



**American Association of School Librarians (AASL)
a division of the American Library Association (ALA)
Independent Schools Section (ISS)**

**American Library Association
Annual Conference
January, 2005
Boston, MA**

Saturday, January 15, 2005
All-Committee Meeting

Present: Susan Williamson, Linell Ela, Kathleen Ellis, C.D. McLean, Trisha Medeiros, Alison Ernst, Mary Hoeber, Carolyn Hilles, Linda Heinemann.

We began with introductions, followed by some general announcements:

Kathleen asked that we set aside some time to discuss the AASL Strategic Plan. Susan announced that Polly Gilbert, the ISS Secretary, had resigned and that Dorcas Hand, who had offered to take minutes, had had a conflicting obligation and could not attend the meeting. C.D. McLean volunteered to take notes for this meeting.

Susan then announced the program and tour plans for the Annual ALA meeting in Chicago.

The program title is "Designing a School Library for the 21st Century: Best Practices."

The three panelists are:

Drew Harrington, Library Building Consultant, "Not Just Along for the Ride: Putting the Librarian in the Driver's Seat."

Sheila Grap, Manager of Public Schools in Baltimore, "Making a Library User Friendly—to All Users."

Linda Hankinson, Librarian at Hockaday School, "Working with the Architect: Friend or Foe?"

The ISS tour in Chicago will first visit the three University of Chicago Lab Schools, which are well established and have strong children's literature award programs. Then we will visit the Cristo Rey Jesuit School which has created an unusual program in conjunction with corporations in downtown Chicago, whereby students work one day a week in exchange for some 72% of their tuition at the

school. The library, which is being created, will be bilingual, 50% English and 50% Spanish.

The third event in Chicago will be the ISS Breakfast, at 7:30 am Monday morning, June 28th. You can sign up for both the tour and breakfast through ALA's online registration.

Susan passed around the new ISS brochure and explained that it had come out in June of 2004 at Orlando. Orders for the packets of 25 brochures for \$8.00 can be placed by dialing 1-866-SHOP-ALA. Nancy Van Arkle has reported that sales of the brochure have been good.

Linell announced that the program for AASL in Pittsburgh in October will be presented by Dorcas Hand. It involves a project she carried out with publishers in her library. Linell also reported that the ISS event at the AASL meeting will not be the usual tea, but a cocktail hour with hor d'oeuvres instead. The afternoon times were fully booked for other events. The cocktail hour will cost the same as the tea. Alison Ernst offered to help Linell with the details.

Susan called for ideas for the next program for ALA Annual in New Orleans, and for volunteers to join the moribund Program Committee. Alison suggested that we do a program on strategic planning for school libraries. She pointed out the need for all of us to plan for the future, either in conjunction with the school's plan or separately. She suggested we ask Maureen Sullivan to talk on this topic. Several of the participants had seen her presentations and agreed she would be a good candidate. Susan pointed out that she would need to be paid. That said, someone came up with the brilliant idea of doing a pre-conference on strategic planning in New Orleans and then follow up in two years with a discussion group program for those that had success or didn't have success and why. A "lesson learned" program. The pre-conference format would hopefully pay for Sullivan's fee. We could also then do an NAIS presentation to show others how it is done.

The pre-conference would be a substitute for a tour of independent school libraries in New Orleans. Alison offered to contact Maureen and to write up a column on strategic planning for KQ.

Susan then announced the ISS nominees for this spring's elections. They are the following:

Secretary: Doris Baron, St. Martin's Episcopal
Melody Degnan, Rockhurst High School

Vice-Chair, Chair-Elect: Carolyn Hilles, Wheeler School
Pat Moser, Sidwell Friends School

The position of ISS representative to the ALA Board will be coming up in a year. C.D. McLean has volunteered to take on the position for the 2006/2009 term, if she is not elected as councilor-at-large to ALA.

Discussion of committee membership followed. Both the Data Committee and Web Presence Committee currently have enough members, but we might appoint others in Chicago to come serve in the next year in order to have a rotating membership. Trish Medeiros offered to send out an e-mail to ask for volunteers for her committee. Susan asked for volunteers for the Nominating Committee. As the outgoing chair, she needs help on this committee. Committee reports followed:

DATA COMMITTEE

The Data Committee met in the morning with Steven Hofmann, our liaison with AASL. We had hoped to have NAIS conduct a survey of their community, but Steven asked that we ask the IT department of ALA to do the survey, since ALA ultimately "owns" the data we collect. Steve Matthews had already met with NAIS to ask them to work with us on a survey, but there were no concrete offers from them to do it. Susan had contacted Keith Curry Lance (Chair of the Research and Statistics Committee of AASL) to ask about a survey he is planning to do with the public schools for AASL, but she was only able to meet with him after the All Committee meeting. He had offered to look over our data points.

The survey that ALA IT would create will be online and will not be password protected.

That will allow all NAIS, AISL and ISS members to fill it out. We will send a post card to ISS members to give them the URL for the online survey. That will potentially cost ISS \$300. We will apply for the funds from AASL at the end of the meeting.

It wasn't clear whether ALA IT would be giving us raw data or whether they would massage it for us. We need to give them a very detailed accounting of what we want. It would be ideal for the data to be reported in such a way that anyone could manipulate the data for specific results, as NCES allows. Susan has contacted people at NCES (as an alternative to NAIS), but they do this kind of work only when funded from the outside.

We hope to do a more detailed survey later. Mary Hoeber offered to write up the process of doing a survey so that the next group who does this does not need to reinvent the wheel.

WEB PRESENCE COMMITTEE

Trisha Medeiros announced that the initial home page is up. Steven Hofmann came to the meeting and reiterated that he has final approval of the site. Trish is learning that this can be a very long process. We talked about priorities for the site. Laura Pearle will be creating a new Resources page. Please send all regional information to her at lpearle@gmail.com. We will be linking to articles from KQ. Does anyone want to write an article for KQ?

The logo process continues. Steven Hofmann will get back to the person who does the design to remind her to work on this.
We need to develop policies and procedures for the website. Right now we do not have any, but we might take pointers from the ALA Manual.

MISCELLANEOUS

Kathleen and Susan will talk to vendors to get door prizes for Chicago's ISS Breakfast.

Carolyn Hilles recommended the book titled Books for the Journey.

Kathleen spoke to us about doing strategic planning for AASL. She asked us what we find lacking in the AASL organization.

Comments followed:

AASL is not doing enough outreach to other organizations. Often lower school librarians find more commonality with private and public school libraries. The problem for many librarians is that fact that memberships are too expensive to maintain and registrations and travel to conferences are also too expensive. Someone asked if we could possibly get a price break for signing up for multiple divisions or by working on a committee.

According to Kathleen, only 1000 out of 10,000 AASL members voted in the most recent election. Members are stretched too thinly between all of the competing associations and conferences. And the speed of delivery of AASL is seen as too slow.

On the positive side, the book awards are great. And the collegial aspect of AASL works well. Do we need a more formal link between YALSA and ISS, possibly a seat on the board?

Respectfully submitted,
C.D. McLean
Jean Ann Cone Library Director
Upper Division Librarian
Berkeley Prep
4811 Kelly Rd.
Tampa, FL 33615
McLeaC@Berkeleyprep.org

