

DSLMA

Minutes of the Meeting December 11, 2007, at East Dover Elementary School in Dover. Meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. In attendance: Jane Stewart, Janet Shaw, Michele Johnson, Sue Gooden, Carole Carpenter, Jamie Alascia, Barb FitzPatrick, Denise Allen, Dale Kovalich.

Old Business :

The previous minutes were approved.

Janet Shaw brought the new banner for the School Library Media Specialist of the Year award winner. Jane will deliver it to the school and the principal will present it in front of the children.

Jane Stewart has been compiling a membership list and has received district information from some representatives. She still needs to hear from Capital, Smyrna, Colonial, Lake Forest, and a few others.

Denise Allen reported that participation in Delaware Reads About is down from last year. She wants everyone to sign in and be active since this is the one library project which Secretary Woodruff supports and funds. Denise has been given \$10,000 to run the project this year.

New Business :

Denise Allen repeated her request for a \$100 donation for decorations for the Showcase of Library Leadership. Jane will request that the DLA Treasurer cut a check. DSLMA will set up a display table at the event. Carole Carpenter will bring a table cloth and display board. Denise took suggestions as to people who should be invited.

Sue Gooden asked for publicity ideas for the Jan. 8 meeting. The award winning Delaware Diamonds Book Cart Drill team is coming to perform and she would like more people in the audience. She also noted that Annie Norman is recruiting for members of next year's team. Annie paid for the hotel rooms and registrations to the ALA conference for this year's team.

Janet Shaw has a web address for free exhibit passes to the Mid-Winter ALA conference in Philadelphia. DOL probably will not be arranging bus transportation as it is prohibitively expensive so we may need to set up carpooling and/or take the train. Since the conference is in Pennsylvania, we are considered a "Contiguous Chapter" (as in we live next door). Jane received a letter from ALA offering us, among other items, the opportunity to host a preconference, but we declined.

Committee Reports :

Legislative: Sue Gooden brought an email she received from AASL which says :
HELP US SAVE SCHOOL LIBRARIES. We need your help to ensure the inclusion of the Strengthening Kids' Interest in Learning and Libraries (SKILLS) Act in the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). The SKILLS Act is to place a certified school library media specialist in each school. For more information go to :
<http://www.capwiz.com/ala/issues/alert/?alertid=10223941>
(more text appended at the end of these minutes)

Governor's Task Force: Michele Johnson reported that they are looking for positive suggestions for movement toward a united library system in the state. The follow-up meeting on School Rooms has not yet been scheduled.

Awards: Janet Shaw will send the list of awards to Denise Allen for distribution to all concerned parties via the state mail system. Janet will also email everyone in January with a reminder that nominations will be needed by the beginning of March.

District Reports:

No reports from: Appoquinimink, Brandywine, Cape Henlopen, Charter, Colonial, Delmar, Independent/Private, Indian River, Lake Forest, Laurel, Parochial, Red Clay, Seaford, Smyrna, Sussex Tech, NCC Vo-Tech

Caesar Rodney: Jane Stewart reported that Katie Wisnewski of Postlewait Middle School Library was a presenter at the 3rd Annual School Library Journal Leadership Summit with the Delaware team in Phoenix, Arizona. Denise reported that Katie did an outstanding job. It was also noted that Joann Reynolds and Neil Cox from Airbase Middle School were awarded the AASL 2007 Gale/Library Media Connection TEAMS Award in October. Go CR!

Capital: Jamie Alascia reported that the district is still shopping for a new automated system.

Christina: Janet Shaw reported that the Follett reps demonstrated Titlewise to their monthly librarians' meeting. They are anticipating two librarian retirements this year (Elementary) .

Milford: Barb FitzPatrick reported that they are anticipating one librarian retirement this year (High School).

Woodbridge: Welcome to Dale Kovalich. He brought us some questions about how school districts determine library budgets.

Presentations:

Capital School District Teacher of the Year and East Dover Elementary Librarian Michele Johnson discussed her participation in a DCET pilot using Net Trekker, especially with ELL students. She showed an 8 minute video which explained the program. It includes 180,000 prescreened, educationally valid websites, all of which are Lexile scored and served by a dictionary function which gives definitions for every word. It is valuable for differentiated instruction because teachers can search it by different reading levels within the same subject area. It also includes 80,000 safe images for school projects and can be used from home. There is a free trial available for interested schools. There is some discussion statewide about including it in either UDLIB-SRCH or through School Rooms.

Follett Reps Todd Harold and Bob Stapf presented Play-A-Ways, small self-playing, digital audiobooks in I-pod like devices. These have been very popular. They expect the Play-A-Ways to soon be available with the ability to slow down the speed, so that reluctant readers can read along with the recording.

Todd and Bob then discussed the use of TitleWise, Follett's free library collection evaluation tool and a new addition called TitleMap, which could analyze whole districts as well as the entire state of Delaware. It is still under development but we would like to work with them, so Denise Allen will provide them with the Delaware Library Standards. All members who use Follett who will be attending the Jan. 8 meeting are requested to run a TitleWise report before that date and bring a copy with them to the executive meeting at 5:00. We will skip committee and district reports that night so that Todd can continue this discussion with us.

Meeting dismissed at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting : Jan. 8 at Alfred G. Waters School in Appoquinimink School District

Respectfully submitted.

Carole Carpenter

Addendum:

AASL message :

Urgent Action Needed: This legislation is critical to the future of school library media specialists and the bill will be marked up sometime this fall. Please contact your Representative and Senators immediately and ask them to co-sponsor the SKILLS Act.

The bill number in the house is H.R 2864, and in the Senate it's S. 1699.

When contacting your Members prepare yourself to state why this issue is of critical importance:

The SKILLs Act

Requires school districts, to the extent feasible, to ensure that every school within the district employs at least one state-certified school library media specialist in each school library;

Establishes as a state goal that there be at least one state-certified school library media specialist in every public school no later than the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year;

Broadens the focus of training, professional development, and recruitment activities to include school library media specialists;

Ensures that funds will serve elementary, middle, and high school students;

Requires books and materials to be appropriate for and engage the interest of students in all grade levels and students with special learning needs, including English language learners.

Talking Points

Multiple studies have affirmed that there is a clear link between school library media programs that are staffed by a school library media specialist and student academic achievement. Across the United States, research has shown that students in schools with good school libraries learn more, get better grades, and score higher on standardized test scores than their peers in schools without libraries.

Academic Librarians: School libraries are KEY to ensuring college readiness.

Public Librarians: School library media specialists give students the skills they need to utilize your library to its fullest extent.

Long regarded as the cornerstone of the school community, school libraries are no longer just for books. Instead, they have become sophisticated 21st century learning environments offering a full range of print and electronic resources that provide equal learning opportunities to all students, regardless of the socio-economic or education levels of the community – but only when they are staffed by school library media specialists trained to collaborate with teachers and engage students meaningfully with information that matters to them both in the classroom and in the real world.

Only about 60 percent of our school libraries have a full-time, state-certified school library media specialist on staff.

With limited funding and an increased focus on school performance, administrators are trying to stretch dollars and cut funds across various programs to ensure that maximum resources are dedicated to improving student academic achievement.

Because NCLB does not highlight the direct correlation between school library media specialists and increased student academic achievement, library resource budgets are increasingly being used to mitigate the effects of budgetary shortfalls.