

Vermont School Library Association Board Meeting
Conference Call
Thursday, January 24, 2008

Those Participating: Anna Bolognani, Christine Eldred, Jean Fournier, Karen Hennig, Peter Jones, Cheryl Kissel, Dollinda Lund, Marsha Middleton, Merlyn Miller, Susan Monmaney, Donna Smyth, Shannon Walters.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM.

The minutes were accepted prior to the meeting by email.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Listserv. Karen reported that the listserv would soon be up and running again. UVM will now be our host, and Linda Brew will be our contact at UVM. Karen will continue to manage the list, and things will remain much the same as before. UVM was chosen to be our host because they are able to efficiently handle our 200 users and because they are local. The address is vsia@list.uvm.edu.

VSLA Logo Contest. Discussion postponed until March.

Intellectual Freedom

Confidentiality Statute. Christine and Sue reported on their experience testifying before the Senate committee concerning the confidentiality bill. Sue noted that Trina Magi had them very well prepared. Five senators were in attendance including Senators Jeanette White (Chair), William Doyle, Ed Flannagan, George Coppenrath, and Claire Ayer, as well as some parents. The "13 and under" clause was of concern to some, but Sybil McShane pointed out that circulation records are not saved so there would be no way to check on what a student had read. The committee seemed to be sympathetic to libraries and receptive to the bill.

Shannon reminded the board that some vendors (in particular, Follette's Destiny) have the option of saving all the circulation information at the administration level, so even if librarians are turning this option off at the site level, there is still a trail. It appears that the technology people are making these decisions, and it may be time for librarians to take a stand on this. Jean thought that perhaps we could make our thoughts known at the spring conference. Shannon and Christine offered to write a draft of a position statement, and Merlyn will approach NEEMA to see how they feel about this issue. Shannon and Christine will research other vendors to see if they have this same capability to save records. Another concern is that practices around the state vary from one school to

another. Jean suggested this would make a great topic for the VSLA Fall Conference.

Challenges. Christine reported that Sharon Levin at North Country Junior High in Derby has had two book challenges: *A Bad Boy Can be Good for a Girl* by Tonya Stone, and *The Sex Book* by Jane Pavanel. The principal removed both books, and they have not been returned to the library. The principal agreed to go through the reconsideration process on *The Sex Book*, so Sharon is getting a committee together for that purpose. She feels she has some faculty support within her school. Christine will send her an email with the VSLA board's support.

Newsletter. Marsha reported that a few more companies have shown interest in advertising in the newsletter. She expressed concern that vendors will be going to the New Hampshire Library Conference in May since it is at the same time as Vermont's. Jean will check with Kelly on the status of vendors coming to the conference.

Professional Concerns. Dan was not at the meeting, but Jean reported that she is hosting a meeting on February 8th to discuss the State Librarian position. Jean would like to serve lunch to the attendees at a cost of about \$125, and she wondered if VSLA could pay for this. It was agreed that VSLA would pay the cost.

Central Representative. Cheryl she will get information to us on the listserv.

Northeast Representative. No report.

Northwest I Representative. Peter reported that there was nothing new and that they would be meeting soon.

Southeast Representative. Anna reported that they will meet in March after the Review Session. Her group would like to see a session for librarians at the Statewide In-service Day that is sponsored by the Department of Education each year. Marsha said that she and several other librarians from her area attended last year at Lake Region UHS.

Technology Concerns. Shannon reported that VTNEA will publish the summer reading brochure again this year. Reviewers are needed from around the state to help compile the list for elementary, middle school, and high school readers. She asked board members to recommend people in our areas who might be interested. She is also working with WCAX *Across the Fence* to have them air reviews as they have in the past.

March Meeting. There were some conflicts with the date, but the decision was made to keep the meeting on March 20, at 4:00, at Main Street School in Montpelier. Jean will be unable to attend, so Sue will lead the meeting.

NEMA/AASL. Our AASL re-affiliation is due, and Merlyn will take care of this. Merlyn pointed out highlights from her report (see attached) and noted that the AASL Fall Forum is in October.

At 4:28, Peter moved to adjourn the meeting, and Shannon seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dollinda Lund