Minnesota Academy of Reading

Executive Board Meeting

December 13, 2012

1. **Welcome and overview of the meeting—Deb Peterson**
2. **Update from MRA Executive Board**

* Jennifer McCarty-Plucker (MRAPresident) and Jessica Crooker (President Elect of MRA) provided an update on multiple ways MRA provides information and supports councils, including MAR:
  + Exemplary Reading Program Award to showcase exemplary programs in Minnesota: MAR could offer names, complete the application for programs in Minnesota, and award winners could present at IRA about the program, perhaps showing action research or practitioner work in reading.
  + Grants available through MRA: See MinnesotaReading.org for details on available grants.
  + Celebrate Literacy Award in March: Nominations of those who have exhibited literacy leadership at the school, district, or state level are due February 1. Carolyn Gwinn proposed MAR nominate Mary Kerkoff for this award. The MAR Executive Board approved of this nomination.
  + Writers are Readers Program: Students submit writing for the Celebrate Literacy event held in March.
  + MRA website: Scott Voss may be contacted with announcements and events to be posted to the MRA website.
  + LEARN: Professional development events focused on literacy held in November, January, and February. The January event is focused on policy, parents, and partners; the February event focuses on systems for reflection, coaching, improving instruction, and collaboration.
  + Highlights Newsletter: is published four times each year. Kate Bannon serves as editor. The January newsletter is scheduled for January 15.
  + MRA Facebook Page: MNReads.
* It was noted that MAR is a unique council that draws people from across the state as members (who are not all higher ed members).
* Eva and Rod have prepared a survey on advocacy. Survey Monkey will be used to complete the survey and it will be posted on the MRA website.

1. **Treasurer’s Report—**Bobbi Gale submitted the treasurer’s report
   * $2,357.62 is the current balance
2. **The April 27 Mixer Event**

* Event to be held April 27, 2013 10:00-11:30 at the Community Room of Hamline Library. (Kate will make the reservation.) The room is free to non-profit organizations. Refreshments by Dunn Brothers.
* Members will bring their favorite *Reading Teacher* or *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy* article to share and discuss. These articles could be ones that are being used in courses at the higher ed level, for professional development in PK-12 settings, or for one’s own professional practice.
* Participants will be asked to bring books that could be sent to partner schools, locally or internationally. (Deb knows of an organization that accepts books for donation, including children’s books, adult novels, and professional texts. The organization takes care of shipping expenses.)
* The Mixer Event will be free for MAR members.
* Kate will prepare a “save the date” card for the mixer event.

1. **Professional Development for Faculty and Staff of Institutions of Higher Learning—Collaboration with MAR, MRA, MCRR, MDE, and the Sterns**

* The Sterns will fund a second speaking engagement for MaryAnn Wolfe.
* Discussion took place concerning a professional development event specifically for higher education participants
  + Perhaps higher education faculty could come together from different parts of the state to study Wolfe’s work prior to her coming.
  + A partnership was discussed in which higher education faculty might bring information to the table, too.
  + Perhaps Survey Monkey could be used to identify initiatives or needs.
  + It was suggested that participants at the January policy event could be asked to provide input on initiatives/needs as well.

1. **Plans for the January 2013 Event to be held at the Woulfe Student Center on the St. Paul Campus of St. Thomas University**

* An invitation will be sent out concerning the event to follow up on the “save the date” announcement. Gail will take care of the invitation.
* Eva will prepare invitations for the legislators.
* Participants will e-mail Bobbi to register for the event.
* MAR Executive Board Members will be present at 12:00 to assist with decorations.
* Carolyn will contact Kari Ross about ELA Standards for the event.
* The status of panel members was reviewed.
* Kate will serve as the panel moderator. The moderator will provide an introduction with a focus on the Common Core and its impact on teaching and will then introduce the panel members. The MAR Board will submit questions, and questions will be taken from event participants. The moderator will organize and pose the questions to the panel. Questions will relate to changes in instruction and assessment based on the Common Core, professional learning for in-service teachers, preparation of new teachers on the Common Core, etc.
* A resource table with IRA/Common Core materials will be available for review. Deb will check with Kari Ross on recommendations. Board members will e-mail Deb with suggestions.
* Tentative Schedule:
  + - 1:00 Welcome and Introductions at Tables-Amy and Deb
      * Introduction of Karen Balmer-Karen
    - 1:15 Update by Karen Balmer
      * Introduction of Kari Ross-Carolyn
    - 1:30 Common Core (MN English Language Arts Standards)-Kari Ross
    - 2:00 Break for Dessert
      * Membership information-Bobbi
    - 2:30 Panel Discussion - Overview and panel moderator-Kate
      * Jennifer McCarty-Plucker (district literacy leader from Eagan-Apple Valley
      * Aura Wharton-Beck (Minneapolis Principal)
      * John Moroz (Chair of the Wayzata School Board)
      * Teajai Schmidt (Literacy Program Administrator from St. Paul)
      * Jody Maanum (Literacy Coach from West Central Minnesota)
      * Sixth Grade Teacher
    - 3:15 Table talk-“What is our shared responsibility as we prepare teachers and students to meet the standards?” Eva and Chris
      * Door prizes and gifts to the panel-Gail and Rod
    - 4:00 Conclusions and upcoming events-Pam

1. **Kate reported that the Reading today article is up on the IRA website.**
2. **MAR had seven presenters (2 presentations) on Academic Language at MACTE on November 8th.**
3. **Kate will submit an article for the January MRA Highlights Newsletter.**
4. **Elections for any open positions on the MAR Executive Board will be discussed at the January meeting.**
5. **Silent Auction ideas for the March Celebrate Literacy Event were shared.**
6. **Next MAR Executive Board Meeting Date:**

* January 23 2:30-4:00
* Caribou Conference Room (Across from the HarMar Mall)
* Kate and Karen will prepare the agenda and lead the meeting; Amy and Deb will transition out.

**Members in attendance:** Eva Boehm, Terri Christenson, Bobbi Gale, Carolyn Gwinn, Gail Jordan (via telephone), Kate Kelly, Karen Moroz, Deb Peterson, Amy Smith, and Pam Solvie