

CASL Board Meeting Minutes January 5, 2008

In Attendance: Su Eckhardt, Nance Nassar, Becky Russell, Molly Gibney, Missy Snyder, Susan Gilbert, Mary Katherine Katzer, Jenna Cook, Joann Perry, Dave Sanger, Nancy White, Heidi Baker

I. Introductions included those who joined us electronically via Skype.

II. Additions to the Agenda

Under committee reports: Molly is not on Conference Committee; she is on Awards.

III. Meeting Plans: We are using Skype today to bring Mary Katherine, Jenna & Joann to our meeting – it works great! We will break half-way through, end by noon. Skype might allow us to convene other sessions – many possibilities.

IV. CASL Goals:

2007 Goals: Advocate for School Libraries

Improve communications to constituencies

2008 Goals:

- 1. Focus on linking 21st century skills and teacher librarians.**
- 2. Strengthen and define CASL's relationship with CAL.**
- 3. Actively pursue membership for CASL**

Last year's goals were similar. Thanks to Nancy for the guiding us through Intel Thinking tools process. Do we want to wordsmith our 3 goals for this year? Do we want to move forward?

Discussion:

Question: Which 21st century skills are we leaning toward?

- We should go with ALA and AASL.
- With the 21st century partnership – the ITC is really closely related.
- We were trying to link with the state exploration in becoming a partner state.
- Would advocate for 21st century skills.
- Would prefer to go with 21st century literacy.
- District terminology will be “skills”.
- Joyce Valenza's insistence that we use the word fluency rather than literacy....skills are more measurable and easier to quantify.
- Because of AASL and the 21st century standards, we should be going with skills. As technology evolves more, we are more focused on skills than literacy which was more of a 20th century term.

Question: Do we want to add anything from 2007's goal? These are more specific and inclusive and are activities under the 2008 goals. We reached consensus on the goals in November and we also wanted to make sure that last year's are still a part of what we do. Advocacy is really in our mission. We do training/staff development. We'll look at our mission statement at our next meeting.

V. Reports

1. **Minutes** from November 8, 2007 approved. (JoAnn/Susan)
2. **AASL:** Arvada's Weber Elementary School received an AASL grant 'Beyond Words' that Sherry submitted on their behalf.

Representation at mid-winter and summer: Susan is our second rep and may not attend the summer conference right after TIE; Jody will attend in her stead as she did at midwinter. Jody is running for Region 9 representative to the AASL board, against a person who is very accomplished from Kansas. We need to swing that vote. If you know people from out of state, contact them. There will be a campaign email for Jody closer to the time.

3. Committee Reports

Legislative - David Sanger

The legislative committee met yesterday. There was discussion about the December CALathon and how effective it had been. Many contacts were made although we don't have specific statistics yet. We didn't get the kind of "spread" we wanted as a few legislators got the bulk of the calls and some didn't hear from anyone. Fortunately, the million dollars is in the budget as proposed by CDE although the Long Bill (budget) doesn't get voted on until April. We may need to re-activate the CALathon closer to that time.

School related legislation: Senators Groff & Romer will propose some kind of legislation around school reform that will allow districts to opt out of certain things. Might a district choose to opt out of having libraries/librarians? Jeffco may be the only district that has certified librarians in the contract. Becky said Boulder has it in, too. Another thing we should watch is that it is time to do something about CSAP and state standards; they have not been revised for 15 years. Legislature is looking at doing some kind of alignment. When CoSLL and TLF met with the commissioner, he announced that a group is doing standards review and it would be done by November, 2008, which Nance reported has been pushed back to 2010. Dave had been asked to find a special education person to serve on the standards committee. We don't know of any librarian on the committee, although the Commissioner asked CoSLL for an advisory member.

JoAnn: Do we need to align our standards for 21st century and ISTE Nets? It is too early – we don't have a way to do this. Nance: We really have to be invited. Gene is working very closely and keeping libraries in the discussions.

Membership - Susan Gilbert

The membership committee meets every other month. They talked about Feb. 10 Networking Tea from 11 – 2:30. If anyone is interested in attending, make sure you reply soon. There are only 33 slots.

Membership summary as of 2007: Almost 1200 renewed, 25 either declined or couldn't be reached. A little over 300 are just kind of "hanging" out there – may not be in the state any more. As of 2007, there are 1168 individual or student members, 20 lifetime, 25 corporate, 21 institutional members. Susan said there is a common theme among *all* the associations--not just school, but academic and also public--of losing members. We need to ask and answer "what's in it for me," what can we do for our members? It sounds like everyone is having the same issues, not just CASL.

1200 has been the steady membership number for CAL over the years. The committee discussed that people are not being honest in terms of what amount of money they make. They are working on a flyer will be sent out that will ask "what is your membership worth?" It will detail how it is distributed toward CAL functions/events and be sent to Libnet and to membership.

CASL membership: 318 CASL members, 30 expired. 112 members expired in 2007 who did not renew. We could easily have 440 members. We have contacts of 500 former members going back to 2002. Heidi emailed them and many renewed based on this.

The membership committee should be commended for endorsing the idea of an all-school mailing. Next year we should target September for the all-school mailing; this year's went out over the holidays. It is important to mail it to all school buildings, not just those that aren't members, for communication. An idea to boost

membership for one or two years is to offer additional conference discount by renewing and signing up for the conference.

How can we support Susan? Sheila Fritze, retired school librarian, is also on the committee. Committee is hoping to see articles submitted to the CAL newsletter about why it is important to be a CAL member, including retirees. Benefits we might mention are networking and workshops; the largest benefit is the lobbyist. We are losing people to retirement and attrition, but those who replace them in their schools are not joining. Libraries are not alone in this attrition. We need to reinvigorate the idea that belonging to your professional organization is important. We should not just be saying what's in it for me –but what's in it for the students! Washington parents are spearheading the effort to make sure there is a qualified librarian in every school. We need to bring our parents into the conversation too.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2008/january2008/ss108.htm>

<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6525176.html>

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aaslbucket/pittsburgh/ParentPower.pdf>

Do we know how many school librarians are in Colorado? There are 1800 school buildings. Nancy will ask BCR if they have a total, as CDE doesn't. We need to open the door to everyone – professional and paraprofessional. This might be an incentive to our paraprofessionals to get certified. CAL's position is to support libraries and all people who work in them .

Awards – Molly Gibney

This committee will start meeting in the spring.

Children's interest group: Molly attended this group meeting at CAL. There were a handful of school librarians with the public librarians. They want to create two awards: public library work with children and collaborative projects between school and public libraries. This group has a lot of energy! Carrie Weston is leading this group. Molly thinks it would be good for CASL to work with them to create this award. Molly will work on this.

VI. Previous Business

1. CAL Conference review Plus/Delta

“Celebrate a Winning Team” was a wonderful pre-conference! This was discussed at our last meeting. The membership meeting went well and CAL President Martin Garnar's attendance was a plus. He may attend a future CASL meeting.

We need to start now planting the seed now: "you attended in November – what didn't you see that you would like? Is there something you could prepare to present at CAL next year? We all have great librarians in our district and should offer to partner with them. Link are the conference evaluation comments. <http://cal-webs.org/confcomm/>

2. At -Large Position Descriptions

We no longer have specific regions, but desire to have broad range. JoAnn could be “south east.” Do we want to have a regional rep? JoAnn would like to know who she should represent. After the regional libraries were dismantled, CASL removed the geographic representation also due to travel difficulties. New technologies cancel that concern Having regional reps makes it more personal but limits who can serve on the board. Reps could self-designate a specific area as the point of contact/communicator. We could contact librarians in our area: welcome them, ask if they have questions, etc. This could be a real grass-roots effort, but it is a lot of work. We are spread so thin already.

What is our charge? If we focus on too many big things, nothing will be done well. We might just each contact 5 CAL members in our area and ask those 5 to contact 10 people.

Motion passed: Accept the member-at-large position description as it reads now. (Nancy/Molly)

Nance commends Su for outstanding article in the CAL Newsletter, which is one way to identify regional reps. Nancy commented Mary Katherine wrote a great article about MPLA Leadership benefits.

VI. Future Business

1. Meet 'n Greets

This is an ideal way to recruit and to offer something for existing members.

Grand Junction: Mary Katherine will work on a meet-n-greet Ice Cream Happy Hour in May, open to the Western Slope CAL members, held at Enstrom's.

Adams 12: Missy and Molly will do a small meet 'n greet for all of the librarians at a monthly district meeting, 4:30, Feb. 4 or Mar. 3 with Su, Nance and possibly Susan.

Boulder: Becky could possibly do a district meeting in Boulder. She will look in to this for March or April, also with a CASL rep.

Colorado Springs: Nancy and Gwen will follow up with group; Dianna Fricke is willing to help.

Southeast Metro: Susan will connect with bookstores and Aurora Public Library.

Other ideas:

- This doesn't have to come from this board; for Douglas County, Chris Bell might be a good person to ask to get involved.
- Locations like Panera and Barnes & Noble or Borders would be a good location. They might donate coffee, a prize or discount.
- Barnes & Noble might be a good selection, too.
- Between now and next meeting, email Heidi when we are scheduling meet & greet. We can announce a list of events. Heidi can send CAL materials and help with arranging guest speakers (although we can't reimburse travel expenses.)

2. Volunteers for Committees, Activities, and Groups

Blog and NING

Many thanks to Phil Goerner for writing some articles for us. Why do we need a Ning & a blog? Missy thinks we should emphasize one. We will put our efforts as a board into the CASL blog. Nancy will write a newsletter article on the blog. Dave will write about Feb. 5 precinct caucuses on the blog to encourage activism and representation of school libraries..

Newsletter organizer

Su will write a president's article for each issue. The purpose of the organizer is to remind board members of their articles and submit them as a unit to CAL. Dianna Fricke did this previously. The next due date is Feb. 1. Nancy will continue doing peer interviews and will write about the blog for next issue. Nance will put in a small information piece about Power Library timeline change. JoAnn volunteered to be the organizer; Heidi will connect her with Kathleen and more info.

Committees and Interest Groups

We should all think about committees and interest groups we might like to join. JoAnn thinks she signed up for the conference committee as Jody put her name down. Currently, CAL constitution states only CAL President can appoint committee members so we need to go through Martin officially when recommending volunteers.

3. TIE Workshop Partnership

Gwen has made an excellent connection with TIE and they have approved our June 23 preconference to their June 24-27 Conference at Copper Mountain. The TIE Board invited us to present January 12; Gwen, Heidi & JoAnn will attend and take answers to questions they asked. Nance, Susan, JoAnn, Nancy & Becky will be the planning committee.

The planning group time will be 8:30 – 3:30. After the meeting with TIE board, we can look at the grant and structure. The topic could be being a leader in your school with a session on the new AASL standards and championing them, Web 2.0, data, assessment, best practices, CDE and 21st century standards. CLiC has volunteered to offer technical support and possibly some funding. Su will contact them. The ABC-CLIO grant focuses on leadership and is due Feb. 1 and will be targeted to the preconference. JoAnn, Gwen, Susan, Shelley will be grant writers. Su will proof.

4. Budget Request & Review Process

Su submitted a budget but CAL has not met or approved budgets yet.

5. School Library Summit

After Su proposing that CASL leading the summit planning, Gene Hainer did not want to diminish CSL's role. Su suggests CASL table work on the Summit and focus on TIE and other projects.

Motion passed: Table the summit until we have more direction or information. (Susan/Becky)

Su will amend her budget request before it is voted on by CAL board to remove the requested Summit funds.

Future Meetings – Feb 2, April 19

Locations

The board does not want to meet in Panera's next time. Next meeting will likely be at Hampden & I25 at Whole Foods in a private room with WiFi at 9:00 a.m. and we will continue to use Skype.

Closure: The meeting adjourned at noon.

Next meeting: February 2, 2008