthly basis. Motion seconded and passed.

**Motion #4:
Amend Outreach
Motion**

The Board moved to amend motion #3 to include section chairs when being notified of new, reinstated, or dropped members. Motion to amend seconded and passed.

Address

Linda Williams, BARC Liaison, spoke to the Board. ALA revenues were slightly over budget for FY08, mostly thanks to grants and awards. Expenses were also over budget, but it balanced out in the end. General Fund revenues were less than budget by 4%, due to publishing and conferences. ALA membership is currently at a record high. A 3% budget decrease has been applied to General Fund units for FY10. Williams also drew the Board's attention to the revised Conference schedules for FY10, which are now one day shorter. She also noted that the electronic participation plan will need funding and asked the Board to prioritize those initiatives.



Agenda Item #20:
LMS Role in Reading
Position Paper

President Ann M. Martin contextualized the statement. There was some discussion surrounding the inclusion of reading comprehension strategy in the description; are library media specialists also reading teachers? There was also discussion about labeling and restrictions in libraries and the use of the term "non-graded" in the statement.

**Agenda Item #21,
25, and 22:**
Intellectual Freedom
and Position Paper
Issues

The Board suggested that a task force be created to write a position statement on labeling, leveling, and restricting books in libraries. There was some discussion regarding the statement made in Agenda Item #25. The Board concluded that it is strong enough but a separate statement concerning school libraries must be crafted.

Motion #5:
Request for Position
Paper

The Board moved to establish a task force to create a position paper on the arrangement of school library materials. Motion seconded and passed.

Motion #6:
Role in Reading Position
Paper

The Board moved to accept the LMS Role in Reading position paper as written. Motion seconded but defeated: 9 nay, 1 abstention, 7 yay.

Motion #7:
Role in Reading Position
Paper

The Board moved to accept the LMS Role in Reading position paper in concept, with revisions to be made based on the Board's comments. Motion withdrawn.

Agenda Item #20:
LMS Role in Reading
Position Paper

After much discussion, the Board concluded that the task force should make the requested revisions and resubmit the statement to the Board electronically.

Agenda Item #25:
Proposed Revisions for
ALA Intellectual
Freedom Committee

The Board discussed the document and its relation to school libraries.

Motion #8:
Proposed Revisions for
ALA Intellectual
Freedom Committee

The Board moved to accept the revisions to the Intellectual Freedom Manual. Motion seconded and passed.

Motion #9:
Proposed Revisions for
ALA Intellectual
Freedom Committee

The Board moved to amend motion #8 to read: to accept and support the revision to the Intellectual Freedom Manual. Motion seconded and passed.

Agenda Item #21:
AASL Intellectual
Freedom Committee
Three Year Plan

The Board discussed various issues with the plan as written, including the impossibility of creating regular programming or allowing the Intellectual Freedom committee to review preconference proposals. Suggested revisions include an amendment to the document to reflect the fact that the IF Committee may submit proposals for programs but they cannot be created. The Board also discussed the idea of collecting information on the Intellectual Freedom chair in each state affiliate.

The document was sent back to the Intellectual Freedom Committee for revisions, to be resubmitted to the Board electronically.

Agenda Item #23:
Statement on *NCLB*

Executive Director Julie Walker gave some historical background on the NCLB Statement. There was some discussion of the importance and feasibility of this



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new statement.

Motion #10:
Statement on *NCLB*

The Board moved to sign on as a supporter of the Empowering Schools and Improving Learning statement. The motion was seconded and passed: 2 nay.

Agenda Item #24:
Report on Electronic Participation

Sylvia K. Norton summarized the electronic participation report and committee activity. Discussion focused on the issue of openness in meetings. Executive Director Julie Walker and others expressed concerns regarding the balance between privacy and openness.

Agenda Item #26:
Emerging Leaders Projects

President Ann M. Martin gave some background on the Emerging Leader projects. Nancy Dickinson and Linda Collins volunteered to chair the subcommittee on Emerging Leader projects for FY 11.

Agenda Item #27:
FY10 Budget Priorities

Executive Director Julie Walker reviewed budget procedures. President Ann M. Martin shared the news that AASL has received its first legacy donor through the Planned Giving Initiative. Floyd Pentlin requested assistance in developing this campaign.

Agenda Item #28:
Executive Director's Goals

Executive Director Julie Walker gave some background information on the goals and announced plans to begin a sabbatical on February 1, 2009.

Motion 11:
Adjournment

The Board moved to adjourn. Motion seconded and passed.

Guest Addresses:

- Kent Oliver, ALA Presidential Candidate
- Deb Levitov, PRL
- Terri Kirk, ALA Executive Board Liaison
- Roberta Stevens, ALA Presidential Candidate
- Linda Williams, BARC Liaison