Maryland Library Association – Children’s Services Division
Meeting Agenda
July 13, 2015
Abingdon Branch in Harford County
2510 S. Tollgate Road
Abingdon, MD

I. Introductions

II. Approval of Minutes
Motion to Approve—moved by Rachel Wright, seconded by Jill Hutchison—passed by acclamation

III. Action Item Follow Up—addressed throughout the meeting

IV. President’s Report
a. Nothing at this time, first meeting is on 7/15
b. From Rachel: we have 100 copies of the winners of BEST last year, 50 nomination sheets for this year. Nomination sheets were given to Eileen.

V. Program Planning
a. Jan-Mock Newbery-Future- We will not hold a Mock Newbery in 2016. Taking a break due to the small amount of time to prepare. Possibly resume with a Mock Caldecott in 2017. There are many other opportunities for reader’s advisory (books for the beast, BEST). Concerns for weather and timing.

b. March/April- Southern/Western- Previous discussion: to move Southern further north to Anne Arundel or Calvert Counties. Holding off on that decision. Janice reports that the location for Southern was originally because folks from SMRLA were not coming to MLA & Kids Are Customers. With the move of Kids Are Customers to Owings Mills it might attract more people from the south. Program approval needs to go in November.
   • ACTION ITEM: We will dedicate time at the September meeting to Southern/Western. Want to use MLA callout for proposals.

c. May- MLA Conference: First meeting was held in June.
   • Settled on draft theme "Unlocking Your Library’s Hidden Potential". This idea includes physical spaces, virtual spaces, customer service, and outreach.
   • NASA partnership is not as formal as 2015. Would like to continue with "partner" idea.
   • Using Disney Leadership Academy as inspiration. May use pieces or use as a preconference. Very expensive. Probably a long shot.
   • More interactive presentations & dealing with room complaints. Many spaces are not conducive to learning, but we have to stay with the Clarion.
   • Options being discussed include giving each division a certain number of roomsetimes to present to make sure we only use the conference rooms available to us. This may limit is to only 2 or 3 sessions per interest group.
   • Hoping to fight for more sessions (we did 9 last year).
   • Look at an increase in cosponsoring.
   • ACTION ITEM: Put call out for proposals. Amanda will put the form on Google Drive. PROPOSALS DUE DATE 9/18.
   • At the October MLA conference meeting, we bring forward ranked program ideas. The committee will make choices to make sure there is a balanced conference.
   • Looking at streamlining:
- QR codes or signs outside of the room to identify topic in each room
- More printed copies of the agenda available since Wi-Fi is terrible.
- Review naming of programs (shorter/clearer names due to printed space).

Discussion:
- If you reduce the number of rooms available, you have to reduce the number of people attending.
- We were double booked last year.
- Use other spaces within walking distance (public library, other hotels).
- Cut down vendor space, but it was very successful this year.
- Committee should look at break down of self-identified groups. Who attends conference the most?


Schedule:
9:15-10:15- Bibliobop, App Advisory (Julie is a go, she can design however we want), looking for Brain Science/Brain Development (Laura Hutton, Mind in the Making)
10:25-11:25- Capital Choices (Ruth Ann Champion, Debra Nelson), Yoga (Karen Berdelay), looking for someone for Minecraft

Author Presentation:
Discussion: Does the author have to be someone who won blue crab? We are struggling to find someone who will be an engaging speaker. Could have a Blue Crab winner who works as author/editor, contracted to write, reminds of a past author who was not a good speaker. She is also expensive (transportation, hotel). Winner of beginning easy non-fic. We could have her, or we could have a local author? Decision that it is more important to have engaging speaker.

Blue crab recap: at beginning of lunch to sell books? 10 minutes. Could have a recorded something? 5 minutes? Only review winners.

ACTION ITEM: Allison will contact Blue Crab winning author about recording a brief video (5 minutes)

What author do we want? Diverse author- big movement. Looking for local. Washington DC speakers/authors guild (that's how Henry Cole was found). www.childrensbookguild.org

ACTION ITEM: Amanda will check with community relations person at Harford County for an author as well.

11:30-11:45- Blue Crab- winners, video
11:45-12:45- Author Presentation
12:45- Lunch
1:35-2:45- Diverse Books w/ Deb Taylor, Coding Clubs, Digital Camp (Connie from Harford)

There has been no response from Coding in the schools. Alternatives: There is no make & take: could that fill in? Hands-on for end of the day might be good. Suggestion: process art. Set up station w/ directions & supplies w/ no presenter. Could take the place of the poster session. Eileen recommends Erin Chrvala. Planning on a minimum of 100 people... in the past when it was centrally located we had as many as 130 attend.
A call out could be sent. We would need a list of supplies, idea & promise to be there during that session time, 8-10 tables. We will provide the supplies.

2:45-3:45 Guerilla Storytime: split into 2 groups, Jill potentially host 2nd group. Run as small groups.

3:45-4:00 Wrap up, Registration

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER: ticket system: pick up ticket for each breakout session. When they're gone, they're gone. Only enough tickets for the number the room holds. Make sure that the ticket system is advertised ahead of time. Have the person doing the introductions check the tickets. Write up our own conference sheet. Write numbers very large on tickets so they are easy to read. Potentially use lanyard instead of printouts.

Registration set up: handout agenda, go pick up ticket in large group room.

ACTION ITEMS: Joe & Amanda will determine room specifics. Jessica & Rachel will send in contact information for their presenters. Jess will put on Marylib. Amanda will look into having a block of hotels nearby. Include a save the date in the August happenings if it won't be advertised until September. Get word out to Staff Development Coordinators. Book sale is on hold until we find an author.

VI. Awards- Blue Crab- Update: The team is trying to meet electronically, Jan/Feb scheduled 1 meeting for every week in case of weather. Meeting this Wednesday. A few books have been pinpointed.

VII. Old Business

a. Cross Division Event: James Kelly doing program approval form. Dorothy is our presenter. Oct 1st, Arbutus 10:00-1:00, PSD, LDD, SSD, CSD. Event will appear in Happenings.

b. Facebook: Jessica was running the Facebook page & we need a new person. Connie volunteered. We have a pretty good following at this time.

c. Newsletter: Just went out. Should Irv & Rachel continue to be listed on the newsletter? We will have Sophia will send finished newsletter to me & I will send out to CSD mailing list through Gmail. Be sure to BCC.

d. Dates/Locations for upcoming meetings:

8/10 Urbana
9/21: Brooklyn Park, Anne Arundel
10/15: Kids Are Customer’s, Owings Mills, Baltimore County
11/9: Noyes, Montgomery County
12/13: Bel Air, Harford County
1/11: Perryville (Rachel will determine)
2/8: Administrative Offices, Prince George’s
3/: Southern (location TBD)
4/: Western, Thurmont
5/: MLA
6/13: Pratt: Reisterstown Branch

VIII. New Business:

Agenda Update: Monthly Topic and/or "go around": discussion topic, then general discussion. I will update the agenda and create new "go around" sheets.

IX. Monthly Topic/Idea Share/ Discussion: Community Partnerships
- Amanda Roberson: Harford County is looking to have library visits for school system staff day. Looking for ideas for the Judy Center beyond doing Learning Parties. Suggestions: go to steering committee meetings, "cancel" the learning parties
Craft the Code- Coding for girls program using Google CS. County Tech Department is teaching.

-Jill Hutchison: St Mary’s Reads- Volunteers get basic storytime & early literacy training (library provides), are background checked and approved to visit DSS & School sites. Volunteers visit DSS office & read to kids and caregivers in the waiting room, also hand out library info to families. Each volunteer has a regular schedule. Library provides a rotating selection of storytime books & materials @ DSS. Volunteers also go to Lunch-n-Learn school summer lunch program. Want to recruit and train more volunteers to reach more sites.

- Rachel Wright: Judy center- Actively serve on Steering Committee, plan outreach family events for library participation (Health Dept. Play Group). Literacy on the Go, bookmobile and Judy case coordinators visit low-income communities to do storytime. PNC Bank has My Special Book which is book distribution for birth-5 every pre-k in county, Head Starts, low-income communities. Have all registration for pre k materials on book mobile, answer questions, but still have to go to schools to actually register.
Very busy SRC registration. Up 14% over last year. Preparing for biggest outreach of the year- Cecil Co. Fair (booth with craft & free books for kids) local businesses

- Conni Strittmatter: attending Bel Air farmers market: just started and has been a great success! Lots of SRP registrations, books checked out, and cards made. Acts of Kindness Club: Bethany Vangrin has been partnering with various community groups (police, fire departments, senior center) with elementary students making gifts for those groups.

-Eileen Kuhl: YMCA- we go to their events & vice versa, local nature center events & gardening programs for kids, guidance counselors at middle school & high school for reading buddies program w/ struggling readers,

-Jessica Brown: Library car partnership with city schools: parents can “opt in” to get their child a library care when they register for pre-k or K. Opt in box for registering pre-k for library cards when registering for schools, head start (4 or 5 operators) YMCA will do the same. Literacy Kits with Judy Centers: tied into Race to the Top Parent Library Cafes. Kits are tied to ECRR 5 parenting practices. 6 sessions of "mommy & me" club, trying to reach out to those who aren't already going to the library. Partnership for Grade Level Reading (GLR): Pratt’s SRP is supported GLR and all partners promote and share or SRP. City Schools handed out our reading log as endorsed by CEO and teachers.

Karen Hoffman- Meeting with private school media specialists (similar to professional development day for BCPS) is scheduled.
Programs: Superhero Accessories, capes, masks, power cuffs made from paper cups. Star Wars Craft-a-Thon, ½ a pool noodle + duct tape = light saber, 7 activities, 501st Legion reenactors.

Jill- ask for advice: group you would like to have a partnership with but nothing comes of it? They already use meeting room. Other groups they work with? Find a different contact within the organization, edible arrangement?
End at 12:23

Next Meeting at Urbana Branch, Frederick County on 8/10.