NYC Department of Education
Carmen Farra, Chancellor

NYC Library System
Connect, Create, Lead

NYCSLS Council Meeting #2 – December 2, 2014

PRESENT: Jen Abounader, Margaret Dennehy, Michael Dodes, Arlene Dominguez, Leanne Ellis, Damary Gonzalez, Donna Gray, Richard Hasenyager, Melissa Jacobs Israel, Lindsay Klemas, Gretchen Kolderup, Jillian Lazaridis, Allison Lehner-Quam, Melissa Malanuk, Elizabeth Naylor-Gutierrez, Olga Nesi, Christine Poser, Brenda Shufelt, Lynne Kresta Smith, Kathleen Tarbell, Jennifer Thompson

First order of business: Approval of Minutes from first meeting.

News and Notes

Conference Recap – Ric
It was very successful. Same facility, phenomenal staff & set up. Positive feedback given the day of regarding Antero Garcia keynote and workshop session. There was also a positive response to Chancellor Farina’s address – her expectation of librarians and administration in regards to the library program. There were 401 attendees, 535 w/ exhibitors, may have been more with people who didn’t sign in. Last year there were 399 participants and 101 exhibitors. This year many people came in the morning and left due to parent/teacher conferences. Plans for next year have already begun.
Comments:
- AD: less workshop options, 2 less sessions for each time slot. ENG: if we have more sessions some can have low attendance.
- DG: (presenter for Staying Connected in a Digital World) said she had a good experience. ENG: Good balance of outsiders and practitioners, you can burn out presenters. It does help to encourage people to gain confidence in presenting – build capacity – groom a cohort of people to go out on state level.
- CP: also presented with MyLibraryNYC people and had good experience. Noted that there will be an article in the union paper NYTeacher about MyLibraryNYC.
- LK – NYCSLA had table. Suggested sending out ‘100 Things Kids Will Miss If They Don’t Have a School Librarian in Their School’ posters to schools that do not have a librarian.
- MJI – good level of social media – librarians talking during the conference. Hope everyone is with us on Twitter and FB.
- Closed sessions: Mentors and Mentees, some mentees not there but some important connections were made.
- AD – Mary Pope Osborne did well

School Library Directory
Revisions are being entered into the database and it should be ready for review/finalized before the winter break.

Spring Institute
ENG: Planning has begun for the Spring Institute, which will center on the theme of building a culture of literacy through reading. The same program will be held on three days in three boroughs and will have Teri Lesesne as the keynote and presenter at one of the breakout sessions. These sessions will focus on elementary and secondary book talks mixing in with how to use book talks in a different way. The three public libraries will also have 45 min. for their summer reading presentations.
RH: Also, we may be recruiting people to be on a panel to discuss how they have created a culture of reading at their school. These will be 45 min. with plenty of time for Q & A.
Dates: May 11 – Manhattan (TBD), May 12 – Queens (Central Library, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica) and May 13 – Brooklyn (Central Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn).
AD: Will branch librarians be available at Spring Institute? RH: yes, to set up school meetings, etc.

New PD Registration System
ENG/RH: Cvent cost $24,000 and didn’t deliver on what was promised. Eventbrite is free. Librarians will have to keep track of their own PD hours and their own certificates. DOE DIIT may develop a new registration system. Meanwhile RH is looking for a people management system that also includes event registration.

Grants Updates
MJI: There will be a per session posting for a project manager for the ESIFC@ESC (Environmental Science Center) grant – a three year grant for elementary and high school grade bands. 4 Science teachers: 2 elementary, 2 high & 2 Librarians: 1 elementary and 1 high. Set # of dates – 3 days of PD – have to attend all. Compensate school for substitute. Mixture of writing and presentation. ESC is located in South Brooklyn so the idea is to digitally extend ESC from this remote location. Right now ESC just has on-site trips. The grant will create a blend of pre- and post-lessons and a digital depository of resources. Training rate is available for training sessions in the summer. We will be bringing in MaryAnn Capiello for text sets information.

By-laws
RH went over by-law changes and we will vote on them next time. Any questions on by-laws can be directed to AD. Discussion of Roberts’ Rules of Order vs. Sturgis. Sub-committee will look at the two but the by-laws as they stand now will be voted on next meeting so we can move forward with elections. Sub-committee on by-laws will meet about parliamentary authority.

Nominations
MJI nominated Christine Poser as Vice-Chair and Christine accepts (SLS members cannot hold office). MJI nominated Brenda Shufelt as Secretary and Brenda accepted.

Standing Committees

Technology: Melissa Jacobs-Israel, NYCSLS Contact
Goals: Update Librarian’s Handbook into a LibGuide and provide PD in technology in a speed dating form.

Advocacy: Alison Lehner Quam, Chair
Olga Nesi, NYCSLS Contact
Goals: Change the architecture for the LibGuide using a set up based on the article “Reimagining Advocacy for School Libraries” by Barbara Stripling.

Recruitment: Sally Li Young, Chair
Elizabeth Naylor-Gutierrez, NYCSLS Contact
Goals: Work will focus on the question, “What would recruitment look like to professionals for the purpose of filling vacancies in school libraries?”

Initial thoughts and findings: Human Resources at the DOE is looking at a way to outreach to DOE employees with less than 30+ Masters or looking to get masters. Recruitment events will be held and targeted invitations will be sent to SLS and Library School partners. This will give them some idea of what employment would look like after they obtain certification. Hope is to uncover people who have a masters degree already but aren’t working under it. Data gathering is being updated, but how good is the data? Library teachers may be under Common Branch license but don’t want to go through tenure process again. BEDS survey for secondary schools asks if school has secondary librarian.
RH: certified by state but licensure is NYC only. In NYC teachers have to have certification to get a job, choose one certification to work and get tenured under. Not mandatory to switch when you get a different
teaching position. Most principals are not aware that they can require change in licensure for change in position. Licensed elementary librarian – no category for that – only category for secondary librarians.

RH: propose changes to licensing: PK – 12 license issued for school librarian (that would match the state).

MJ: currently school librarians can’t apply for tenure because there is no licensing. Partner with UFT on this and/or NYCSLA. There is reciprocity for out-of-state librarians with 3 years of experience.

ENG: looking to certified/uncertified librarian/teachers inside and outside the DOE.

RH: has been interviewing prospective candidates. There will be three recruitment meetings: South Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan. Elementary and secondary librarians are needed to attend and share their positive experiences. One of the attractive things about being a librarian is being quasi-administrator; you get the best of both worlds. Also, we should highlight the portability of the MLS: academic, special, public librarianship as well as data/information organization fields.

Goal is to find people who have at least two years teaching experience. Partnering with Rutgers and LIU – providing two classes of blended learning at 333 7th Av in fall. We will use a cohort model. Online programs are offered via Mansfield and Buffalo. We need about 400 people (400 potential vacancies) and candidates have to be credentialed as teacher statewide.

K – 8 is included in the state mandate to have a licensed librarian in the building. Any school that serves grades 7 & up in any portion. Under 200 (or under 300?) must have librarian at least one period/wk. Any school between 300 – 500 must have ½ time librarian. The DOE interprets that population is based on the site unless there are multiple libraries on a site. A school is defined as a campus and the Commissioner and the DOE aren’t fighting this nor is the UFT (ex: Lindsay, D75 has multiple sites and Donna has 3 schools on site)

What SLS has found is that the most successful multi-school campuses are successful because of the person in the space. Flexibility is a key quality for campus librarians – try not to fix times for schools.

UFT contract negotiations for keeping seniority (?)

**5-Year Plan of Service Committee**: Jillian Lazaridis, Chair
Lynne Kresta Smith, NYCSLS Contact

Goals: Committee will review and update the required elements of the NYCSLS 5-Year Plan of Service. Items under consideration: the Member Plan should be filed at least once every 5 years; consider changing some of the instruments of measurement for the Plan of Service because they didn’t match up; hiring John (?) to look at measurement.

**Grants Committee**: Chair
Leanne Ellis, NYCSLS Contact

Goals: Update grant LibGuide, adding a tab to re-categorize in order to fit in with collaboration of different areas with the library. Committee ill work on RFP funding for SLS from private donors. The administration of this funding would be done by Fund for Public Schools. Will focus on coding programs for 2nd & 7th grades.

Designated roles for RFP:
- Leanne Ellis: Intro to coding
- Michael Dodes: coding training programs
- Margaret Dennehy & Arlene Dominguez: research for funding
- Brenda Shufelt: after school programs

Meeting adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Shufelt