Meeting Minutes, Dec 11, 2017
Children's Services Division, Maryland Library Association
Kent Island Library, Queen Anne’s County
& Online via Google Hangouts: https://goo.gl/t6Gi3d

- Introductions: Sophia Van Shaick, Rachel Zukowski, Christine Freeman, Pamela (PGCMLS)
- Approval of minutes
- President’s Report
  - Exec Board met the week after our Nov division meeting. The MLA Intellectual Freedom committee approved revisions to their manual. They discussed that in a future revision, they will add some “how to” guides for dealing with intellectual freedom issues and challenges in the library world. Kathleen Tease, our MLA past president, has moved to Florida and will not be able to carry out the past-president duties this year, so MLA will have to appoint someone to fill that role. Current MLA president is very interested in the project called “Access to Justice,” which involves training librarians to better help patrons find and use legal information and resources.
  - Denise (MLA President) did a video about MLA for use in the upcoming LATI classes. Conni will be doing one on children’s services, especially reference and readers’ advisory. Conni asked for ideas to include, and Pam (who is one of the LATI instructors for the children’s services modules) encourages us to send her ideas for instruction as well. Ideas shared at meeting:
    ■ Christine: I love Bookflix. My grandson went from a paper book about bears to a bookflix book about bears to watching a video of bears catching fish.
    ■ Sophia: my thing is for a lot of families, you have to be kinda quick - going into full “reference interview” mode scares so many parents.
    ■ Novelist is an awesome readers’ advisory tool- the Lexile levels, the series information, readalikes and RA prompts
    ■ Being agile in moving between book and online sources, and knowing (& being able to explain) that database and other online resources can be just a good as or better than books.
    ■ Rachel- PGCMLS has a handout/form to send with kids explaining a digital resource to their teachers in cases when the teacher has told the kids “No online sources,” etc. Link to form:
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- Common Sense Media- very useful tool for helping families decide what books, movies, etc., are suitable for their kids according to their family’s values and limits.
- Reference Interview techniques when both parent and child are present-try to engage the kid moreso than the parent, but also loop in/acknowledge the parent.
  - MLLI update: new format used for the first time this year, and it went great. They’re considering adding an “executive leadership institute” for current and prospective directors on the alternating years from MLLI.
  - MLA Annual Conference planning is on track.
  - There is a MD State Diversity task force, main focus is on increasing diversity in the pipeline at UMD iSchool.
  - Feb 20 is Library Legislative Day in Annapolis; Federal Library Legislative Days are May 7 & 8. Contact Natalie Edington at BCPL to participate.
  - MLA thinks IMLS will be on the federal budget chopping block.

- Program Planning
  - Winter Webinar-
    - Jill has not locked in the date and details with the presenter, so the PAF is not done. We’ll still pursue it, even if we have to push the date back some.
  - Southern/Western- Everything is all set. PAFs approved, venues are confirmed, and we are good to go. Registration should be open now, and Conni will check that it is so.
  - MLA Annual- Doug Davidoff is our keynote speaker. Site visit was completed. There will be additional social events. Everything is on-track for where the planning should be at this point in the year.
    - Joe suggests that the conference committee make sure that attendees know about “Camp Hyatt” which is childcare provided by the conference center.
  - Kids Are Customers 2018-
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■ “Not Your Usual Storytime” panel proposed for MLA Annual will be shifted to KAC 18.

■ Eileen’s Reading Buddies program that was cancelled in 2017 can be rescheduled for 2018.

■ Suggestion from Elaine- when having sessions about how to do a particular storyline or program, make it clear that “this is how this library does this program, and/or have more than one presenter with different approaches or perspectives.

■ Conni has been communicating with Tiffany Southerland of TIG about having one or more Teen-focused sessions at KAC.
  ● “How to Run an Teen Hangout” and how to set/keep behavior guidelines
  ● Alternative methods of communicating with teens- “Remind” App, other apps and channels that teens & tweens use
  ○ B.E.S.T. 2018- No report this meeting.

■ Action Item for Conni- check in with Eileen if she still wants to continue being the chair of BEST. Idea: suggest having a co-chair so that other people can learn how to organize this conference, in case Eileen should step down in the future.

■ Blue Crab Committee Update: Met again Dec 7. Accepting nominations until Jan 15- please use the form on the MLA website to submit. They have considered ____ books so far but have not received any nominations from outside the committee. The chairperson has send updated information for the Blue Crab page on the MLA website; Jill will forward on to MLA webmaster.

• Old Business
  ○ Social Media- Keep liking & sharing on our page and group!
  ○ Newsletter- Send Sophia items for the Winter newsletter by the end of December; she’ll include a “coming soon” blurb about the Winter Webinar
  ○ Library Services for Children Journal Club

• MSL Update

• Action item follow-up- anything not covered so far

• New Business
Can we launch a Google Sites website for CSD and manage it ourselves, and have MLA place a link to it on the MLA website, in place of most of the existing CSD pages on the MLA site (which are often out of date and have to be updated via a surrogate)? Conni will ask the MLA office if this is permissible.

Support Services Division wants to know if we (CSD) want to co-sponsor or help put on a program about Learning Parties. We are not able to financially co-sponsor, but if any CSD members are willing and able to help plan and execute the program, we can do so.

- Jess has been doing Learning Parties successfully at BCPL, and can speak to how to adapt the format (originally developed for schools) to a public library setting.
- Some other library systems have either tried them and not had good attendance or results, and still other libraries have considered them but not moved forward due to the intensity of the required planning and prep.
- The feeling in today’s meeting is that there is probably not enough interest in public children’s librarians going through the Learning Party training, and presenting a pure Learning Party program, and you can’t get the materials without going through the training. So it would not be worthwhile to present on how to adapt the materials to public libraries without libraries being able to access the materials (because they haven’t committed to the full training program.)
- We will have Carrie Sanders of MSL send a question to Youth Coordinators to find out if there is interest from enough counties to make a go of this program.

Monthly Sharing Topic- What are your youth-services new year’s resolutions?

- Jess: continue working on time management
- Elaine: “Be kind to your time.” Say no, or change what you do and when you do it, so that it makes sense for your overall workload and schedule, and you can actually take days off, etc.
- Conni- share responsibilities and delegate more- give others the opportunity to help. “Say Yes to saying No.”
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- Rachel Zukowsk- On a similar note, I am working on delegating more to staff in my dept. also, to visit more programs and be a more hands-on coach and resource for branch staff
- Sophia: “Get the picture book area set up so there are no books on the bottom shelves - those books are getting LOW circ.
- Elaine- get every damaged items out of her collection, and delegate it to her circ assistant to flip through each book (during the annual cleaning of the covers) to check for damage.
- Joe- Increase the baby and preschool storytime schedule at his branch to weekly for each,
- Choose next month’s sharing topic: Storytime debate- themes vs. no themes?
  - (also share summer reading programs)

- Go ‘Round- Share anything of interest from your library’s youth-services department
  - ALSC National Conference is in September!
  - HCPL- got a grant from MSL & are working w/ BCPL and Carroll on a media mentorship project, to create a toolkit for peer coaching librarians to become media mentors for families w/ kids birth to 8.
  - HCPL- Early Lit Committee is creating rotating pop-up storytime kits so that branches can quickly have a spontaneous storytime whenever they have a bunch of kids present in the branch.
  - St. Mary’s just got VOX books and they are very popular with customers.
  - Laurie Berkner will be performing in Owings Mills at the Gordon Center Sun Jan 21st, tickets are $15

- January’s Meeting will be virtual via Blackboard. Everyone will have to supply their own snacks ;-)
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- Advertise to surrounding states & DC
- Jill & Conni- set up & test Google Hangout for Dec hybrid meeting. - done
- Conni- Send out “save the date” info as for Southern/Western as soon as possible, and especially get the info to the Western MD libraries to encourage them to send as many people as they can. Not done?
- Conni- contact Tiffany Sutherland (chairperson of TIG) to find out if they want to join in planning w/ 2 teen/tween breakout sessions for KAC 2018. Done
- Conni-send feedback from KAC re: Lori DeSautels’s sessions to Carrie Sanders ??
- Officers- schedule FB posts on advocacy opportunities as they come up, & highlighting past Blue Crab books- not done

Action items from December Meeting:
- Jill- send blue crab committee updates to MLA Webmaster
- Conni- check in with Eileen if she still wants to continue being the chair of BEST. Idea: suggest having a co-chair so that other people can learn how to organize this conference, in case Eileen should step down in the future.
- Conni- ask MLA if we can manage our own division website as a Google Site, and just link to it from the MLA site.
- Conni- ask Carrie Sanders to ask YS Coordinators if there is interest in a Learning Parties training.