

AASL AFFILIATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Friday, June 28, 2013
McCormick Place Convention Center, Room N135

With due notice having been given the AASL Affiliate Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 9:02 p.m. by Affiliate Chair Pam Renfrow.

Members in attendance were: Pam Renfrow, Merlyn Miller, Devona Pendergrass, Michelle Luhtala, Valerie Diggs, Eileen Kern, Cathie Marriott, Sarah Thornbery, Valerie Edwards, Kathy Carroll, Deborah Christensen, Michelle Wilson, and Cecelia Solomon, Susi Parks Grissom, Jessica Gillis, Karen Egger, Susan Nickel, Dave Sonnen, Ken Stewart, Cindy Pfeiffer, Julie Walker, and Jonna Ashley. Gail Dickinson, Julie Walker, Carl Harvey, Susan Ballard, and Jennifer Habley were also in attendance.

Welcome and introductions were given by Pam Renfrow, Affiliate Chair. Pam also introduced Jonna Ashley as the new AASL program coordinator as Jen Habley will be taking on other duties. She instructed the members to look for the agenda handouts which included tonight's agenda. Members were instructed to sign the sheet being passed around the room to confirm their attendance. Introductions were made by having each attendee state their name.

Sarah Thornbery made a motion to approve the minutes from the executive committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Michelle Luhtala. Motion passed.

Susan Nickel made a motion to approve the minutes from the roundtable committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Michelle Luhtala. Motion passed.

Eileen Kern made a motion to add an agenda item to tonight's meeting. The Agenda Item would be to include discussion at this meeting on the Regional Representative policy. The motion was seconded by Susi Grissom. Motion passed and the agenda was amended.

Eileen Kern made a motion to add an agenda item change in the policy for Sunday's Regional Affiliate Assembly II, after welcome and introductions. The item is called Recommendations for Position of Regional Representative as a replacement for Director Elect. The motion was seconded by Susan Nickel. Motion passed and Affiliate Assembly Meeting II agenda will be revised.

Karen Egger will read and discuss in caucuses the recommendations for position of Regional Representative as a replacement for Director-Elect at Affiliate Assembly Meeting II.

Recommendation for position of Regional Representative as replacement for Director-Elect:

Election and Training:

1. The Director-elect will lead a discussion describing the position of Regional Representative (RR) this first time, prepare a ballot of willing candidates, and conduct the RR election by written ballot of the affiliate delegates in attendance from their region. Subsequent elections will be conducted by the out-going RR or alternate of the region. Director elects from Region 2, 5, and 9 will serve as Regional representative for 2013-2014.
2. An RR and alternate will be elected from among the official Affiliate Assembly (AA) delegates by the regional delegation for a one-year term, e.g. Region 1 delegates will elect one RR and one alternate from Region 1 as their representative.
3. The elected RR and alternate should be from different states if possible, to encourage greater representation from all affiliates. Also, they should commit to attend both the upcoming Midwinter and Annual Conferences.
4. These two representatives may be nominated for a second term the following year. No one person may be elected for more than two consecutive terms.
5. Participation in webinar/training conference calls for RRs and alternates is required.

Duties:

1. Each region has one vote at AAEC at both Midwinter and Annual Conferences that is cast by the RR or the alternate.
2. The nine RRs will lead the Midwinter AA Discussion Group on Saturday morning. This discussion will focus on issues that could become Mega-issues for AASL.
3. Attend the AASL Board II meeting at Annual when invited.
4. RRs and alternates should be added to their respective Region's listserv, as well as each state's listserv within the region.

5. Contact, communicate, and report to their affiliate members and leaders bi-monthly through ALA Connect.
6. Participate in the Mega-Issue discussion with the Board at Midwinter as invited.
7. Submit regional reports to AAEC and Directors.
8. Contact new AASL members within their region.
9. Coordinate and work with affiliate delegates to prepare the annual report and to facilitate the Concerns and Commendations process.
10. Keep the AASL membership roster for the region updated.
11. Subscribe to the appropriate ALA/AASL electronic discussion lists.

Rationale:

The RR and alternate will gain valuable experiences and insight and could become possible candidates for the position of Regional Director.

This position could provide a strong communication link with AA.

Leadership skills will be mentored to a variety of AA delegates.

(Revised 4/22/2013)

Ken Stewart made a motion to amend with: Director Elects in Regions 2-5-9 for 2013-2014 year will serve as regional representative. Eileen Kern seconded motion. Motion passed.

AASL president Pam Renfrow gave her report on the concerns and commendations submitted to the ALA board after the annual conference.

AASL AFFILIATE ASSEMBLY STATEMENT OF CONCERN

Concern #1-brought forth by New Jersey Association of School Librarians

Common Core Standards, which many states have adopted, are rooted in what school librarians are trained to do: research, evaluation, and synthesis of information. It is important to make sure that all stakeholders are aware of the link between the Common Core and the skills that school librarians have to advance the standards.

The action requested:

To create a series of advocacy brochures for stakeholders stating the correlations between Common Core and the skills role school library programs can provide to advance the standards. The brochure could be similar to the *Standards for 21st Century Learner* brochures developed by AASL. The Common core task force is working on this with *achieve.org* to create a library brochure.

Michelle Luhtala made a motion to not approve because of the common core task force already working on this. Susi Grissom seconded motion. Motion passed.

Concern #2-brought forth by NYLA-Section of School Librarians

As Common Core is currently the center of national educational movement, AASL initiatives must accurately align terminology and content. For example, most educational institutions, associations, and AASL partners use the term “college and career readiness” and not L4L (Learning 4 Life).

The action requested:

Expansion of the L4L Brand to include language that encompasses “College and Career Readiness”.

This is being done in the repurposing and managing task force.

Jessica Gillis made a motion to not approve because it is being done by the repurposing and managing task force. Susi Grissom seconded motion. Motion passed.

Concern #3-brought forth by NYLA-Section of School Librarians

Many school librarians are utilizing the *Crosswalk of the Common Core Standards and the Standards for the 21st Century Learner*. Upon examination of the documents, concerns have been expressed about the inconsistency of standards across grade-levels and a lack of focus and identification of standards that librarians own, teach, and assess.

The action requested:

Review and update the *Crosswalk of the Common Core Standards* and the *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* for consistency and flow. Collect exemplars from state affiliates' Crosswalks that focus on the standards that librarians own, teach and assess. Publish refined Crosswalk.

Eileen Kern made a motion to send to Affiliate Assembly. Jessica Gillis seconded motion. Motion passed.

Concern #4-brought forth by Maryland Association of School Librarians

STEM is a key education initiative. Research is a vital component. School librarians are a driving-force in integrating inquiry-based learning and research. Currently AASL does not provide any position or resources related to national STEM initiatives.

The action requested:

Create a task force to produce products such as position paper, toolkits, etc. Investigate partnerships associated with STEM initiatives.

Eileen Kern made motion to send to Affiliate Assembly. Kathy Carroll seconded motion. Motion passed.

Concern #5-brought forth by Region 3, OELMA (Ohio Education Library Media Association)

School librarians would like to seek more support of state library agencies in order to work more collaboratively to promote the academic achievement of students in our schools. The decline in credentialed school librarians and quality school library programs is having an effect on students and staff of our schools.

The action requested:

We are requesting that the ALA School Library Task force, initiated by ALA President Maureen Sullivan, seek support of state library agencies.

Recommendations for this are:

- Provide state library agencies with information about the decline of quality school library programs and the implications for student achievement
- Creation of toolkit for state library agencies that would assist in gathering and/or providing data on status of school librarians and school library programs
- Provide advocacy tools for quality school library programs with credentialed school librarians to support student achievement
- Seek representation from state library agencies on the ALA School Library Task Force

Eileen Kern made a motion to send to Affiliate Assembly. Michelle Luhtala seconded motion. Motion passed.

Concern #6-brought forth by Region 4, Tennessee Association of School Librarians

The AASL Standards for the 21st-Century Learner Lesson Plan Database is a useful tool in this time of changing curriculum; however, there are two areas that need improvement in order to make the database more effective.

First, the database needs to be expanded with additional lessons as there are only 112 lessons for all subjects and grade levels. This seems low given this is a national database.

Second, there are several ways to search by grade level, subject, and of course, keyword. Librarians can use the Common core State Standards (CCSS) code here (keyword). However, it would be useful to be able to search by the CCSS categories like “Reading Standards Lit in Science 9-10” or “CCSS Writing 9-10”. Although the AASL Crosswalk to the CCSS is available in each lesson plan, the database is not searchable by the CCSS.

This is important because:

- 1) The limited scope of the database can discourage school librarians from accessing and utilizing this resource.
- 2) During collaboration, teachers and school librarians need to be able to search for lessons by the general CCSS category.

The action requested:

- 1) Facilitate more contributions of lessons plans to the *AASL Standards for the 21st-Century Learner lesson Plan Database*.
- 2) Make the *AASL Standards for the 21st-Century Learner Lesson Plan Database* searchable by the Common Core State Standards.

Susi Grissom made a motion to facilitate efforts for database. Susan Nickel seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Concern #7-brought forth by Kansas Association of school Librarians (KASL)

We are very concerned about the number of school districts that are finding it easy to close school library positions. AASL leadership has emphasized the importance of branding this past year and we feel that our current branding, librarian, is impacting the limited understanding of our position in the schools, as well as under-emphasizing our role in digital literacy. In Kansas, our licensure still reads Library Media Specialist, which at least incorporates all forms of media. The word librarian does not clearly represent what our job encompasses and that may be part of the reason it is so easy to do away with our jobs if we are seen as the “keeper of books.”

The action requested:

Form a task force to review the name change.

Michele Luhtala made a motion to not approve forming a task force. Eileen Kern seconded motion. Motion passed.

Concern #8-brought forth by Kansas Association of School Librarians

Since Kansas has extreme levels of poverty and wealth in addition to a vast array of students with high and low reading levels, one concern is the lack of material and library curriculum available to students.

For instance, over 2,000 Wichita school children are considered homeless. Over 66 percent of emporia students accept free or reduced lunch. If AASL wishes to raise awareness about poverty and literacy, perhaps more materials and professionals should be available.

Another complication is the fact that numerous students do not live in one household with two parents/guardians. Often time, students live in one home on select days a month, while living with a grandparent a few days a month. If students live in multiple homes or move several times within a school year, they have limited access to academic resources and educators. If students move from parent to parent or town to town, they are at higher-risk of not graduating high school, not being functionally literate, and not being productive members of society.

Not only are students not returning library materials and textbook, they are leaving without a basic understanding of the curriculum and life-long learning skills. How unfortunate that school libraries across Kansas have transient students who never experience a true library and rarely return books that are vital to the school.

My district is in one of the bottom two lowest income counties in the state. People survive, many times 'off the land' as their family has done for generations. The school is really the pipeline into this century for these kids. It is so important that we provide access and the 'how-to' for all information and the DESIRE for information to these students so that they can at least live an informed life, even if they choose not to leave the area or change their way of living. To me the library and all we can provide offers a life-choice to them that they may not get in the classroom.

We need to go beyond the homeless and non-traditional homes (which are actually becoming the traditional home) to include foster care and migrant worker students.

The action requested:

We would like to see AASL offer programming, strategies or resources for school libraries serving homeless and transient student populations.

Merlyn Miller made a motion to approve the creation of offering programming, strategies or resources for school libraries serving homeless and transient student populations. Kathy Carroll seconded motion. Motion passed.

AASL STATEMENT OF COMMENDATION

Commendations 1-10 were approved and sent to Affiliate Assembly.

Commendation #1-Common Ground 2013: Leading in the Digital Age (Maryland's Premier Professional Development Event)

Karen Egger made a motion for this to be approved and sent to Affiliate Assembly. Jessica Gillis seconded motion. Motion approved.

Commendation #2-Library: A Weinberg Project (Weinberg Foundation)

Eileen Kern made a motion for this to be approved and sent to Affiliate Assembly. Michele Luhtula seconded motion. Motion approved.

Commendation #3-Second and Seven Foundations "Tackle Illiteracy"

Susan Nickel made a motion for this to be approved and sent to Affiliate assembly. Jessica Gillis seconded motion. Motion approved.

Commendation #4-Cleveland Plain Dealer “Tapping Into Parent Power”

Susi Grissom made a motion for this to be approved and sent to Affiliate Assembly. Ken Stewart seconded motion. Motion approved.

Commendation #5-Gary Literacy Coalition

Susi Grissom made a motion for this to be approved and sent to Affiliate Assembly. Jessica Gillis seconded motion. Motion approved

Commendation #6-Humanities Tennessee Student reader Day Program

Jessica Gillis made a motion for this to be approved and sent to Affiliate Assembly. Susan Nickel seconded motion. Motion approved.

Commendation #7-Librarian to Librarian Networking Summit

Susan Nickel made a motion for this to be approved and sent to Affiliate Assembly. Ken Stewart seconded motion. Motion approved.

Commendation #8-Tennessee First Lady’s Read20 Book Club

Ken Stewart made a motion for this to be approved and sent to Affiliate Assembly. Merlyn Miller seconded motion. Motion approved.

Commendation #9-YALLFest: Raising local literacy through great YA authors (<http://yallfest.org/>)

Ken Stewart made a motion for this to be approved and sent to Affiliate Assembly. Sarah Thornbery seconded motion. Motion approved.

Commendation #10-BE A PRO – Digital Literacy for Families

David Sonnen made a motion for this to be approved and sent to Affiliate Assembly. Ken Stewart seconded motion. Motion approved.

Commendation #11-Heartland Conference 2013; Inquiry and the Common Core

Cecelia Solomon made a motion to not approve. Ken Stewart seconded motion. Motion approved.

Commendation #12-College Readiness Dialogues

Susi Grissom made a motion to disapprove. Merlyn Miller seconded motion. Motion approved.

Eileen Kern made a motion to draft a resolution to be presented to retiring AASL Executive Director Julie Walker. The Affiliate Assembly executive committee will draft a resolution for endorsement by the Affiliate assembly members at Affiliate Assembly I and the resolution will be presented to Julie Walker at Affiliate Assembly II. Devona will secure a secret vote from the delegates without Julie's knowledge so the resolution will be a surprise to her at Affiliate Assembly II.

Susi Grissom seconded motion. Motion carried.

Jessica Gillis made a motion to adjourn.

Sarah Thornbery seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Devona Pendergrass, Past Recording Secretary