

Maryland Retired School Personnel Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Hybrid
December 6, 2023

Members Present: Carla Duls, President; Nancy Gordon, Vice President; George Sparks, Jr., Parliamentarian; Betty Weller, President- Elect; Henrietta Lease, Area I West Director; Harold Siskind, Travel Chair; Sally Smith, Area I East Director; Charlie Gable, Jr., Area II North Director; Brenda Barnes, Area II South Director; Dr. Debbie Chance, Area III North Director; John Sisson, Area III South Director; Wanda Twigg, Executive Director; Patrycia Pickett, Bylaws Chair; Kathy Campagnoli, Community Service Chair; Alicia Hardisky, Finance Chair; Leslie Heiderman Schell, Membership Chair; Dr. Stephen Raucher, Treasurer; Phyllis Cherry, Consumer Education Chair; Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms, Member Benefits Chair; Lynn Cox, Public Relations Chair; Dr. Caroll Visintainer, Scholarship Chair; Debbie Hance, Newsletter Editor; Ayana English-Brown, MSRPS Trustee; Virginia Crespo, Legislative Aide; and Sharyn Doyle, Secretary

Members Absent: Tom Slater, Legislative Committee Chair

Guests: Alice Mitchell, President, Dorchester County; Bev Yurek, Membership Committee Chair, Wicomico County; Helen Schoffstall, President, Worcester County

1. Call to Order: A quorum being present, President Carla Duls called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions: Members were welcomed and introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Agenda: President Carla Duls asked for motions to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved as presented with all in favor based on a motion by Nancy Gordon, seconded by Charlie Gable.

4. Minutes from August 8, 2023, Board Meeting: The minutes were approved as written without objection.

5. Treasurer's Report: Dr. Stephen Raucher, Treasurer, reviewed the October 2023 Treasurer's Report submitted and highlighted several budget figures as recorded on the Unaudited Report.

Page 2:

- Line 4: Membership Dues significantly lower due to membership decrease (projected \$513,999 and \$485,117.00 earned). Steve mentioned death being one of the major reasons for the decrease.
- Line 24: Total Gain (Loss) on Investment Funds: Good gains. Our total expenses way down and 50% of the year has passed and we still have 70% of our budget left. We may even end up with a surplus.

The report was filed for audit.

6. President's Report: No additional information to report aside from mentioning the November 14 entry on her report. She confirmed she really did attend both meetings on that day.

7. Vice President's Report: No additional information to report aside from attending most Zoom committee meetings.

8. President-Elect's Report: Betty Weller joined the meeting later and had no information to report.

9. Executive Director's Report: In addition to her written report, Wanda introduced the new employee Wanda Soares Nottingham.

10. Area Director Reports:

- *Area I West:* No report was submitted prior to the meeting. Henrietta reported she attended a lot of zoom meetings. In October, she visited Allegany County and this month she will be joining the Washington County local meeting.
- *Area I East:* Sally referred to her written report and shared how she has enjoyed attending the meetings.
- *Area II North:* Charlie referred to his written report and highlighted the back of his report with key points from each of his area associations visited.
- *Area II South:* No report submitted prior to the meeting. Brenda reported she attended all groups and Calvert and Charles are still trying to identify Presidents.
- *Area III North:* Dr. Debbie Chance referred to her written report. She also reported she would be attending lunch at Kent County Association tomorrow. When she visited Caroline County, she conducted a brief survey about attraction factors for joining the association and MRSPA. She plans to conduct the survey at the locals she visits and will later compile a report and identify benefits wanted for state membership.
- *Area III South:* No report submitted prior to the meeting. John emphasized we need to develop a program for increasing membership and he and his guest Presidents have an idea that will be discussed in New Business.

13. Standing Committee Reports:

- *Bylaws:* Patricia Pickett referred to the proposed amendments outlined in her report. Each motion was discussed and must still be approved at the Annual Business Meeting.
Amendment #1: Article VI – Officers Section:3 Sub-Section: c Page/s#: 13
The term of office of the Secretary shall be for three years and may not exceed one additional term for three years.

Amendment #2: Article XII – Elections Section: 2 Sub-Section: a Page/s#: 17
Following the report of the Nominating Committee, additional nominations may be received from the floor provided such nominees state their willingness to serve and must meet qualifications.

Amendment #3: Article XX – Amendment Section Sub-Section: Page/s#: 18
Identify the starting date of the first day of the next fiscal year for all amendments to become effective.

Each proposed amendment was discussed. Dr. Raucher made the motion as a friendly amendment to delete the word “must” from the second amendment. All amendments were approved with all in favor. The amendments will be presented to the local presidents in March and to the membership during the Annual Business Meeting in May.

- *Community Service*: Kathy Campagnoli referred to her report and reported her committee met on November 16 to select the grant winners. Winners’ names and titles of proposals were reported. (Refer to Committee or Foundation Board Meeting notes.) We surpassed our National Day of Giving virtual food drive goal of \$1500. Members and friends donated \$1991 to the Maryland Food Bank.
- *Consumer Education*: No report submitted prior to the meeting. Phyllis Cherry reported a very successful webinar was held with the FBI Agent who emphasized that if the scam is reported within 72 hours, a good rate of success for returns of scammed items. The committee will meet in January and identify more webinars, such as those with the Comptroller about unclaimed monies, the Insurance Commission or the National Institute of Aging representative.
- *Finance*: No report submitted prior to the meeting. Alicia Hardisky highlighted the need for all budget requests ASAP since her committee will meet next month before the Executive Committee meets on January 9, 2024. Dues will go up by \$5 on July 1, 2024, and will be explained in future newsletters. Alicia asked anyone visiting a local this spring to remind members of the pending increase.
- *Legislative*: No report submitted prior to the meeting. Chair Tom Slater was absent. Virginia Crespo, Legislative Aide reported on the MRSPA priorities, new legislative session will focus on juvenile justice and Blueprint for Maryland’s Future costs which are now main topic for LEAs. She also discussed the key components of the Legislative Workshop for January 30, 2024. Our concerns are very similar to AARP’s involving Social Security, Medicare and tax relief for caregivers. Virginia also shared that she and the executive director attended the NRTA Advocacy Conference in October where they lobbied federal legislators on stabilizing social security and doing something to support caregivers.
- *Member Benefits*: No report submitted prior to the meeting. Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms reported she was voted back in as President for her LEA and has not met with her committee.

- *Membership:* Leslie Heiderman Schell referred to her submitted report and reported on the radio/media blitz idea that we are working with NRTA on, too. Steve suggested a display ad for local groups in papers such as the Beacon. Leslie also reported on the successes of the November 2nd Meet and Greet, the Joint Meeting which included a presentation of the AMBA Fact Sheet and the AARSPA presentation of the MRSPA website and their first local Meet and Greet.
- *Nominating:* Nancy Gordon referred to her report as follows:
Candidates for open offices:
Vice President: Matilda (Tillie) Barckley, Anne Arundel County
Kathy Campagnoli, Frederick County
Secretary: Sharyn Doyle, Anne Arundel County
(eligible for another 1-year term)
Treasurer: Dr. Stephen Raucher, Montgomery County
(eligible for another 3-year term)
Non-Board Member, Nominating Committee:
Lorraine Johnson, Prince Georges County
(eligible for another 1-year term)
Nancy emphasized that the committee is still searching for a Non-Board Member for a 1-year term.
Nancy moved acceptance of the slate of officers on behalf of the committee. The motion passed with all in favor. The slate will be presented to the local presidents during their March meeting and to delegates during the Annual Business Meeting for a vote.
- *Public Relations:* No report submitted prior to the meeting. Lynn Cox reported the recent success with website initiatives in Charles and Garrett Counties and Facebook successes in Frederick, Queen Anne’s and Calvert Counties.
- *Scholarship:* No report submitted prior to the meeting. Dr. Caroll Visintainer reported the committee met and modified the application and process with an earlier deadline date and a tiered approach for screening applications. MRSPA website has criteria listed for applicants.
- *Travel:* Harold Siskind referred to his report and the MRSPA website that also lists the trips. The committee will request proposals for 2025 trips in early 2024.

12. Other Reports:

Retirement and Pension System Trustee: Ayana English – Brown referred to her report from the monthly Pension Board meeting. She also attends an administration meeting held 4 times a year. A new free 7-week Immersion program for high schools is being introduced.

Newsletter Editor: No report submitted prior to the meeting. Debbie Hance reported the winter newsletter was posted 10 days ahead of schedule and the next deadline is January 12, 2024.

13. Unfinished Business: Motion to amend the MRSPA Foundation Bylaws that was previously tabled will not be taken off the table. The motion dies.

14. New Business: Carla reminded Board members that the MRSPA Foundation Board are the elected officers of MRSPA, Inc. and the Finance Committee Chair, that two separate sets of bylaws are needed, and that the MRSPA, Inc. Board of Directors does not have oversight of the MRSPA Foundation. John Sisson distributed two written New Business Items that he made as motions relative to the MRSPA Foundation. Brenda Barnes seconded the motions for discussion.

New Business Item #1: Be it moved that the Board of Directors direct the MRSPA Executive Board to meet with the MRSPA Foundation with the object of establishing procedures for the receipt of donations from IRA accounts of members and friends of MRSPA, for general purposes and/or earmarked for specific programs of the state organization and its local affiliates.

John shared the ease now of MRSPA members donating from their IRAs and stated that simple accounting procedures could be developed that would allow these donations to occur without needing to contact a financial planner or our Foundation account manager.

New Business Item #2: Be it moved that the Board of Directors direct the MRSPA Executive Board to meet with the MRSPA Foundation with the object of establishing mechanisms and procedures to receive donations earmarked for specific local affiliates, to be distributed through MRSPA scholarship and grant programs. John and his guests discussed his motions as another benefit to members and spoke of how members may be more willing to donate to their local association than MRSPA for scholarship or grant purposes. Discussion ensued about the advantages and disadvantages of this motion including how written accounting procedures would or would not resolve the issue. Following lengthy and impassioned discussion, votes were taken on both motions. Both motions failed. The Foundation Board will discuss these items at its next meeting.

15. Announcements: Wanda reminded all Board members to turn in their signed Code of Ethics policy document, and expense voucher form, if not yet completed. Members were thanked for their Toys for Tots donations and assistance with the Food Bank surpassing the set goal.

16. Adjournment: President Carla Duls thanked everyone at home and in person for their attendance. She adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m. Next meeting is March 12, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharyn Doyle
Secretary