Maryland Retired School Personnel Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 4, 2020

1. **Call to Order:** A quorum being present, President Ann Marie Downey called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. **Welcome and Introductions:** Ann Marie welcomed everyone. Members present introduced themselves and their position held.

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

4. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as printed with flexibility.

5. **Minutes from the December 4, 2019 Board Meeting:** The minutes of the December 4, 2019 Board Meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by George Denny, Jr., seconded by Harold Siskind.

6. **Treasurer’s Report:** Presented after the Area Directors’ Reports: 
   Alicia Hardisky, Treasurer, reviewed two reports summarizing fiscal matters as of February 29, 2020: *Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets* along with *Statement of Expenses*. (Refer to pages 10-14 of the Board packet). Alicia shared highlights from her reports.
   Page 10: Line 4: Checkbook Balance: $215,086.10  
   : Line 11: Total Assets: $782,359.88, an increase of $85,000 from last year at this time. 
   Page 11: Lines 4-8: Membership Dues $559,766.00, also higher than last year at this time.  
   : Line 11: Travel Commissions $4080.00 more was earned than projected. 
   : Line 14: Annual Meeting Revenue less than projected at this time
   Page 12: Expenses are similar to last year’s and as projected  
   : Line 26: Abenity will not show up anymore. Contract expired and will not be renewed  
   Page 13: Line 7: Annual Business Meeting. We will probably use it all, prices have increased.  
   : Lines 22 and 31: Equipment and Computer needs arose and aren’t expected to repeat next year. Wanda provided additional information on these line items also.
   Page 14: Bank charges were reviewed as suggested last month, resulting in decreased service costs and fees

7. **President’s Report:** Ann Marie expressed her appreciation of the Board Members and the staff’s support during her tenure as President. This is the last regular Board meeting over which she is presiding as President.

8. **Executive Director’s Report:** Executive Director, Wanda Ruffo Twigg, shared highlights from her written report. Discussion ensued about the need for a new office credit card as the current ones are due to expire. The bank has requested written documentation via the minutes from a Board meeting authorizing a new credit card for MRSPA use. Dr. Stephen Raucher moved that the Board of Directors authorize acquiring a new MRSPA credit card. Harold Siskind seconded the motion. Vote was taken and unanimously approved. Wanda also shared the precautions being taken in the office to prevent the spread of flu and other viruses.

9. **Vice President’s Report:** A written report was earlier submitted by Vice President Charles Gable and he reported no additional comments.
10. President-Elect’s Report: A written report was earlier submitted by President-Elect George Denny, Jr. He reported there were no additional comments.

11. Area Directors’ Reports:

   **Area I West:** A written report was earlier submitted by Henrietta Lease and she reported there were no additional comments.

   **Area I East:** A written report was earlier submitted by Sally Smith and she reported there were no additional comments.

   **Area II North:** A written report was earlier submitted by Janet Williams and she reported there were no additional comments.

   **Area II South:** A written report was earlier submitted by Brenda Barnes and she reported there were no additional comments.

   **Area III North:** A written report was earlier submitted by Dr. Debbie Chance who was absent and no additional comments were reported.

   **Area III South:** A written report was earlier submitted by Bev Yurek. She also commented on these items:
   - Wicomico County borrowed the MRSPA banner, trifold, etc. for their recent Members’ Luncheon and this resulted in more information being shared about MRSPA than ever before.
   - 3 LEAs use “Education” in their organization’s name. Bev raised the concern that support staff may assume they are not welcome as members, as a result. She has addressed this with Wicomico and Dorchester and will with Washington County LEAs.

   **Treasurer’s Report** was now presented. Refer to item #6.

12. Standing Committee Reports

   **Bylaws**
   There were no items for discussion. Chair Jay Stevens was absent.

   **Community Service**
   A written report was earlier submitted by Trish Bendler highlighting the success of the mini-grants program. Trish also mentioned that the agreement with the Community Foundation of Frederick County, that manages the MRSPA Fund, has been amended to allow monies to be used for mini-grant purposes, if funds are available. Donations for mini-grants to the Fund will also be tax deductible if made directly to the CFFC. Wanda also mentioned the need for more Community Service nominations from the local organizations, due March 20th.

   **Consumer Education**
   A written report was earlier submitted by John Sisson. John was absent.

   **Finance**
   A written report was earlier submitted by Dr. Stephen Raucher. He highlighted his written report, stressing the fact that the Proposed 2020-2021 Budget was developed using a very conservative approach and based on the current number of members and not projected numbers of
members. **The Committee brought forth the motion to present this Proposed 2020-2021 Budget at the annual May Annual Business Meeting. All Board members were in favor.**

**Legislative**

A written report was earlier submitted by Legislative Committee Chair Fred Evans. Fred was absent. Wanda reported several items:

- The Legislative Committee voted to support of HB1300/SB1000: Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. The letters of support are in the Board packet.
- Lobby Day is tomorrow March 5th with 15 are attending from 6 locals.
- The Legislative Committee also requested the Board approve a letter to be sent to United Seniors of MD (USM) about disassociating ourselves with them until they are in full compliance with taxes and other organizational compliance issues. Sally Smith made a motion that a letter be written to USM about our disassociation with this organization at this time. Charlie Gable seconded the motion. Vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Member Benefits**

A written report was earlier submitted by Harold Siskind. He highlighted the following items:

- The Committee moved approval of adding Kriste Kidd, an Oasis Senior Living Community Advisor, as an MRSPA Member Benefit Provider. The motion was unanimously approved.
- This Committee moved, in conjunction with the Membership Committee and the Public Relations Committee, that a new agreement with Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) be investigated, in an effort to assist with recruitment and retention of members and publicity of MRSPA. Board members agreed that the Executive Director, in consultation with the three committee representatives and other leaders will negotiate with AMBA for additional products and services.” There will be no commitments made until further review by the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

**Membership**

A written report was earlier submitted by Ruth Clendaniel. Ruth was absent. Adding to the written committee report, Bev Yurek moved for the committee, that MRSPA prorate membership dues for anyone joining between March 1 and June 30th at $10. Discussion ensued and George Denny, Jr. called the motion into question. Vote was taken and majority favored implementation with 2 nay votes. This will take effect in the 2020-2021 membership and fiscal year.

**Nominating Committee:** A written report was earlier submitted by Charlie Gable, Vice President. Charlie shared the names of the two Non-Board member candidates for the Nominating Committee that will be voted on at the ABM. They are Joyce Cummings of Baltimore County and Sharyn Doyle of Anne Arundel County.

**Public Relations**

A written report was earlier submitted by Anne Humphrey. Wanda shared that the MRSPA pop-up banners are here and available for Area Directors to take back to their areas today.

**Scholarship**

A written report was earlier submitted by Tillie Barckley. She highlighted the increase in scholarship applications to 99, 13 more than last year. Applicants ranged from those wishing to
obtain teacher certification through those hoping to obtain their Doctorate degree. Dr. Raucher suggested we investigate using the principal of the MRSPA Fund to possibly award more than three $2,000 scholarships in future years. Staff will do this and report back to the Committee and Board.

**Travel**
Judy Reiff commented there was no written report and she discussed these items:
- The partnership with Grand Circle has proven to be successful.
- She questioned whether AMBA offers travel services, thinking this may be a good option to investigate for the future.
- Several locals have disbanded their travel committees due to lack of participation.
- At this time no one has volunteered to serve in her place. The committee will be meeting on the 16th of this month to decide on the 2020-2021 MRSPA trips and the future vacancy will be discussed again.

**Ad Hoc Committee on Non-Dues Revenue:** A written report was earlier submitted by Dr. Stephen Raucher. He highlighted the current success of earning $2400 for the MRSPA advertising project for the Annual Meeting and the MRSPA newsletter.

13. **Other Reports**

**Retirement and Pension System Trustee**
Ken Haines reported a loss with the 12.5% drop in the stock market and the lowering of the interest rates again. The next meeting of the trustees is on March 17th and it will be an interesting one.

**Newsletter Editor**
Carla Duls announced that the deadline for submitting articles for the Spring 2020 issue of the MRSPA News was Monday. It will be sent electronically to members, and it will be sent to the printer on March 18th and mailed out when completed.

14. **Unfinished Business:** None

15. **New Business:** None

16. **Announcements:** Reminders: 1. Estate Planning Session will be held here at MRSPA on March 18th at 10 a.m. with 37 signed up already. 2. Remember to reserve your place at the Annual Business Meeting at Camelot in Upper Marlboro. All reports are due on March 6th for the Annual Business Meeting book.

17. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharyn Doyle
MRSPA Secretary