

**Proposal to Establish Joint Committee on School & Public Libraries
Item # 42**

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting
ALA Midwinter Meeting, San Antonio
January 20-25, 2006**

- Topic:** **Proposal to Establish Joint Committee on School & Public Libraries**
- Background:** **The AASL/ALSC/YALSA Taskforce on School/Public Library Cooperative Activities was established in 2003. Since that time they have gathered resources related to the topic and created a web page to disseminate the information. It has been proposed that the taskforce become a standing committee.**
- Action Required:** **Discussion/Decision**

Proposal for
AASL/ALSC/YALSA Joint Committee on School/Public Library Cooperation

Background

The AASL/ALSC/YALSA Task Force on School/Public Library Cooperative Activities was established shortly after ALA annual conference in 2003. The task force has met at midwinter and annual conferences in 2004 and 2005.

The task force has 1) collected information about best practices in School/Public Library Cooperative activities compiled from responses to numerous web postings; 2) prepared a bibliography on School/Public Library Partnerships; and 3) identified Exemplary Web Sites about School/Public Library Partnerships. The information is now available on the ALSC section of the ALA website, with links from both the AASL and YALSA sections.

At ALA Annual 2005 the task force conducted a three and one half hour presentation “Scratching Each Other’s Library Backs: Best Practices on School/Public Library Cooperative Activities” about our findings. A similar presentation was made at AASL in October 2005 and is scheduled for PLA in Boston 2006.

Proposal

At the ALA Annual Conference on June 25, 2005, in Chicago, Illinois, the members of the joint task force voted unanimously to recommend that a permanent AASL/ALSC/YALSA Joint Committee of School/Public Library Cooperation be established. The task force recommends the following for the Committee Charge, Membership and Chair:

Committee Charge

The AASL/ALSC/YALSA Joint Committee on School/Public Library Cooperation will identify and disseminate information on effective cooperative or collaborative projects that link schools and local public libraries. The committee will maintain and update the resources that have been compiled on the ALA web site. The committee will develop training workshops and/or programs on cooperative or collaborative projects and present them at conferences, institutes and for other organizations serving youth. Committee members will detail findings in articles or books for division publications.

Committee Membership

The committee shall consist of 9 attendant and 3 virtual members from each of the divisions as follows:

- 1- 1 virtual and 3 attendant members from AASL, appointed by the AASL president-elect.
- 2- 1 virtual and 3 attendant members from ALSC, appointed by the ALSC president-elect.
- 3- 1 virtual and 3 attendant members from YALSA, appointed by the YALSA president-elect.

Appointments will normally be for two year terms, consistent with other division committee appointments. In order that appointment expirations are staggered, half of the appointments made during the first year will be for one year.

Committee Chair

The chair of the committee will rotate among the three divisions as follows:

- 1- 2006-2007, chair will be a member of YALSA, appointed by the YALSA president-elect.
- 2- 2007-2008, chair will be a member of AASL, appointed by the AASL president-elect.
- 3- 2008-2009, chair will be a member of ALSC, appointed the ALSC president-elect.

Subsequent years will continue the same rotation.

Activities and responsibilities

Children and teens are best served by librarians who cooperate. Dwindling budgets emphasize the importance of collecting best practices for service to children and youth and to disseminate, develop and promote them. Cooperative and collaborative activities between public and school libraries such as library card drives, assignment alerts, homework support, reading promotion, all generate enthusiasm and interest. As a task force, we feel that these best practice cooperative and collaborative projects should continue to be collected,

disseminated, developed, and promoted by a joint committee that serves as both a clearinghouse and a catalyst.

The web site established by the task force includes a form for submission of additional stories of school/public library cooperation. Collecting this information and formatting it for the web can be carried out by a virtual member. Also, updating bibliographies, finding additional exemplary web sites and writing for publication are activities that can be assigned to virtual or attendant members. Additional programming ideas and venues can be explored by all committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gail Bush, AASL

Susan Hawk, YALSA

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