

Minutes from the ISS Committee Meeting
Washington D.C. Convention Center, Room 151 A/B
June 25, 2007 2:30 pm

Attending (committee members in bold): Karen Douse (Harpeth Hall), **Liz Burke (Georgetown Visitation)**, **Ernie Cox (St. Timothy's School)**, Enid Davis (Harker School), **Ann Petersen (Hutchinson School)**, Mary Haelur (Keip School), **Linell Ela (Trinity Preparatory School)**, Evie Topcik (Louisville Collegiate School), **Alison Ernst (Northfield Mount Hermon School)**, **Susan Williamson (Albuquerque Academy)**, **Patt Moser (Sidwell Friends School)**, Lori Hancock (The Lexington School), Sue Smith (Harker School), Lauri Vaughan (Harker School), Beverly B. Bland (Holy Trinity), Kathleen Ellis (Berkeley Carroll School), Dorcas Hand (Annunciation Orthodox School), Laura Pearle (The Hackley School), **Courtney Lewis (Wyoming Seminary)**, Steve Matthews (Foxcroft School).

Web Committee: Ernie Cox mentioned that the web committee needs an additional person for it with Courtney Lewis elected as incoming ISS secretary. Lori Hancock volunteered to be on the web committee and Courtney said she would forward Lori the information for interviewing schools for the "school of the month" feature. He also gave a plug for ISS members participating in the AASL blog (enthusiastically supported by Laura Pearle) to increase the ISS presence there. Ernie then discussed the issues of images on our part of the AASL website. There have been some issues posting images with the transition to the new content management program. Laura Pearle mentioned that we should review the AASL parameters concerning posting images so we are in compliance. She also discussed how to achieve author status for blogging since many attendees were interested in writing more. An RSS feed is available for the blog. We discussed linking to the ISS wiki.

Susan Williamson spoke about having the data committee information and survey results as a PowerPoint slideshow on the website. The school of the month feature was discussed with an eye to looking forward to archiving past school interviews and images for perusal. Kathleen Ellis mentioned the importance of varying the geographic location of the school of the month.

Data Committee: Susan Williamson spoke about the "Sizing Up America's School Libraries" workshop given by Keith Curry Lance and its importance for the ISS data. In her discussion with Lance, he said that there will be specific ISS data by AASL Reno and that he is interested in having a liaison from our section (specifically the data committee). Lance also told Susan that he is interested in having the AASL survey results being on the AASL website and to be interactive and searchable for interested parties. Susan discussed the possibilities of dividing the ISS data by geographic area or by type or level of school.

Dorcas Hand brought up the issue that all the data committee (as listed on the website) were cycling off the committee. Patt Moser asked for volunteers to fill in on the data

committee. Mary Haelur, Dorcas Hand, Sue Smith, Laurie Vaughan, Steve Matthews, and Liz Burke all expressed a desire to be on the committee.

Planning for AASL Reno 2007: Patt Moser spoke about the two ISS-specific events in Reno – the Independent School Tour (which AASL arranged on their own) and the ISS networking reception. Courtney Lewis and Laura Pearle have enthusiastically agreed to be in charge of the mingling encouragement. They are looking into flashy buttons and outlandish outfits to set a fun tone and also exploring various games that we can employ to get people to speak to each other and not simply hang out with their existing friends. Patt discussed the possibility of us having a Yankee Swap with the gifts being people bringing an item from their school with a their school logo on it.

Barbara Ruszkowski (attending a different committee meeting) from Padua Academy (Wilmington, DE) indicated to Laura Pearle and Courtney Lewis that she would be willing to help with planning the mingling portion of the ISS Reception at AASL.

Programming: Alison Ernst discussed how well received the strategic planning pre-conference was. She also spoke about how the committee had been attempting to find an inroad to the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) to having more library programming presented to independent school administrators. The last proposal was declined, but Patt Moser had just submitted a new proposal with a highly provocative name “Is it time to eliminate your school library?”. She is going to follow up with her Head of School who revealed at the Sidwell Friends School library tour that he is on the NAIS board. Laura Pearle recommended that it might also be a good article idea for Independent School magazine as well as Knowledge Quest. Karen Douse mentioned that she is on the Technology Taskforce for NAIS and will make some inquiries. She also mentioned that many of us had discussed the fact that she, and now Patt Moser, have titles indicating their directing both the library and the technology program. NAIS might be interested in a symposium discussing combining these areas. People chimed in that this could be a good program for AASL and ALA conferences as well! Alison and Patt also discussed having a booth in the NAIS exhibit hall where we could give out tip sheets or information to administrators. Dorcas felt the ISS Top Ten would make a good handout to administrators. The conference is going to be in New York City this year, so many of the East coast librarians said they could volunteer to come and help if that would help make a booth possible. Having an evaluation tool for administrators for looking at a library program or evaluating a librarian would be helpful and in keeping with member concerns. Laura Pearle mentioned that ISS developed one for the Indianapolis conference and she would post it to the listserv so we could comment.

Programming for other conferences were discussed and members mentioned the importance of “free” programs that are additional registration costs. Enlisting a corporate sponsor for an event or program was discussed with the usual concerns about ALA parameters regarding this type of sponsorship. Sending out postcards to advertise a local dinner at a restaurant (like what we did in Seattle) was mentioned as a good idea (people have to eat, right?). Having a “new members” or “new to the conference” program or dinner would be a nice way of getting to know people and helping people network.

Everyone agreed that it was too late to plan for Reno, but we should plan for Philadelphia and Anaheim.

ISS Tea Feedback: Courtney Lewis read the feedback from the ISS Tea, listing the items that participants listed as what they wanted from their ISS membership. The general topic headings were (for more details of member concerns and issues, see minutes of ISS Tea on ISS website):

- Social networking
- Information Literacy
- Product/Collection Development
- Membership and Marketing
- Librarian Evaluation
- Technology
- Collaboration with Colleges/Universities

Product Information sharing: For sharing information, Courtney mentioned the possibility of using a web product like SurveyMonkey.com (which she subscribes to and could host surveys) to have a monthly survey (i.e., what databases do you subscribe to, what's your circulation system, hot authors, etc.) and we could post the results on the ISS page to increase traffic. Dorcas Hand mentioned that ALA might require us to use their survey software and that they would possibly "own" the information results. AASL might also have objections; Laura mentioned that AASL has been perceived as slower to adopt technological innovations than other divisions and they might be nervous about this type of survey. Patt mentioned that we might be able to get around this by using the ISS listserv and simply publishing the results (with a librarian author from off-site so it isn't "official").

Getting visibility within and without ALA: Ann Petersen responded to the voiced concern over recruiting members. People discussed the visibility issue – there are a lot more independent schools out there than our section has members. How do we recruit people??? Getting an ISS person into an Emerging Leader or Spectrum scholarship to get a leg up on ALA insider tracks would be good for the section. We need to talk to someone from ALA marketing and think about ways of getting on the state level to increase visibility. Alison brought up connecting with someone via ALA/AASL (John Krashlea) about increasing membership. Linell Ela volunteered to do this.

Consortium Concerns: We then discussed how members had brought up help with database subscriptions – many librarians don't have a consortium they could join for specialized pricing. The issue of ALA having rules about divisions/sections entering into financial arrangements was discussed and Steve Matthews mentioned that there is also a lot of overhead and administration with this type of consortium and who was going to do that? Courtney Lewis mentioned the idea of working with vendors to offer an ISS discount the way that AAA has a "show your card and save" option – members could

simply copy their ALA card with the ISS section detailed on it to get a special price. Alison Ernst suggested that a group form a “consortium taskforce” to explore these issues more thoroughly. Our wonderful attendees from the Harker School volunteered to look into this.

Sharing Membership Information on Website: Dorcas really wants to have a least of list of member schools on the website (no personal names or emails necessary) and practically everyone at the table felt that this was a great idea and they would love to know who in their area belonged so they could make contact and network at the local level. Laura Pearle and Kathleen Ellis both said that we need to ask Kathy Agarwal about the policy for publishing information on our website. Alison Ernst said she would call for this information.

Information Literacy: Alison Ernst said that she was very interested in people’s expressed concerns about sharing approaches to information literacy at our schools. She felt that this also felt like a topic that the ISS section could produce a publication that could help people develop a program at the school level. Enid Davis from the Harker School said she has an Information Literacy K-12 Committee at her school (with documents) and Patt mentioned that we could form a page where we link to or upload documents or webpages that deal with our information literacy approaches. This was also seen as an area where collaborating with ACRL and college librarians was practical. In order for us to have a liason to ACRL, we need to have Sara Kelly Johns, AASL President, appoint someone. Steve Matthews also mentioned that filling out those pesky volunteer forms on the various division websites really does work, so as many people as possible should consider spreading the ISS wealth with other divisions.

Technology: Karen Douse brought up the technology piece we discussed at the Tea. How do we get a roundtable/discussion group for independent school library/technology issues? Participants discussed how nice it would be to have a room booked to just drop in and talk about what was on people’s mind. Collaborating with LITA was mentioned as a good starting point (Karen Schneider or Stephen Abram at SirsiDynix were also mentioned as possible collaborators).

Minutes respectfully submitted by Courtney Lewis, ISS Secretary.