

TASL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES - July 10, 2019

Welcome, Introductions and Call to Order: An executive board meeting of the Tennessee Association of School Librarians was held virtually on July 10, 2019. The meeting convened at 7:00 P.M. CST with President Jennifer Sharp presiding.

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Blake Hopper
Elizabeth Shepherd
Lindsey Kimery
Vicki Winstead
Sandi Walden
Katelyn Jernigan
Liz Hicks
Dr. Ginny Britt
Anglea Secrest
Johnnie Sue Hawley
Melanie Collins

VOTING MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Cathy Sanders
Julie Stepp
Sherry Copeland
Martha Harris
Raina Scoggins
Katie Cozzens
Beth Frerking

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Cindy Welch
Katie Capshaw
Scot Smith
Krista Grace
Julie Caudle

AGENDA

Announcements

- o KCL Study Update
- o State Advocacy Update
- o New logo!
- o Opportunity to attend NCSLMA Conference
 - Voting Item: [Volunteer State Book Award Nominating Committee changes](#)
 - Discussion Item: [Nominations for AASL State-Level Leader Cadre for administrator advocacy work](#)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the April 2019 meeting were approved electronically prior to this meeting. Minutes for this meeting will be approved electronically. All minutes are posted to the TASL website in an effort to keep the membership informed about TASL business.

Motion not needed to approve the minutes since they were approved electronically.

Keith Curry Lance Study Update

Jennifer Sharp

The Keith Curry Lance study that TASL voted to be part of was ultimately not funded. The researchers did not get the grant. This letter from Debra Kachel provides explanation:

Dear Colleagues,

With surprise and disappointment, we are writing to inform you that our IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarians grant proposal--“SLIDE: School Librarian Investigation: Decline or Evolution?”--was not funded. We appreciate that you agreed to be a state partner on this project that would have produced national and state data on the loss of school librarian positions; a content analysis of library, information, and technology school job descriptions; and qualitative data about the needs and concerns of school decision makers who staff library, information, and technology K-12 positions. Our goal was, and is, to determine how the role of the school librarian is changing in actual practice from the perspective of those who hire librarians, as opposed to what professional school library associations tell us that school librarians should be and do.

The three anonymous reviewers' comments are attached for your information. We will be doing our best to address several legitimate concerns raised by the reviewers. Unfortunately, two of the three reviews also contain inaccurate statements about the status of school librarian employment or the details of our proposal, recommend additions that we believe would exceed the budget parameters, and offer what we

regard as prejudicial remarks about both of us, our previous work, and our sponsoring institution. As we wrestle with how to address the concerns raised by the reviewers, your candid feedback would be appreciated.

We have invested over two years in laying the foundation for this research and pursuing funding for it. As you know, [we published several often-cited articles](#) on this topic in the spring of 2018, to support our premise that serious research is needed urgently. As we regroup and plan to resubmit, we will be in contact with you again. We hope you and your organizations will continue to support this project. We are very passionate about trying to ascertain the dynamic changes in the education landscape that are impacting the school library profession and, consequently, how this impacts K-12 students.

Again, thank you for your support and commitment to our grant efforts. Be assured that we have no intention of accepting this rejection as the final word.

Sincerely,

Debra E. Kachel

Keith Curry Lance

--



Debra E Kachel

Affiliate Faculty, Antioch University Seattle

[K-12 Library Media Endorsement Program](#)

717-575-3886

2014 AASL Distinguished Service Recipient

[School Library Advocacy LibGuide](#)

Twitter @SchLibAdvocate

State Advocacy Update

Jennifer Sharp and Lindsey Kimery

The State Coordinator of School Libraries task force, consisting of Jennifer Sharp, Blake Hopper, Stephanie Ham, Vicki Winstead, and Lindsey Kimery had meetings on July 2, 2019, at the Department of Education and at the Cordell Hull building. The first meeting was with Robbie Mitchell, Director of Academic Strategy and Operations at the TN Department of Education. Robbie seems very positive and in favor of this position being added. She will meet with Commissioner Schwinn to discuss this issue and present the information we gave to her.

The second meeting involved Representative Whitson, Representative Jernigan, and Chairman Mark White and their staffers. Representative Whitson has taken an interest in our cause and is championing this in the House. Whitson, Jernigan, and White are asking for an audit of the DOE to see if the salary for a state coordinator still exists or if it would have to be funded. They are also sending a letter to Commissioner Schwinn showing their support of a state coordinator at the DOE and asking her to include it in her budget for 2020. If she includes it, and her budget is passed by Governor Lee, we will have a state coordinator. If she includes it and Gov. Lee doesn't pass her budget and eliminates funding for this, Representative Whitson is going to add it to legislation that he will try to get passed in 2020. We expect to have a meeting sometime in August with Whitson, White, and Jernigan, along with Commissioner Schwinn.

Finally, Chuck Sherrill, State Librarian and Archivist, reached out to Lindsey Kimery and noted that Secretary of State Tre Hargett had taken an interest in the issue of the state coordinator, and that his assistant will be reaching out to Lindsey for information.

NCSLMA Conference Trade

Jennifer Sharp

Jennifer Sharp asked if anyone is interested in traveling to attend the NCSLMA conference in Winston-Salem, NC on October 2-4. TASL is considering doing an "exchange" program with North Carolina's school librarian association. Registration fees would be waived, your hotel cost would be covered, but you would be responsible for your own transportation and meals. This conference takes place immediately after the TASL Conference.

New TASL Logo

Vicki Winstead

Erika Long is working on a new logo for TASL. Vicki Winstead shared a design, one in color and one in black and white. Board members offered feedback. Vicki will send suggestions to Erika for refinement and will send out tweaks via email.

VSBA Committee Changes

Scot Smith

Overview message from Scot Smith, TASL VSBA Co-Chair:

"Presently, the YA Nominating Committee of the Volunteer State Book Award creates both the middle school and high school lists. Given the number of titles nominated for consideration and recent changes in the publishing industry, we would like to divide the YA committee into two groups--a middle school committee and a high school committee. Each committee would have its own chairperson and twenty members. TLA

and TASL members could serve on either committee or both. We have queried members of TASL and TLA and believe we will have enough readers to support both committees."

No updates needed for the [VSBA Guidelines](#) and [VSBA History](#), since these already mention the creation of four lists.

The necessary changes to the [TASL Officer Handbook](#) are highlighted in yellow:

VOLUNTEER STATE BOOK AWARD (VSBA) CHAIR

Qualifications:

1. Current member in good standing of TASL
2. Practicing school librarian, school library supervisor, educator of school librarians or retired school librarian.

Duties:

The Volunteer State Book Award is sponsored by TASL and TLA. Therefore, both organizations nominate a co-chair to share the responsibilities related to this award. A list of those responsibilities can be found below:

1. Assist the three nominating committees (primary, intermediate, and Young Adult) by maintaining and interpreting the bylaws and regulations for the award. This responsibility includes but is not limited to helping to find committee members, determining the eligibility of certain titles, and answering questions regarding policy and procedures. The three nominating committees also have chairs. The chairs of those nominating committees are charged with supervising their members and arriving at lists of twenty nominated titles. ****UPDATE to read: "...four nominating committees (primary, intermediate, middle grades, and young adult)..."**
2. Assist in counting ballots. In previous years, as many as 25,000 Tennessee students have participated in for their favorite books. The TLA co-chair has traditionally counted the ballots.
3. Promote the award, its nominated titles, and participate in marketing through emails, the web site, and professional development. This task also includes establishing and maintaining contacts with publishers.
4. Notify the winners of the awards. One of the highlights of the annual TASL award banquet is the recognition of the winning authors and illustrators. The

TASL co-chair has the responsibility of contacting the authors and arranging for their attendance at the conference. In the case where an author cannot attend the awards banquet, the co-chair asks that an acceptance letter be written by the winning author. This responsibility also includes procuring the plaques and finding librarians to introduce the winners at the banquet.

5. Send labels to interested librarians. Librarians may order book labels for winning and nominated titles.

Revised (M-APR2015-3&4).

VOLUNTEER STATE (VSBA) BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE

Qualifications:

1. Current member in good standing of TASL
2. Practicing school librarian, school library supervisor, educator of school librarians or retired school librarian.

Duties:

1. Assist the chair when needed in preparing and organizing information related to the Volunteer State Book Awards.
2. Divided into segments, based on a particular reading level, members recommend and read books for that particular reading level as stipulated by the chairperson.
Groups are divided into three groups for 2011-12, and four groups for the years thereafter. **UPDATE: Remove this sentence.
3. After reading and recommending book titles, members of the committee gather and make a final list of qualifying books for the VSBA list for a particular year.
4. Assist the chairperson in contacting authors to present at the VSBA Banquet during the annual conference.

TLA voted and said yes to this change.

M-JUN10: 1 Blake Hopper moved to divide the MS and HS VSBA committees into 2 separate committees. Vicki Winstead seconded.
Motion passed.

AASL State Level Leader Cadre

Jennifer Sharp

TASL is seeking a state-level leader to serve as liaison between TASL and AASL in regards to the ongoing administrator advocacy work that's happening at the national level, and to initiate and oversee similar projects on a state level.

Desired qualifications:

- Current TASL member - willing to attend TASL board meetings as a "task force" leader
- Current AASL member - familiar with structure, goals, etc.
- Ideally someone that ALREADY plans to attend AASL Conference
- Strong leader
- Comfortable presenting, speaking in front of others, etc.
- Willing to commit to the role for at least 2 years.

Details from AASL:

The State-Level Leader cadre will take resources and materials developed through collaborative work with school administrators at the national level and distribute it at the state level. These materials and resources are intended to encourage connecting with administrators and increasing awareness and collaborative opportunities.

The cadre of state leaders selected by each Affiliate will be the point of contact for ensuring communications between your state and AASL is timely and accurate. As AASL works with the school administrator collaborative group to fine tune messaging and materials that speak to administrators, those resources will be shared with the State-Level Leaders. Action steps for this position could include:

- Submitting sessions proposals (pre-drafted outline suggestions to be developed through AASL) for state school administrator conferences/events.
- Presenting at sessions as proposals are accepted.
- Looking for additional ways to get information in front of the school administrators in your state (exhibit booth, distributing materials to members, district board of education presentation).
- Development of a state level administrator collaborative using AASL's model.

We've already received several questions:

- Can there be more than one-point person?
 - We ask for one point of contact although you may choose to have co-leaders for this work within your state
- How can one person do all this?
 - They can't! This project should be approached in a similar fashion to how you plan and execute your annual conferences, you need a team. You may have leaders who are wonderful at planning and details but may not be the best of presenters. Those volunteers should research proposal deadlines and submit the proposals by the deadline.

You may also have a large state and so you may want to find presenters who live closer to wherever the state administrator conference is being held. Perhaps it makes sense for you to divide the state into regions for material distribution or district visit.

- Having difficulty making the decision on who should be the State Level Leader in your state?
 - AASL offers the use of Zoom for you to hold a virtual meeting. This meeting can be held without AASL staff in attendance, but if you want AASL staff as a resource to answer questions, AASL Executive Director Sylvia Knight Norton is available as needed.
- We have a volunteer for the State-Level Leader, but they won't be able to attend AASL National Conference for the kickoff meeting?
 - The most important piece is to have one representative from each affiliate attend the event, take notes and materials, and if they aren't the state-level leader, meet soon after AASL National to discuss everything. The preference would be for the state level leader to attend but substitutes can also attend.
- What will be expected at AASL National Conference?
 - A State-Level Leader meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 15, from 5:30-6:30 pm. This event will offer more specifics to the initiative and offer a chance to the leaders to meet and ask questions.

Please submit nominations here by the end of this week:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqrq9ApaRXIjUa0KIJn5VyMm9aZ1jNnRiDYZEBhthgRqxbg/viewform?usp=sf_link

You can list multiple names, but if you do, let me know if you have a preferred order.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business

ADJOURNMENT

M-JUNE10: 2 Motion to adjourn was made by Vicki Winstead. Motion seconded by Blake Hopper. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.

JUNE 10, 2019 MOTION SUMMARY

M-JUN10: 1 Blake Hopper moved to divide the MS and HS VSBA committees into 2 separate committees. Vicki Winstead seconded. Motion passed.

M-JUNE10: 2 Motion to adjourn was made by Vicki Winstead. Motion seconded by Blake Hopper. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 29-October 1, 2019: TASL Conference, Murfreesboro, TN
September 29, 2019: TASL Board meeting at conference, 8:00PM, Murfreesboro, TN
October 17, 2019: Tenn-share: School Library Collection Fair, Nashville, TN
October 17, 2019: Tenn-share, DataFest, Nashville, TN
October 18, 2019: Tenn-Share Fall Conference
November 1-3, 2019: YALSA's Young Adult Service Symposium, Memphis, TN
November 3, 2018: TASL Executive Board Meeting via Zoom 9:00 AM CST.
November 14-16, 2019: AASL Conference, Louisville, KY

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey Kimery

TASL Secretary 2019