

Maryland Retired School Personnel Association
Board of Directors Meeting - Virtual
December 8, 2021 – Minutes

1. **Call to Order** – President Denny called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Wanda Twigg, Executive Director, recorded attendance.
2. **Welcome & Introductions** – President Denny welcomed all present and thanked them for attending the meeting. He reported on some of his visits to the locals. A quorum was declared.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – The president called for approval of the agenda. Motion to accept as printed was made by Nancy Gordon; seconded by Charlie Gable, Jr. The motion carried with all in favor.
4. **Minutes of August 11, 2021, Board Meeting** – Motion to accept the minutes made by Dr. Debbie Chance, seconded by Alicia Hardisky. The minutes were unanimously accepted as printed.
5. **Treasurer’s Report** – The report had been mailed prior to the meeting. Dr. Stephen Raucher, treasurer, reported that the financial situation is good. Steve reviewed some areas. The lack of mileage and in-person committee meetings and strong stock market has helped the bottom line. Total assets are reported at \$1,161,484.05. Dr. Debbie Chance asked about the \$3,500 predicted for travel commissions. It was explained that no commission money had been received yet this year for the few members who had traveled, but that staff has contacted the companies requesting payment. Wanda reported that \$200 will be refunded from state tax that was being held out for commission taxes. The Treasurer’s Report will be filed for audit.
6. **President’s Report** – Report in the packet. George directed attention to the final paragraph where he commended the Executive Director and the office staff for the great job, they have been doing during the less than desirable situation of the past two years. He also commended the committees for their work. Visited Charles County for their mini-grant presentation.
7. **Vice President’s Report** – Report in packet. Debbie reported visiting Caroline County Career & Technology Center on December 2 to present the mini grant to cosmetology teacher, Kristi Hall, for the “Color Me Appreciated” project. George thanked Debbie for taking on additional responsibilities for MRSPA.
8. **President-Elect’s Report** – Report in packet. Did not attend November 15th Community Foundation of Frederick County meeting as stated on her written report.
9. **Executive Director’s Report** – Report in packet. From the summer membership mailing we got 156 new members. This is the highest number of new members received from this mailing in recent years. The Fall mailing brought in 35 new members so far. We lost 101 members through death since July 1; cancelled 348 non-paying cash members; 31 of those have been reinstated.
There was a meeting with Wanda and the bookkeeper regarding bookkeeping cost increases. The original cost was calculated on thirteen hours a month, but it has turned out to be twenty-nine hours per month. Increase will be phased in over the remainder of this fiscal year.
Wanda was approached by Virginia Crespo regarding a possible new agreement for her legislative aide position. She would like us to consider making her a paid part-time staff member as she must pay increased taxes, etc. If she were a staff member, MRSPA would pay certain items. Either way additional monies will have to be paid and our end would increase to about \$9,700. There is nothing in our procedures manual that refers to this type of situation. No vote was taken as no one proposed a motion.
The \$7,000 postage for the mailing of the membership cards will show up on next month’s report.

10. Area Directors Reports

Area I West – Henrietta Lease – Nothing to add to packet report.

Area I East – Sally Smith – Nothing to add to packet report.

Area II North – Charlie Gable, Jr. – Nothing to add to packet report.

Area II South – Brenda Barnes – Visited St. Mary's County again on Tuesday. Shared success of the Charles County golf tournament fundraiser for scholarships.

Area III North – Betty Weller – Visited Queen Anne's County in October; they decorated pumpkins to donate to nursing homes or assisted living facilities. Visited Kent County last week; they raffled gift baskets to raise money for scholarships.

Area III South – John Sisson – Wicomico resumed in person meetings. Worchester will resume next week.

11. Standing Committee Reports

Bylaws – Frances "Fay" Miller – Nothing to add to written report.

Community Service – Trish Bendler – Met and decided on mini-grant winners. Will meet in April to discuss and decide Community Service Award winners.

Consumer Education – Phyllis Cherry – (absent) Written report provided.

Finance – Alicia Hardisky – Audit clear. Will meet January 12, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. to look at proposed budget. Will present at the Executive Committee meeting the same day.

Legislative – Fred Evans – Legislative session will begin January 12. Hoped all received the new brochure. The Legislative Workshop will be held at Walden Country Club on January 26, 2022, in-person, if Covid numbers don't worsen. Board members asked staff to investigate possibility of a hybrid/virtual option for the workshop. Inclement weather date for the workshop is February 2. Inclement weather event will be virtual.

Member Benefits – Alice Mitchell – Cancelled second committee meeting earlier in the fall. Receiving lots of information from AMBA.

Membership – Leslie Heiderman Schell – Leslie reported on the success of the joint meeting of the local membership chairs and the local presidents. Locals reported on successes; joint meetings will continue every six months. Second new member Meet and Greet will be held virtually on January 27, 2022.

Nominating – Dr. Debbie Chance – Nancy Gordon, Frederick County is nominated for Vice President. Janet Williams, Baltimore City is nominated for Secretary. Richard McNeal, Queen Anne's County is nominated for non-board member on the Nominating Committee. Motion by the committee to accept the slate as presented was approved with all in favor.

Public Relations – Anne Humphrey – Met on November 11, 2021. Discussed possible development of a job board on the MRSPA website but decided to keep the current practice in place. The PR section of the Resource Manual doesn't require updating now.

Scholarships – Nancy Gordon – Due to the investment return increase this year, four \$2,000 scholarships will be presented in 2022. There might be an increase in the number of mini grants in the future. Due to the cost of shipping, winners of raffle baskets will receive gift cards (not the contents of the basket) if they live outside of Maryland. Dr. Raucher asked if we should have a copy of the Community Foundation of Frederick County audit to keep with our own since they house and manage our *MRSPA Fund*. The Finance Committee Chair and staff will investigate this.

Travel – Dr. Debbie Chance – Committee met on November 23, 2021. Judy Reiff agreed to resume being Chair of the committee for a year and half. Janet Williams will shadow her to perhaps assume chair position when her term as secretary is completed. The 2023 trip list was developed.

12. Other Reports

Retirement and Pension System Trustee – Ken Haines – The year was a good one with a 27% return which will be spread out over the next five years. Portfolios working well. The system is 78% funded. Wanda asked when we might see 100% funding. May get to 80% by 2023; 100% possibly by 2039. A question about asking for a supplemental payment to the system from the budget surplus was raised. Staff will work with the legislative aide and committee chair on this idea.

Newsletter – Dr. Russell Wright – Should have thought better about the transition prior to accepting the task. Thankful for the support.

13. Unfinished Business – None

14. New Business – None

15. Announcements

- A. Executive Committee and Finance Committee meetings will be in person/hybrid on January 12, 2022, if Covid numbers don't increase.
- B. Budget requests needed ASAP.
- C. Door Prizes – #1 – Henrietta Lease, #2- John Sisson.

16. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

**Recorded by Janet K. Williams,
Secretary**