

MEMORANDUM

TO: NSLS Board of Directors
FROM: Sarah Ann Long
DATE: May 8, 2009
RE: Self Nomination for MaryBeth McWilliams

Name: MaryBeth McWilliams
Library Type: School
I am the representative of the MacArthur Middle School library

Email address: mmcwilliams@d23.org

Occupation: Library Media Specialist

Home Address:
5510 Old Mill Lane
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
Home phone: 847-331-7345

Employer Name: Prospect Heights School District 23
Employer Address:
700 North Schoenbeck Road
Prospect Heights, IL 60008

Business Phone: 847-870-3885

What community service activities have you been involved in?

I have served on the NSLS Board since June 2007. I have participated at the Illinois Library Legislative Days twice during the past two years and I have also gone to Washington D.C. for the National Library Legislative Days. Since I am employed full-time as a School Library Media Center Director, I am required to participate quarterly with my students to Make-A-Difference in the community. I have organized Senior Citizen/6th Grade Students for get togethers at Lexington Health Care in Wheeling to play BINGO. I would like to do more but I am also a parent of two very active high school students. I am currently involved with the Fremd High School Music Association by organizing with the administrators of December Holiday Concerts both last year and this coming year.

What leadership roles have you held?

As a teacher and a librarian, I am constantly organizing and educational activities. This year at my school, I was appointed as a co-chairperson for the Technology Committee which involves developing a strategic direction plan for the next 18 months. This requires research, planning and purchasing.

What activities have you been involved in relating to libraries and library services?

I am on the Prospect Heights Summer Reading Committee. My main objective for being on this committee is to encourage students to continue learning and reading over the three month break from school and to use their local public library. I have also been involved in a public library card drive initiated by Indian Trails Public Library which included students from two other neighboring communities. Another activity I organized was started after attending an NSLS Annual Membership Awards Banquet. I was seated with representatives from the Chicago Wolves Hockey Team Administration. My middle school library was included in the Chicago Wolves Library Reading Program. I also use the services and resources from the local public libraries for additional medias for the MacArthur Middle School Learning Community. I average a self-pick-up about once a week for students and teachers. I would like to use the delivery van service; however, student and teacher requests are usually looking for an immediate reply. Therefore, it is not uncommon for me to grab my tote-bags and take a field trip to the public library to embellish my media center's resources. In addition, I have represented NSLS at humanitarian grant gathering and local library ground-breaking ceremonies.

What advocacy efforts have you pursued on behalf of libraries?

I have attended the NSLS Library Legislative Breakfasts for the past four years and networked with Illinois State Senators, Representatives and their aids. I reply immediately to email requests to contact Senators and Representatives regards issues in Springfield and the Nation's Capitol. I also have made networking/personal connections with local Senators and Representative and discussed regarding system issues. Also as I have previously mentioned, I have been to Springfield and Washington D.C. twice.

How would you contribute to these roles?

I believe, I am an accountable individual who understands the responsibilities of accepting a position on the NSLS Board of Directors. In the past two years, I have participated as best I could considering, I am employed full-time and have also been actively pursuing a Master's in Libraries and Literacy at National-Louis University. I agree and comply with the beliefs of the NSLS Governing Stateliness as well as encourage my fellow board members to do so. I realize that being on the NSLS Board is not just a privilege. It is an opportunity to exercise continued collaboration to contribute in the furthering excellence of the 21st Century Library Systems not only in Illinois but the entire Nation.

In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges facing libraries today?

Financing and supporting the infrastructure during these stressed economic times will be a major challenge. Keeping up with the changing demographics and services is also

a priority. Communication and expending technology is changing almost moment to moment lately. Libraries can no longer be limited by geographic locations. Instead they must be engaged in pursuing community and learning groups meeting the literacy and educational needs and interests of all the diverse populations.

How long have you served on your local Board?

Two years

When does your current term of office expire?

May, 2009