

Maryland Retired School Personnel Association
Board of Directors Meeting
December 4, 2019

1. Call to Order: A quorum being present, President Ann Marie Downey called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions: Ann Marie welcomed everyone. Sharyn Doyle was introduced as the new Secretary, followed by everyone around the table introducing themselves.

3. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

4. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as printed without objection.

5. Minutes from the August Board Meeting: The minutes of the August 7, 2019 Board Meeting were approved as corrected without objection. The 2010 date will be corrected to 2020 in the Scholarship Committee Report.

6. Treasurer's Report: Alicia Hardisky, Treasurer, reviewed two reports summarizing fiscal matters as of November 30, 2019: *Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets* along with *Statement of Expenses*. (Refer to pages 10-14 of the report.)

Figures November 30, 2019

Checkbook Balance	\$321,626.69
Bond Fund	0.00
Savings	0.00
Certificates of Deposit	0.00
Mutual Funds	\$551,469.06
 Total Assets	 \$873,095.75
 Total Liabilities	 289.27
Net Assets	\$874,385.02
Total Liabilities/Net Assets	\$874,095.75

Alicia shared highlights from her reports.

- These reports reflect 5 months in the new fiscal year.
- MRSPA Scholarship and Retiree Health Trust funds are stable (page 10, lines 1-22). \$6000 in scholarships were awarded (page 10, line 27)
- Dues income for FY19-20 is at \$551,926.00 as of November 30, 2019, is \$50,000 higher than projected (page 11, line 5).
- Local Associations' Membership Dues total will increase as the year progresses (page 11, line 33).
- Officer spending is in line with projected budget (page 14, lines 1-14).
- Travel has over \$900 earned beyond projections (page 14, line 22).
- The contract with Abenity is over now so that expense of over \$250 will not occur again (page 14, line 26).
- Bank charges need to be reviewed (page 14, line 2) and discussion ensued about possible bank changes, etc. Several Board members cited these charges occur [by](#) most

banks, as seen in other associations, and increased use of PayPal for credit card membership renewals over check renewals would reduce this expense.

7. President's Report: Ann Marie shared highlights from her written report and added a successful audit was conducted on November 18th and she is excited about the new mini-grant program which will be discussed in more detail throughout the meeting.

8. Executive Director's Report: Executive Director, Wanda Ruffo Twigg, shared highlights from her written report. *MRSPA Membership Report* dated 12/2/2019 was also highlighted.

9. Vice President's Report: Vice President Charles Gable shared highlights from his written report. Charlie highlighted attending the AMBA Roundup for MRSPA and looks forward to sharing information at the Member Benefits Committee in December.

10. President-Elect's Report: A written report was submitted by President-Elect George Denny, Jr. He commented on attending the AMBA Roundup and looks forward to sharing what he learned there with the Member Benefits Committee next week.

11. Area Directors' Reports:

Area I West: Henrietta Lease highlighted her written report and added that a mini-grant will be awarded in Washington County.

Area I East: Sally Smith highlighted her written report and added that a mini-grant will be awarded in Carroll County.

Area II North: Janet Williams highlighted her written report and added that a mini-grant will be awarded in Harford County.

Area II South: Brenda Barnes highlighted her written report and added that a mini-grant will be awarded in Prince George's County.

Area III North: Debbie Chance highlighted her written report and added that a mini-grant will be awarded in Caroline County.

Area III South: Bev Yurek highlighted her written report and added that a mini-grant will be awarded in Wicomico County.

12. Standing Committee Reports

Bylaws

There was no report and Jay was absent for health reasons. The committee has not needed to meet as no suggested changes to the bylaws have been brought to their attention. Ann Marie highlighted page 16 of the Bylaws, the annual appointment of committee chairs who may serve 4 consecutive 1-year terms. She also highlighted that Area Directors may serve a maximum of 6 years or 2 consecutive 3-year terms. These items were pointed out to relieve any confusion with committee chairs or area directors completing the terms of previous committee chairs or area directors. Wanda has a detailed report which will be distributed for clarification. A change of person as a committee chair begins a new term when changed at the beginning of the fiscal and membership year.

Community Service

Trish Bendler highlighted her written report and added that the committee hadn't met until November 20, 2019 so her report was brief. A copy of the November 20 committee meeting's unofficial minutes was submitted for the record and highlighted by Trish. The mini-grant project was the focus of the meeting. The winners were identified, and questions were answered from Board members about this new project (funding, awareness, notification process, etc.).

Also added was the reminder that Community Service Award Nomination Forms will also be distributed to local associations after the first of the year.

Consumer Education

John Sisson highlighted his written report and reported that the committee will be meeting with a representative from the Attorney General's office for more information on scams and fraud prevention in January.

Finance

Dr. Stephen Raucher highlighted his written report and added homework for Board Members to turn in their projected 2020-2021 budget requests ASAP. If the request is the same as this current year, just write that on the form and return it to the MRSPA office.

Legislative

New Legislative Committee Chair Fred Evans highlighted his written report. He also encouraged everyone to ask their locals to contact their legislators and introduce themselves. Ken Haines added encouragement of legislators to maintain the full actuarial funding of the Pension System.

Member Benefits

Harold Siskind highlighted his written report and welcomed ideas from Board Members. The committee is meeting on December 11 to discuss the AMBA Roundup and other topics.

Membership

A written report was submitted, and Ruth was absent. Bev Yurek encouraged all Area Directors to review all their local's newsletters and share recruitment ideas such as Happy Hours, Pre-Retirement Session attendance, etc. Wanda had highlighted current membership numbers in the Executive Directors report.

Nominating

Charles Gable highlighted his written report. Motion was made by the Committee and approved by the Board to accept the nominations of Dr. Debbie Chance for MRSPA Vice President for 2020-2022 and Janet Williams for MRSPA Secretary for 2020-2021. Their names will appear on the ballot at the ABM in May 2020.

Public Relations

There was no written report. Anne Humphrey explained that the committee met on November 14th, after the deadline for report submission. She highlighted the work on advertising and improving the visibility of MRSPA that the committee is doing.

- Anne moved for the Committee that barriers to the MRSPA website be removed. After discussion, the Board approved the motion unanimously.
- Local association presidents will be asked at the March Presidents' meeting to include the MRSPA logo on their print and other media communications.
- Creating return address labels that include the MRSPA logo and new member addresses as a "thank you" gift in new member packets are being investigated.
- Anne stated that the committee would like to purchase 6 MRSPA banners, one for each area director to distribute within the area to the local for use at meetings, but that the committee budget will only allow for one or two this fiscal year. John Sisson moved and George Denny, Jr. seconded, that money be appropriated this fiscal year to purchase 6 MRSPA banners for this purpose. Discussion ensued about finding the money within the current budget versus taking from savings or the investment account. John Sisson offered an amended motion, seconded by Sally Smith, to transfer up to \$2,000 from the

Leadership Workshop line item to the Public Relations Committee for purchasing the 6 banners (one for each area). The amended motion passed, all in favor. The main motion also passed unanimously.

- Charlie Gable suggested that MRSPA consider purchasing 6 banners each year, until each local has one, so the area director doesn't have to manage the banners for the area.
- Steve Raucher suggested an incentive to locals to reimburse them for including the MRSPA logo on their print materials.
- The Committee will continue to work on these ideas and discuss the suggestions made by the Board members.

Scholarship

Tillie Barckley highlighted her written report.

Travel

There was no written report. Judy Reiff reviewed the success of the NYC trip and its impact on future trips. She shared the committee recommended trips for 2020-2021 (e.g. Greece, Canadian Maritime Provinces, Scotland, Santa Fe, Boston, Domestic Scenic Trains, and Portugal). Requests for proposals will be sent to travel companies this week. Information about how members using Grand Circle Travel for any travel arrangements will result in the member saving money and MRSPA earning money is included in the Winter edition of the *MRSPA News*.

Ad Hoc Committee on Non-Dues Revenue: Dr. Stephen Raucher highlighted his written report. Additional discussion ensued about other proposals outlined in his report.

- Motion was made by the Committee and approved by the Board for item #1
Recommendations to the Board: Solicit and sell ads in our newsletter (contingent on available space).
- Motion was made by the Committee and approved by the Board for items 2,4 and 5 of the Recommendations to the Board to solicit and sell ads in the Program or Memorial Booklet, vendor table spaces, and sponsorships at the ABM.

13. Other Reports

Retirement and Pension System Trustee

Ken Haines reported at the October Board of Trustees meeting, a 10-year process for self-management of our investments was approved and will result in a \$300 million dollars savings in fees. He also added that we will take a hit with investments due to national debt, yet our pension is still 72.5% funded and we are well on the way to full funding by 2039.

Newsletter Editor

Carla Duls announced that the deadline for submitting articles for the January 2020 issue of the *MRSPA News* is January 17, 2020. The electronic version of this current issue was sent last week and will be at the post office for mailing by week's end. The February issue is projected to be sent out Feb. 5th electronically and by the 19th via US Mail.

14. Unfinished Business:

Executive Director Evaluation: All Board members were asked to complete the Evaluation form in their folder and upon return, enjoy lunch.

15. New Business:

Budget Request for 2020-2021: Already discussed in Finance Committee Report.

16. Announcements: The Nominating Committee will be meeting after lunch in this room.

17. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharyn Doyle
MRSPA Secretary