

ISS Committee Meeting
ALA Midwinter 2008
Room 113 A/B Pennsylvania Convention Center
Philadelphia, PA

Present: Laura Pearle (The Hackley School), Steve Matthews (Foxcroft School), Patt Moser (Sidwell Friends), Elizabeth Burke (Georgetown Visitation), Ann Petersen (Hutchinson School), Susan Williamson (Albuquerque Academy), Ernie Cox (St. Timothy's School), Alison Ernst (Northfield Mt. Hermon), Megan Dolan (Sidwell Friends School), Cheryl Steele (The Overlake School, Redmond, WA), Alice Bryant, (Harpeth Hall), and Courtney Lewis (Wyoming Seminary).

Data Committee – Susan Williamson

The data we collected in 2004-2005 is summarized in article form and will hopefully be published soon. Laura Pearle was a big help in getting the article ready. The desire is to put it in *Independent School* magazine and sadly the upcoming issues are not related to our data. *KQ* would be the next option for publishing. *Independent Teacher* (online periodical) is an option to pursue. Susan wrote up comparison of our data with Keith Curry Lance data in article form. Ann said that board discussed how some sections have gone off in a different direction than AASL with their projects so we need to make sure that our data (when published as an article) doesn't flagrantly go against AASL initiatives without passing it in front of someone's nose for feedback. Susan felt that this wouldn't be a problem as the data supports everything AASL has promoted and in fact independent schools look great in the data compared to public schools and parochial schools. Ernie mentioned that in yesterday's *Cognotes* there was an article about the recent studies and that independent schools were prominently mentioned. More analysis to come!

After a brief time away from our table, Susan returned with information from the public school data (courtesy of the AASL Data Committee) showing that books per pupil is going way down as are the ratio numbers for professional librarians per student as librarians are replaced by paraprofessionals. Susan encouraged us to send out notices to our state organizations to participate in the AASL longitudinal study online that Keith Curry Lance is sponsoring. She is going to encourage independent schools (listed in guides like *Peterson's Guide to Independent Schools*) to submit data. Independent schools are not participating to the extent that they did in our survey. Lance added two questions to survey – are they AASL members and a survey of social networking tools being used. This should yield more data to absorb and be interesting for librarians.

AASL Reno Postmortem - Everyone

Alison said that the reception was well-attended (but we need a mike next time!) and the chocolate fountain was very well-received. Patt felt that the raffle of school items was a great feature that we should repeat in future events. The personal touch with greeters and an evening program really worked well to facilitate networking. Having non-alcoholic

beverages for free should be a point for next reception as people get cranky if there's only a cash bar, plus some people don't like to drink alcohol while representing their school.

The ISS Tour in Reno was a little "interesting" and it seemed to suffer from not having ISS members involved with the library selection. The Conference Committee has not had ISS representation for some time and there has been a history of us not being involved with planning. Ernie is foisting himself on the future AASL conference committee since it's going to be in Charlotte, NC and he would like to be involved. He has been in correspondence with the current and future presidents of AASL to get on the committee, so hopefully this will work out. Lots of positive feedback since everyone loves Ernie.

Web Presence – Ernie Cox

Everyone complemented Ernie on the recent web updates and pictures. Ernie said the glitches of the transfer to the new content management system are being worked out slowly but surely. Lori Hancock has been trained on the new system and will start developing content soon, presumably after having her baby (good luck, Lori, we are excited for you!). Courtney mentioned using her SurveyMonkey subscription to do small questions this way (database subscriptions, book vendors, software used). Julie Walker is the executive director and would be the person to run this past to make sure we're not treading on people's toes. Alison mentioned it would be nice to blog about the results to get ISS out there in the larger AASL presence. Julie came over and said it was fine and we should do it! We are going to start talking about questions to do.

Ernie mentioned difficulty of photos in terms of permissions of people to use their image. Patt said it would be nice if we could all commit to a month of AASL blogging so the burden doesn't fall on one person. Courtney will send out how the sign up process to AASL blog. Silvia Norton and Cindy Phillips have both been working on the blog – they are blog queens!

Alison - Feb

Patt - March

Courtney - April

Alice - May

Elizabeth - August

Cheryl – September

Ann mentioned "whyville" is an international web community for elementary through middle schoolers. This was discussed at the board and the board asked to set up a whybrary – students come to visit the site in order to visit digitized print, audio and video. Ann said she was presenting this just to inform us that the board is sponsoring this initiative.

Ernie complemented Patt on alerting many of us to the independent school NING. Courtney will send Elizabeth and a bunch of other people an invitation for it! Allison and Patt discussed getting as many librarians as possible on the NING in order to become

more of presence to the non-library crowd in independent school. Stephen & Cheryl also need invitations. Everyone should think about people within their school as well as other librarians that may not have heard about the NING as possible invites.

NAIS Infiltration Report - Alison Ernst and Patt Moser

Patt and Karen Douse (who was sadly not present) have been doing a lot of “seeding” to get us into NAIS. Patt, at a local regional meeting, discussed that there are technology standards (<http://www.nais.org/about/seriesdoc.cfm?ItemNumber=149157&sn.ItemNumber=146810>) but no library standards in NAIS.. Alison spoke with a NAIS representative who wanted to know if we would be willing to present a set of specific standards to the NAIS. Karen has recently been on the committee that wrote the “Principles of Good Practice” (PGP) for Technology for NAIS and has wisdom to share with us. We need to form an advisory group and work on a set process or timeline to make this happen. Next step is Alison will tell her contact that we are interested in fulfilling this role. She has already approached Liz Gray of Dana Hall School who is the Director-Elect of the AISL to have representation from that organization. Patt volunteered to continue to spearhead this process and follow up (along with Karen) to help move this along. Courtney Lewis and Cheryl Steele both said they’d be interested in being on this committee. The technology standard committee did much of this type of work virtually so we think there won’t need to be a lot of initial in person time. This process could open serious doors for us in terms of workshops with NAIS as once you have a PGP in your area, NAIS is interested in having workshops to move people toward them. Alison encouraged us to look at the “good practices” that the NAIS has for other disciplines. While this might be a longer process than simply presenting a workshop, it doesn’t seem like NAIS is that receptive to our workshops without this process.

Patt said that the Classroom of the Future at the NAIS Conference in NYC is a rotunda set up for workshops and demonstrations of various technology and Web 2.0 items for conference attendees. Patt is involved with a group of people who are setting up an area for library roles in 2.0 on Thursday at 1:45. Several people in the NY area said that they would try and pop in for support.

Future Programs – Alison Ernst

ALA 08 in Anaheim – ISS tour suggestions from librarians have come to Alison. She has contacted someone she knows in the area of Anaheim but would like anyone else who knows people to let her know suitable libraries in the area that wouldn’t be too far a drive (in L.A. traffic!) for a tour. The tour, the ISS Tea, and the technology roundtable are set up for Anaheim - we just have to fill it up with details. Communication with AASL is paramount for us to understand how to get our needs heard. Alison read us a description for a session on Web 2.0 in school libraries – with a “panel of experts” – and it’s listed as an AASL ISS event, yet no one knows where it came from. Patt remembered that Debbie Abilock and others may have said something to her about a similar event that might be listed under us. Hopefully someone is getting those experts lined up!

Brenda Dryer, our staff liaison for AASL, stopped by to discuss our needs for the ISS tour. Alison is happy to vet independent schools in the area, and Brenda will help arrange buses and boxed lunches. Brenda will send Alison the deadline for needing the library information for the tour stops, probably around February. Our tea – Brenda will send Alison menus to discuss options. Jennifer Habley is the contact for securing a room for a technology roundtable. Brenda will look up who was listed on the program submission for our mystery session at annual. We asked Brenda when the deadlines are for submitting information for programming for the following year's conferences – probably April to June-ish.

ALA 09 in Chicago – Discussion of a program about Aspergers/Autism and the role of librarians with students with this difference came from Ernie who has been seeing this population as a growing demographic in independent schools – this would be a real crossover topic for public school librarians. Susan thinks she knows a speaker who came to her school to speak on this topic and will get us the name. Ernie says he has had some experience with this group of students and knows a librarian who works exclusively with students with this condition. He will research an appropriate panel of experts. Alison mentioned a recent book, Look Me in the Eye, a memoir of a person living with Aspergers. There might be local Chicago organizations that could help us with speakers.

Other conference ideas – ACRL/AASL bridge has been discussed in the past. Alison mentioned Elisabeth Tully's packed sessions (she's at Phillips Andover) about the Next Gen student. Alison will approach her for the possibility of a session. Susan mentioned a study that covered college transition issues and how we can prepare them. People interested in this should do footwork and share info by April since that will be the programming submission deadline.

Preconference: Hands On Strategic Planning – Alison thinks that finding people who have done strategic planning and could come with their plan and have Maureen Sullivan facilitate the program using actual examples of plans and the process that got them there. Various librarians from different planning could share their process and experience to good effect. Maybe this would be better for AASL 09 in Charlotte.

ISS Leadership Guide on the Wiki - Alison Ernst

There is a mystery "ISS Leadership Guide" which is the ISS Holy Grail – it doesn't seem to exist but people have seen it in binder form floating around. Alison would like to have one on a wiki, preferably authored by those who have seen it, so we can refer to it.

Nominating Committee - Alison Ernst

Kudos to Cheryl and Alice for volunteering to run for chair-elect this year (thank you!). Our policy states we have to have a nominating committee for ISS to bring up names and then we send these names to the official AASL Nominating Committee. Laura Pearle is on the AASL Nominating Committee and had a lot to contribute. We need a chair-elect for ISS in 2009, an ISS board liaison, etc. and each position has its own set of criteria.

The section provides the nominating committee with a bunch of names for various positions and the committee vets the people's biographies and makes sure that they have sufficient background. We need to focus on giving them people for ALA '09 – we need a minimum of two but more would be great. Laura Pearle was sniffing hungrily at people who terms are due to expire in 2009.

An examination of our current appointments revealed that Mary Hobar should be off the data committee and Ernie will make that update on the website. Marion Wells has not been active and we worry that she will not be able to participate in ISS.

Ann said that Jim Reddick is President-Elect of ALA and we should be happy about this because he has strong ties to AASL. Linda Williams is up for election for President and she is also a school librarian. Go school librarians!!

We decided to table the member outreach because we are exhausted from our long and productive meeting. Elizabeth asked how many members ISS has and Susan said over 800 at last count. Ann mentioned that AASL as a whole lost 600 members from the dues hike. Megan asked about what is involved with the outreach and that she might be willing to take more of an active role in this area. Competition from sources like AISL is very real and that those organizations began because they weren't getting what they needed from AASL. We want to work hard to make ISS a great resource for every independent school librarian to encourage participation.

Courtney Lewis, ISS Secretary, respectfully submits these minutes.