

**American Association of School Librarians
Affiliate Assembly Discussion
Saturday, January 24, 2009
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Colorado Convention Center, Room: 704**

Irene Kwidzinski called the meeting to order at 10:30. She introduced the Standards and Guidelines Implementation Task Force Chair, Susan Ballard.

It was noted that two past-presidents of AASL were in attendance – Cyndi Phillip and Fran Roscello.

Susan Ballard introduced Kathy Lowe, the chair of the Indicators and Assessment Task Force. Kathy Lowe stated that the task force has been working for a year on developing indicators and benchmarks to support the new standards. Members of the task force were introduced. The *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* has been published. Kathy Lowe thanked the task force and mentioned that the publication is available in the ALA store at the conference.

Discussion topic: Strengthening our Role in the School Community

Strategies for Implementing the New Learning Standards

Susan Ballard stated that at the last Fall Forum participants were asked to participate in a survey. The results of that feedback were returned and David Loertscher pulled all the information together and identified nine topics the fall forum participants said were important to them. These nine topics were posted on chart paper and hung on the walls around the room. Susan Ballard introduced members of the task force. The information David Loertscher put together was passed around to every table. Pairs were asked to work for 10 minutes to see what strikes them and then see what they see as major suggestion.

After ten minutes the tables were asked to think about what they looked at, what it meant to people and have some discussion to come up with suggestions for two realistic activities that can be accomplished with limited budgets that could actually happen in the next year. Participants were asked to write their activities on the sticky notes and then place them on the chart paper under the topic they related to.

Once the sticky notes had been posted the group was divided by tables to discuss one of the topics that had the most posts. The groups were directed to get up and take a look at what has been posted, go back to tables and as a group come up with a summary of what are the top ideas under these three areas.

It was requested that a volunteer from the two tables share with everyone what the summary was and write the items on the chart paper.

Marketing:

Make Oprah an advocate

Focus on early learning, reading, literacy

Chicago Public Schools, read in school

Come up with talking points at the state level that are available at the local level. No jargon.

Talk to administrators, etc. more than once a year.

Pick one term for ourselves to simplify the jargon. What are we? Common vocabulary.

Emphasize our role as a teacher. Teacher-librarian.

Knowledge Quest articles available to other areas. Cross-pollination.

Get AASL and PTA to work together. Put PSAs on PTA website. Student voices saying how we help them.

Professional Development/Learning Communities:

Digital learning communities for librarians. Lesson plans that have been vetted. A place to start conversations, discuss standards.

Provide tools to become professional development providers for all stakeholders (teachers, administrators, parents, etc.)

Focus on student success in learning communities. Keep a positive focus.

Lesson plans showing collaboration with new standards.

Use webinars and other distance learning technology to keep expenses down.

Marketing of Advocacy Institute by AASL. Difference between advocacy, marketing, and PR.

State affiliates have PLCs already working and we need to identify what they are and share among our states. Share best practices.

Linworth has a lot of webinars but they are extremely expensive. If there was a partnering that would make them less expensive that would be good. School Library Media Month – webinars coming. They need to be reasonably priced.

Video conferencing. ALA is rolling out ALA Connect which is a collection of web tools available to members and member groups.

CapWiz – way to connect with legislators. Form letters, postcards, etc. Who is on the education committee on every state? Who are the representatives? Legislative committee is working on these issues.

Links to Achievement Group:

Getting the research in front of the administrators. Getting the new standards out there too.

Hard to share message – School Libraries Work document is too much to get through.

Presentation for administrators. Something condensed. Gives us a coherent voice.

Who would be the target of these announcements of achievement? Ties so much into marketing. School committees want to be proud of administration and teachers. Good to present at school comm. Level on a regular basis. Market and publish the links to achievement.

Academic librarians and professors are targeted groups. Talk about what kids need to succeed in college. Presenting that information to administrators. They have a wiki started with talking points. Ohio is working on this right now.

AASL and AACRL are having a 12/13 meeting today. There might be something in Chicago about this. College librarians are concerned about the lack of research ability by students entering college.

PSAs – messages that showcase connection between information literacy skills and student achievement. Not data heavy but data driven message.

How information literacy skills are linked to work place skills. Employer testimonials. Partnership for 21st century skills is also doing some of this

Map information skills to other subject areas and state testing. Direct correlation to testing.

Make visible what we do in the school library locally. Tracking what we teach in terms of what we teach, take pictures, deliver messages to administrators, etc.

Would like to get voice of students themselves. Have students create PSAs. Have students send the message for us.

Need to work on student assessment. Help people understand how we can do that on a day in and day out basis.

Susan Ballard thanked the group for their work. It will help the task force move forward. She said they would also like to hear our individual voices. Participants were given a survey that was an adaptation of the one that was distributed at Fall Forum and they were asked to fill out the survey and return Saturday if possible or at Affiliate Assembly I on Sunday if more time was needed.

Irene Kwidzinski stated that she hoped everyone found the discussion topic helpful. Next on the agenda was follow-up discussion in regions. Members were reminded to meet in the Curtis Hotel in the Marco Polo room on the third floor on Sunday. Breakfast will begin at 7:30 before meeting starts at 8:00. Nominations for the next affiliate assembly chair

elect will be open and there is a nomination form at back of the handbook. Please email Irene Kwidzinski if you have any comments on the session, she would like feedback.

The last 35 minutes were for regions to caucus.

Irene Kwidzinski adjourned the meeting at 12:25.