

Minutes
VSLA Board Meeting
January 21, 2010
LNV/Distance Options

Members gathered by LNV or webcam and Skype at 4:00 p.m. President Marsha Middleton was absent due to surgery, and Claire Buckley, President Elect, called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

Board members present: Claire Buckley, Sue Monmaney, Lindy Sargent, Donna Smyth, Christine Eldred, Donna Sullivan-Macdonald, Karen Hennig, Merlyn Miller, Marcia Peterson, Shannon Walters, Pam Burke, Cheryl Kissel, Susan Hennessey, Kate Davie, Beth Mallon, Sue Furry-Irish, Kathy Lawrence, and Jessica Langlois.

Minutes of the December 3, 2009 Board Meeting were delivered and approved by an email quorum.

Treasurer' Report: Donna Smyth shared her reports (Mock Caldecott and 12/31/09 accounting) by email. She indicated that she has not received anything from the Vermont Library Conference yet and thought that Marsha M was looking into it. A couple of Board members asked about their reimbursement requests, and Donna answered their questions and advised that she would hold any payments until we meet face-to-face in April, if that was okay. Sue F-I made the motion to approve the report, which was seconded by Merlyn, and it was passed.

Members asked if it would be alright to **rearrange the agenda** and switch Old & New Business with Regional and Standing Committee Reports, and all agreed.

Old Business

Dynamic Landscapes Conference: Sue F-I updated the Board with information that the committees have been receiving positive responses to keynote and presenters, and that she will be putting out a second call this week and would ask for proposals by the 12th rather than the 19th, when they are due to be given to Ed. VSLA needs to provide 24 workshops, which will include 4 book award, 4 library-specific, and 16 workshops with broader appeal to techies, teachers & librarians. She asked us to send any responses to her, so we can fulfill our slots. Sue then introduced one problematic area – if there are multiple presenters in a workshop, only one will receive free registration, not all of them as has been the case in our previous Vermont library conferences. Several options were posed: Marsha's earlier suggestion that we offer lunch to extra participants (any teachers attending with students, however, would be responsible for their lunches), Shannon's suggestion that if there's a person who does most of the work he/she would receive the registration, or they could split the costs, Sue M's idea to promote presenters sending videoclips or appearing by Skype, and Sue H's comment that perhaps only a portion of the book award panel attend, as the GMBA did this past fall conference. Donna Smyth asked about what would happen if a panel is signed up, but registration closes out. Sue F-I indicated that the committee would make decisions regarding these issues, and Claire asked that they report back to the Board members by email. Sue M moved that the Board spend up to \$300 (\$10x30 presenters) for lunches, and after a second by Donna Smyth, the motion passed, with Sue F-I abstaining. This cost would come out of our independent funds, not out of conference profits. Donna will bring the checkbook and pay those expenses that day. Pam asked for assurance that Skype is available; yes, the conference is wired, but there can always be connection problems...

Learning4Life: Pam explained her plan to run ½ day (3 hour) workshops around the state (South, NEK, Burlington, Central and at Dynamic Landscapes) to share information from her ALA conference training, which she indicated was unfortunately less 21st Century Standards and more Marketing the Library. Merlyn indicated that Irene Kwivzinsky from Connecticut did a wonderful presentation and had offered to come to VT to help; Merlyn will email Pam her contact info. Discussion ensued about the cost of the trainings, and Marsha's research into VSLA stipends established back in 2006 was shared, along with her suggestion that we not charge participants for the training (good marketing). Pam advised that \$250 could cover prep, workshop, and travel for each of the 4 workshops; Dynamic Landscapes would be an additional workshop, as one of our slots at the conference, and at no additional cost to the Board besides the free registration. Kate suggested we pay for mileage as well, and the group also suggested that refreshments for each workshop be organized by and reimbursed to Pam. Shannon made the motion, and Sue M seconded, that the Board pay Pam \$1000 for four workshops and reimburse mileage at 15 cents/mile and up to \$100 per event for refreshments. The motion passed, and Donna reminded Pam about submitting receipts, Mapquest documentation, and the check request form. The first training will take place in February in Moretown.

Curriculum Document: We are still waiting for the new Tech GEs, which Donna Sullivan-Macdonald, serving on the committee with Ed Barry, has seen (198 pages). Sue M added that Ed Barry hopes to introduce them as part of the VITA-Learn spring meetings, the first being Feb. 4th. Shannon suggested we table this agenda item until after they are available and organize a summer or fall work group then. All agreed.

2010 Fall Conference: The Board discussed the need to find a NW I regional rep. Christine had approached two librarians, who declined, and she will touch base with Peter since he was talking to others. Claire mentioned Joy Mercer, who has previous VLC experience, and asked everyone to make suggestions. Shannon asked that we send a thank-you to Peter for his time serving the Board, and Lindy will do so.

New Business

Treasurer Concerns: Donna indicated that VSLA needs to apply, within the next 3 years, for 501(c)3 status as a non-profit organization. This project will probably require a lawyer and is a huge undertaking. Because we don't have over \$25,000 in annual income yet, we are not obliged to act this year, but we need to get started, and she is not ready to commit her services. Karen asked Merlyn if we had done much on this project in an earlier attempt. Shannon suggested we may want to pay Board members to work on this. Merlyn indicated that work might not easily take place during the summer months. Claire asked everyone to think about this for discussion at our next meeting, and the agenda item was tabled.

Scholarships for National Conferences: Claire read Pam's email request to use VSLA professional development funds to support a \$1000 Professional Development Grant that would allow a librarian to attend a national conference. Questions arose regarding one person or more to split the grant, the possibility of attending other conferences than those listed (ALA, AASL, SLJ Summit, ISTE), and how would the decision of who gets awarded the grant be made? Sue M moved that Pam form a committee to produce an application and guidelines for us to approve. Cheryl seconded, and the motion passed.

Approval of DCF Grant Request: Donna Smyth read the previously emailed grant request from the Friends of DCF, asking for \$500 to pay for the DCF conference endnote speaker, as was given last year. Shannon moved, and Sue F-I seconded, that we give the \$500 to the DCF committee, and the Board so voted. Marsha will let Susan d'Amico know of the VSLA decision.

Regional Reports: Claire asked whether regional reps had any concerns about not sharing their reports in person, and the group consensus was "no problem". Kate moved that regional and standing committee reports be emailed to Board members unless there is a need for discussion or a money issue. Shannon seconded, and the motion was approved. Reports should be emailed 24 hours before the meeting, and Marsha would need to be apprised when the report requires time on the agenda. The secretary will archive all reports. Shannon suggested we consider a Board ning vs. the usual email mode of communication because everything would be in one place, and she will develop a ning for our April 1 meeting. Karen asked the regional reps to let her know how mentors with new librarians are getting matched up, and if things are working.

Standing Committees:

NESLA: Merlyn updated the Board about the June 5th (Saturday) NESLA retreat, which now has members from CT, Maine, NH, and MA on board. She is hoping that entire boards from all 6 state associations attend but that at least a minimum of 10 board members from each state will commit. It will be an opportunity for librarians to share their successes and their work in different roles (legislative, membership, etc). NESLA is footing the bill for the site (Bedford, NH) and the food.

ALA/AASL: Merlyn highlighted areas of her emailed report: the "school librarian" name resolution; the possibility, if all AASL members vote, of electing a school librarian as the next ALA president; the free download of the "Mile Guide" (Partnership for 21st Century Skills); and the Portland OR Nov. 5-6 Fall Forum 2010 conference. Claire added that Marsha, who attended the recent NESLA conference, was very impressed with Merlyn's work there, and congratulations were bestowed.

**Marsha M. later added this addendum to the Portland OR Fall Forum conference mentioned above:
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/conferencesandevents/fallforum/fallforum.cfm>

Technology: While not a committee report, Shannon asked how the group feels about the VSLA wiki idea that Steve Madden has begun. Do we want to proceed with developing an open wiki or a closed membership ning, which she could see replacing the listserv. Shannon asked that we put this issue on the agenda and invite Steve to give his thoughts. She also asked Karen for her input, and Karen indicated that whatever works best for the group would be fine. Perhaps we could experiment first with the Board. Christine noted the difference between a private listserv and an open wiki or ning, which can be set to private.

Feedback on LNV Meeting: The group agreed that this distance meeting ran well, using the Learning Network of Vermont or webcam. The group decided, with some ensuing discussion that required a specific Roberts Rules of Order voting format, to meet face-to-face for our next meeting. Donna suggested that Board members decide to have VSLA pay for mileage or the dinner, but not both, since we haven't reimbursed both in the past. The first vote, moved by Sue F-I and seconded by Shannon, was to offer a friendly addendum that if someone coming from the far corners needed to request both mileage and dinner, they should be able to, and this motion passed, with Donna Smyth abstaining. The

second vote, moved by Sue M and seconded by Merlyn, was that VSLA pay for the Board members' meals but that we pay for our own mileage. This motion passed also.

Next Meeting: April 1st, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at the Coolidge Hotel, White River Junction (dinner)

Meeting Adjourned: Claire adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m., with a motion by Sue F-I and a second by Merlyn.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindy Sargent, Secretary