

**Maryland Retired School Personnel Association**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**August 9, 2022 – Hybrid**

1. **Call to Order:** A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Carla Duls. The meeting was a hybrid (in-person/virtual) meeting. All in attendance stood for the pledge to the flag.
2. **Welcome and Introductions:** President Duls had all present introduce themselves and tell their position on the board. She shared the slogan for her term in office, and an activity she has asked locals to undertake.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Alicia Hardisky, seconded by Charles Gable, Jr., passed with all in favor.
4. **March 9, 2022, Minutes:** Motion to approve the March 9, 2022, Board meeting minutes as corrected by Dr. Stephen Raucher, seconded by Dr. Debbie Chance, passed with all in favor. The date of the September 2022 Meet & Greet will be corrected to September 8 from September 10.
5. **May 11, 2022, Annual Business Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting as presented by George Denny, Jr., seconded by Nancy Gordon passed with all in favor.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Dr. Stephen Raucher pointed out certain parts of the report; **(a)** page 1, line 29 – we had significant loss in the *MRSPA Fund* (7%), a drop of \$14,600 due to market fluctuation; **(b)** page 2- line 36 – we were short by \$77,000 than we had budgeted in total revenue **(c)** page 2-line 28 – investment revenue was down, **(d)** page 5 – line 6 - we ended up \$13,000 in revenue over expenses for the year because we didn't spend about \$90,000 as was budgeted in other areas. We are in good financial shape. The report will be filed for audit.
7. **President's Report:** Report in packet, nothing to add.
8. **Vice President's Report:** Report in packet, added that she was hitting the ground running attending meetings, etc.
9. **Executive Director's Report:** Report in packet.  
There was an addendum report outlining the process for Board communications with the MRSPA office. Some meetings will now be hybrid, so responses are more important than ever. The staff needs a prompt reply as to attendance and to know whether you will attend in person or virtually. The meeting calendar for the remainder of the year was on the back of the addendum. Board members were asked to add the meeting dates to their calendars.  
A new part time office assistant, Isabella Patriotis, has been hired. She is a recent Virginia Tech graduate and will be in the office two days a week. Isabella was introduced to the Board.
10. **Area Director's Reports**
  - Area 1 West:** Henrietta Lease – Not present.
  - Area 1 East:** Sally Smith – Frederick County had a "Happy Hour" event. They will be having another "Happy Hour" and a picnic in September. No word from her other locals yet.

**Area II North:** Charlie Gable, Jr. – Report in packet

**Area II South:** Brenda Barnes – Will be in Charles County in September.

**Area III North:** Betty Weller – Missed the June Kent County meeting; Queen Anne’s is meeting regularly; no word from her other locals yet.

**Area III South:** John Sisson – Met with his local presidents in June. Membership still a focus; some people still hesitant about coming out in groups; and they like having swag for distribution at meetings. Will be attending luncheons; working on membership.

## 11. Standing Committee Reports

**Bylaws:** Vacant – Carla asked Board members to send any recommendations for a committee chair to her.

**Community Service:** Kathy Campagnoli – Report in packet. New chair. Will meet soon to discuss mini grants. The committee met in June and voted to recommend to the Board that the *MRSPA Fund* be moved to the American Endowment Foundation. This will be discussed further in Unfinished Business.

**Consumer Education:** Phyllis Cherry – Will be meeting in September. Attended several webinars looking for information to share.

**Finance:** Alicia Hardisky - 2023 Budget was approved at the Annual Business Meeting. Alicia summarized the information shared by Richard Craft and Joe Barger of Academy Financial at the June committee meeting relative to the possible movement of our *MRSPA Fund* from the Community Foundation of Frederick County. They offered 2 options. The first was to create our own MRSPA 501(c)(3) foundation. The second was to use the online platform American Endowment Foundation (AEF). Alicia further explained the advantages of each and shared that the committee had voted to recommend that the Board of Directors move the *MRSPA Fund* to the AEF. There will be further discussion of this during Unfinished Business.

**Legislative:** Fred Evans - Legislature adjourned for year. Virtual committee meeting will be on August 16 to review the priorities for 2023.

**Member Benefits:** Alice Mitchell – Presented information on TruHearing as compared with Hear in America which is now one of our member benefits. Alice made a motion on behalf of her committee that MRSPA change our agreement with Hear in America to TruHearing. Discussion occurred as to how this would impact our agreement with AMBA. AMBA does not believe this to be a violation of our agreement and neither does our attorney. AMBA would invoke the clause that allows AMBA to offer hearing services to our members along with TruHearing services should we move to TruHearing from Hear in America. Motion by Dr. Steve Raucher, seconded by Charlie Gable, Jr., to table the vote and send back to committee until next meeting to allow investigation of whether TruHearing would accept having a competing service provider under the agreement.

**Membership:** Leslie Heiderman Schell – Will have a virtual Meet & Greet for new members early in September. President Duls will facilitate the website review during the meeting. The committee will meet in late September, and a joint local

chair and state committee meeting will occur in October. Leslie has been invited by President Duls to attend the NRTA conference in September in Washington, D.C. as it has a membership focused agenda.

**Nominating:** George Denny, Jr. - Will be seeking nominations for a president-elect and secretary. He asked Board members to send candidate suggestions to him. The committee will meet soon.

**Public Relations:** No report. Chair not present.

**Scholarship:** Dr. Debbie Chance - Convened a meeting on July 21; welcomed one new member. The next meeting will be August 23, 2022. The committee recommends to the Board that the *MRSPA Fund* be moved to the American Endowment Foundation. This will be discussed further in Unfinished Business.

**Travel:** Harold Siskind - Reported that he is exploring the idea of some day trips as decided by the committee after a survey of our members. The first trip is to the Harriet Tubman Museum on the Eastern Shore. One difficulty is finding places across the state that travelers can reach easily to catch the bus. Harold said that we would need at least 35 people to attend to make the trip financially feasible. Other possible bus trips will be to Longwood Gardens to see the holiday light show and a trip to Jamestown/Williamsburg in the spring.

## 12. Other Reports

**Retirement and Pension System Trustee:** Ken Haines – Earnings from last year were smoothed over several years which is helping in the downturn of the markets now. Also, the varied portfolio is working as planned in these difficult times. The pension system has about \$67 billion as of their last meeting.

**Newsletter Editor:** Debbie Hance – Thanked Carla for her assistance creating the summer edition of the *MRSPA News*. Carla thanked Debbie for stepping in sooner than she had anticipated and thanked her for the wonderful job on the newsletter. The next deadline is September 2, 2022.

## 13. Unfinished Business

### Tabled Board Resolution from March Meeting

President Duls referred to the gray sheet (Resolution) that was in the Board packet. She and the executive director summarized the investigation and discussion that has occurred since the March meeting as to what would be involved if we decided to withdraw the *MRSPA Fund* from the Community Foundation of Frederick (CFFC) and move it to another 501 (c)(3). Our agreement with the CFFC says we can move the money to an MRSPA created 501 (c)(3) and that it may take a year for the movement to occur. The Board was reminded that the Community Service, Finance, Scholarship, and Executive Committee's all recommend moving the *MRSPA Fund* from the CFFC to the American Endowment Foundation (AEF) as described by Richard Craft and Joe Barger of Academy Financial. Academy Financial would manage the AEF account. The committees are seeking greater flexibility in using the *Fund*, lower fees for managing the *Fund*, and less restrictions on fundraising.

Motion to move the *MRSPA Fund* from the CFFC to the AEF was made by Dr. Stephen Raucher, seconded by Alicia Hardisky. A friendly amendment was made

by George Denny, Jr., to authorize the executive director to take all actions necessary to facilitate the movement. The motion passed with all in favor.

**14. New Business:** There was no new business.

**15. Announcements:**

The following suggestions were made by President Duls:

- a. Always have your Leadership Handbook with you.
- b. Local membership and nominating committee chairs, local presidents and presidents-elect, and one other local leader will be invited to the Leadership Workshop on September 27, 2022. The focus will be member engagement and succession planning.
- c. Carla, Nancy, Leslie, and Wanda will attend the NRTA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Washington, DC., in September.
- d. President Duls wants to collect community service data from the locals and MRSPA to be used to increase membership. The compiled data could be included in a visual presentation at the ABM.
- e. Wanda is creating a COVID procedure for MRSPA meetings.
- f. The Annual Business Meeting will be May 9, 2023, in Hunt Valley/Cockeysville at Valley Mansion.
- g. The Leadership Workshop will be virtual. All Board members are invited and encouraged to attend.

**16. Adjournment:** The meeting was declared adjourned by the president at 12:05 p.m.

Recorded by Janet Williams  
Secretary