Meeting Minutes, Nov 14, 2016
Children’s Services Division, Maryland Library Association
Noyes Library for Young Children, Montgomery County, 10237 Carroll Place, Kensington, MD

- Introductions- Jill Hutchison, Secretary, St. Mary’s; Conni Strittmatter, VP, HCPL; Joe Farmarco, BCPL; Marcy Richardson, PGCML; Sophia VanSchaick, HCOL; Karen Hoffman, BCPL; Christine Felix, MCPL

- Approval of minutes

- Action item follow-up
  - Conni- make draft social media calendar- not yet
  - Conni- post last 2 categories of Blue Crab winners & honors on FB page- not yet
  - Conni- Contact “Homework Help” & “Coding Clubs” presenters to ask them to come to Southern/Western rather than MLA Annual- Contacted, update to follow later in mtg.
  - Jill- format the “What CSD’s All About” document as a tri-fold brochure- not yet
  - Jill- Have “What CSD’s All About” added to MLA Website- not yet
  - Jill- Schedule FB posts to feature old Blue Crab winners & ask members to nominate new books to current committee- not yet

- President’s Report- Jess not present, but she sent email report:
  - Letter rec’d asking if MD Libraries want to donate books to children in need in another country. Group is potentially interested but needs more details- topic tabled for discussion when we have the full letter in front of us.
  - ALSC archived webinar group viewing- group very interested in pursuing, Jill will continue to pursue needed info

- Program Planning
  - Winter Webinars & Online meeting-
    - we have postponed developing our own webinars, will continue to pursue group viewing of ALSC archived webinars.
    - January Meeting will be in-person at MLA office for officers & committees (Jess to confirm booking), with online attendance for all others interested.
  - Southern/Western-
    - Locations & Dates:
      - Waldorf West Branch (Charles County), March 13, 2017
      - Washington County Main Branch in Hagerstown, April 10, 2017
    - Sessions:
      - 1: Blue Crab announcements
Meeting Minutes, Nov 14, 2016  
Children’s Services Division, Maryland Library Association  
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- 2: Boys Read
- 3: Coding Club session

- Parking at the Hagerstown Library will have a cost per vehicle, just $1 or $2. The group feels this will not deter attendance, but we need to make sure everyone knows up front, and also share any info about any free parking options within walking distance.

- MLA Annual
  - New location in Cambridge, much better facilities, slight increase in hotel room costs over the Clarion (but the Clarion has been increasing slightly each year, too).
    - There’s mini golf!
    - There are other hotel & motel options in Cambridge for lower cost, but they’re a bit of a drive from the conference site.
  - There is a conference website for the first time, so program handouts and other resources will be hosted there, rather than Lanyrd.
  - Keynote Speaker: Verna Meyers, on rooting out your unconscious bias.

- Our sessions:
  - Sensory Programming and Beyond- Weds morning PreConference
  - Ukuleles in Story Time- Weds afternoon PreConference
  - Robotics Clubs
  - Local Author/Illustrator Panel/Showcase
  - Book Clubs
  - Circulating Kits from Start to Finish
  - Guys Read @ the Library
  - Homework Help Centers
  - Comic Con Best Practices
  - Guerrilla Storytime (in the uncommons at a time TBD that doesn’t compete with our programs)

- Auction Basket- repeat the theme of MD beer & treats from last year
  - Conni will take the lead in organizing it, & start a google doc for people to pledge contributions like last year.
Meeting Minutes, Nov 14, 2016
Children’s Services Division, Maryland Library Association
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- Conni will contact Out of Print to ask for a donation (if they give us a tote bag, we can use it as the container!)
- Joe will contact Heavy Seas Brewery

- Blue Crab Committee Update- Bethany was not present, no report, but we have heard that the committee is moving along and they have another meeting this week.

- Old Business
  - Kids Are Customers report
    - Overall highly positive reviews
    - Some felt the 2-hr afternoon sessions were too long- we may change to 90min next year
    - We should make sure water is available all day- the caterers removed the beverages partway through.
    - Location remains excellent. We did learn that we need to specify to the BCPL folks when reserving classrooms that we need setup and takedown time, as well as the actual time for the sessions.

  - What ideas for next year?
    - Panel of counties that do student library cards for all students- how do they do it, what activities & partnerships grow from this. Do this in place of keynote speaker, & follow up with a more in-depth breakout session option?
    - How to manage and organize your program materials, outlines, and ideas- hi & lo-tech methods and tools
    - Passive programs- the best ideas of MD & Beyond, and also the reasons why to do these, and how to “measure” them.
      - We’ll ask in our newsletter and online for people to send us photos and descriptions of past and current passive programs.
    - BEST report- no official report yet. Jill will follow up with Eileen to get one for the Dec Meeting. Karen, Sophia, & Joe were participants and said that it went well, their discussion groups were lively and successful. There were not as many school media specialists as we would like- group believes we should up our
Meeting Minutes, Nov 14, 2016
Children’s Services Division, Maryland Library Association
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recruitment and marketing to Media Specialists for this event next year. We’ll ask Carrie Sanders to help reach out to the rest of MSDE for help.

○ Participation survey- 95 responses so far, deadline is Thanksgiving. Jill will put one more post out on MARYLIB, Facebook, email, etc.
○ Social Media- Keep liking & sharing on our page and group!
○ Newsletter- Mid- December Deadline for Winter issue. Send to Sophia.
○ “What CSD’s All About” document- still in progress
○ Mock Newberry/Mock Caldecott- for NEXT year, have discussion online, then make shortlist at KAC, send shortlist out to all members & online participants to be used for the final program(s).

○ Meeting locations-
  ■ Need February site. Conni will pursue Miller Branch or another in Howard County.
  ■ March & April will be at the Southern/ Western conference locations, & May will be the MLA annual conference.
  ■ Need June-Dec 2017 locations- will put on January meeting agenda to discuss, finalize at Feb meeting.

● New Business

● Monthly Sharing Topic- What are some great books published this year that you think are award contenders?
  ○ Marcy- We All Saw a Cat
  ○ Christine- The Cookie Fiasco, Nanette’s Baguette,
  ○ Sophia- School’s First Day of School, Bun-jitsu Bunny series
  ○ Conni- We Found a Hat, Who What Where by Tallec, Wish (J Fiction) by O’Connor,
  ○ Joe- The War that Saved My Life, Stella by Starlight
  ○ Jill- Little Elliot series, Hooray for Hat series
  ○ Choose next month’s sharing topic!
    ■ Bring ideas for passive programs, especially related to the summer theme
    ■ Future topic idea- what equipment and tools for staff do your children’s depts have and love? (die cutters, sewing machines…?)

● Go ‘Round- Share anything of interest from your library’s youth-services department
Meeting Minutes, Nov 14, 2016
Children’s Services Division, Maryland Library Association
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○ Joe shared that some BCPL Children’s rooms have received Keva Planks and a table to build with them on. They’re very popular and the kids go right to work building with them, no instructions needed.

○ Karen- her branch has received a gift of a sewing machine for their children’s department, and she asked the group for ideas for how to use it
  ■ “T-shirt into tote bag” simple sewing
  ■ Basics of sewing class- how to use a pattern, how to pin, how to stitch.
  ■ Sewing doll clothes

○ Conni- her system has gotten some OSMO ipad play kits- they come with the OSMO base/mirror for the iPads, game pieces, and apps for several language, math, and art games.

○ Joe- Howard County Arts Showcase was great- we saw 28 different performers available for hire by schools & libraries, each gave a short audition-style snippet of their programs and were available at tables in between to talk with.

● December Meeting
  ○ Location: Havre de Grace Library, Harford Co
  ○ Arrive early for a tour of Schooners Cove early literacy center from 9:30-10
  ○ The meeting proper is 10-12:30
  ○ come in via Staff Entrance b/c the branch will not be open yet
  ○ Bringer of Snacks: Bethany
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Action Items from this meeting:

- Conni - book a meeting location for February 13, preferably Miller Branch (so we can see the renovations!) or another Howard County library.
- Conni - make draft social media calendar
- Conni - post last 2 categories of Blue Crab winners & honors on FB page
- Conni - start a planning/ pledge Google Doc to organize our auction basket for MLA17
- Conni - contact Out of Print (library swag company) to ask for a donation for auction basket- a tote bag would be great b/c we can use it as the container!
- Jill - format the “What CSD’s All About” document as a tri-fold brochure
- Jill - Have “What CSD’s All About” added to MLA Website
- Jill - Schedule FB posts to feature old Blue Crab winners & ask members to nominate new books to current committee
- Jill - pursue details on archived ALSC webinars- original dates, if group viewing can be from multiple locations
- Jill - post on FB for people to share photos and descriptions of past and current passive programs.
- Jill - contact Eileen for report on BEST
- Jill - put one more post out on MARYLIB, Facebook, email, etc. with participation survey reminder
- Jess- Confirm MLA office is booked for in-person part of January meeting, & equipment is available for online portion.
- Joe - contact Heavy Seas brewery for beer donation to auction basket
- Sophia - put request in next newsletter for people to send photos and descriptions of past and current passive programs to mlachildrens@gmail.com