

**Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, Inc.**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Hybrid**  
**December 6, 2022**

1. **Call to Order:** A quorum being present, the hybrid meeting was called to order by President Carla Duls at 10:01 a.m. Attendees on Zoom and in the Odenton office recited the Pledge to the Flag.
2. **Welcome and Introductions:** All were welcomed. Members in the office and on Zoom introduced themselves and stated their positions in the organization.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to accept the agenda by George Denny, Jr., seconded by Dr. Stephen Raucher carried with all in favor.
4. **Minutes from August 9, 2022, Board Meeting:** Motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Dr. Debbie Chance, seconded by Leslie Heiderman Schell passed with all in favor. The spelling of Steven will be corrected to Stephen in several places on the minutes. Additionally, the minutes will be corrected to reflect that a quorum was present.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Dr. Stephen Raucher reported that we had successfully moved our *MRSPA Foundation Fund* account from the Community Foundation of Frederick County to the American Endowment Foundation. We collected 92.2% of our budgeted dues (\$502,000). See line 8 on page 2. He referred to line 22 on page 5 indicating that our expenses were down due to covid. The report was paraphrased rather than reviewed line by line. The report will be filed for audit.
6. **President's Report:** Report in packet. President Duls remarked at the great camaraderie she experiences as she visits local associations.
7. **Vice President's Report:** Report in packet. Nancy Gordon agreed with President Duls that the locals are enjoying being back together. She also appreciates the work of the committees, and she is encouraging members to join a committee.
8. **Executive Director's Report:** Report in packet. Wanda Twigg added some membership numbers from 2022 that reflect our decreasing membership. There were 515 total new memberships with a total loss of 560 to death and cancellation. 11, 342 members renewed with 798 Emeritus members. Total new members so far for 2023 is 294. George Denny, Jr. shared the recent passing of Dr. Norma Martof one of our very active committee members. Janet Williams asked if it was time once again to consider asking future Emeritus members to continue paying dues to offset some of our declining dues income. Dr. Raucher shared his recollection of the contentious discussion of this idea at an ABM a few years ago when the idea was voted down. He questioned whether Emeritus members generally prefer a paper or electronic newsletter.

**9. Area Director Reports:**

**Area I West** – Henrietta Lease – No report. Traveling.

**Area I East** – Sally Smith – Report in packet. Was able to visit and have lunch with Carroll and Frederick Counties. Attended Montgomery County Board Meeting, too. Echoed that feelings are high as people visit again.

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

**Area II South** – Brenda Barnes – Report in packet. Been a busy month traveling to three local meetings.

**Area III North** – Betty Weller – Oral report. Visited Queen Anne’s County. Hoping to visit other locals in the New Year.

**Area III South** – John Sisson – Oral report. All of his area locals have resumed in person meetings and community service projects. President Duls thanked the area directors for all they do.

**10. Standing Committee Reports:**

**Bylaws** – Vacant – No meeting this year. George Denny, Jr., asked if anyone knew why the term of secretary is one year. Staff will investigate.

**Community Service** – Kathy Campagnoli – Report in packet. Shared the names and titles of the 6 mini-grant winners. Explained that the selected winner from Area III North had already been awarded a grant from Cecil County so the second choice was awarded MRSPA mini-grant. The committee received many wonderful applications that show the clear need for support of the projects/teachers/schools. Motion by Kathy on behalf of the committee for a one-time request to fund 6 additional \$300 mini-grants from the *MRSPA Foundation Fund* for 2023. Harold questioned if there was a stipulation on spending. There is no restriction on the *Fund*. Debbie spoke on behalf of the scholarship committee to accept the request. Alicia indicated that the finance committee could handle the request. The motion carried unanimously. Staff will inform the second round of winners and initiate payment from the *MRSPA Foundation Fund*.

**Consumer Education** – Phyllis Cherry – Report in packet. The committee met last week and are planning for the Annual Business Meeting. One new member has joined the committee. Looking to provide more contact agencies helpful to seniors. They plan to host two webinars, the first on December 8 called *Protecting Your Nest Egg*, sponsored by AMBA. The second will be on January 18 called *Navigating Senior Care Options* sponsored by Oasis Senior Advisors.

**Finance Committee** – Alicia Hardisky – Report in packet. The committee will be meeting in January, so they will need a budget request from the Board members. The 2021-2022 audit is not yet completed because of some personal issues affecting our auditors. We expect the audit to be finalized early in 2023. Alicia expressed appreciation that the new endowment fund is set up.

**Introduction of Candidate for MSRA Trustee** – Without objection, President Duls introduced Ayana English-Brown of Prince George’s County who is running for the retired teacher trustee position on the pension Board next year. Ms. English-Brown addressed the Board sharing information about her career and why she wishes to become the retired teacher trustee. Motion by Brenda Barnes, seconded by George Denny, Jr. to support Ms. English-Brown's nomination as retired teacher trustee to MSRA. The motion passed with all in favor. Staff will inform Ms. English-Brown of our support.

**Legislative Committee** – Fred Evans – Oral report. The 2023 legislative session begins January 11 and will run until April 10th. The Legislative Workshop will be held January 31, 2023 at the Comfort Inn in Bowie. It will be a hybrid meeting. Virginia Crespo, Legislative Aide, reported that there are 50+, new members of the legislature this year and spoke of the historic nature of the incoming state leadership. Bills can be pre-filed and reviewed online. The committee met and reviewed our priorities this summer. Separated the priorities from their rationales on the brochure. Trying to get people from the new administration for the workshop in January.

**Member Benefits** – Vacant – No report. President Duls asked for suggestions for chair of the committee.

**Membership** – Leslie Heiderman Schell – Report in packet. Leslie elaborated on the “Meet & Greet” virtual meetings held this year and their value. There were also joint meetings of the local leadership/membership chairs and the MRSPA Membership Committee. Participants share things being done by locals to increase membership, concerns, and best practices. Leslie encouraged everyone to review the succession planning portion of the Leadership Workshop on the MRSPA website.

**Nominating** – George Denny, Jr. - Report in packet. Election will be held at the Annual Business Meeting. Motion by George on behalf of the committee to accept the following slate carried with all in favor. The slate is Dr. Bill Brose and Betty Weller for President- elect, Sharyn Doyle – Secretary, Non-Board members of the Nominating Committee – Lorraine Johnson and Richard McNeal.

**Public Relations** – Anne Humphrey - No report. Have not met. Chair attending local meeting today.

**Scholarship** – Dr. Debbie Chance – Report in packet. Thanked Wanda for getting the *MRSPA Foundation Fund* set-up successfully and thanked staff for creating and setting up the MRSPA Scholarship Application on-line on our website for this year.

**Travel** – Harold Siskind – Report in packet. The trip to Iceland is filling up. The effort at a day trip to the Harriet Tubman failed, but the day trip to Winterthur and Longwood Gardens sold out and will travel on December 9.

**11. Other Reports:**

**Retirement & Pension System Trustee** – Ken Haines – Oral report. Shared that everything is fine at the pension system. Andrew Palmer is nominated for a national award for his investment strategy and work to stabilize our system. Ken thanked everyone for their support during his tenure as trustee.

**Newsletter Editor** – Debbie Hance – Oral report. Next deadline is January 13, 2023.

**12. Unfinished Business** – Alice Mitchell, chair of the MRSPA Member Benefits Committee resigned suddenly this fall. At the August Board meeting, Ms. Mitchell brought a motion from her committee that was tabled by the Board so more information could be garnered. The August motion concerned changing from an agreement with Hear in America to TruHearing. George Denny, Jr., moved, and Dr. Stephen Raucher seconded a motion to take the motion off the table for further discussion. The motion passed with all in favor. The executive director shared the information learned in follow-up with TruHearing. Following further discussion, the Board voted on the original motion to change our agreement from Hear in America to TruHearing. The motion passed with all in favor. Staff will inform TruHearing and work toward setting up the new agreement with TruHearing.

**13. New Business** – Dr. Debbie Chance asked for information to assist her in completing her budget request form. Legislative Aide, Virginia Crespo addressed the Board asking to become an MRSPA staff person rather than a contractor because of tax implications to her. Dr. Raucher suggested we research an honorarium for Virginia. Staff will investigate and keep the president, treasurer and finance committee chair informed.

**14. Announcements** – Budget requests are due before the winter holiday break; Board members were asked to complete executive director evaluations and return them to President Duls; Day of Giving Food Bank donations totaled \$1,573 from 25 donors; *MRSPA Foundation Fund* raffle is ongoing, support requested; Board members were asked that when they RSVP to a meeting that they remember to say if attending in person or virtually; webinars on Dec. 8 and Jan. 18, support encouraged; if inclement weather on day of January Executive Committee meeting, the meeting will occur virtually only; MRSPA & Locals Care; President Duls initiative to showcase our work in the community

**15. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned without objection by President Duls at 12:07 p.m.

Recorded,

Janet Williams, Secretary