

**MARYLAND RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 9, 2020**

ATTENDANCE: A. Humphrey, G. Sparks, Jr., K. Haines, T. Bendler, L. Heiderman Schell, H. Lease, S. Smith, C. Gable, Jr., D. Chance, J. Sisson, A.M. Downey, M. Barckley, F. Miller, S. Raucher, A. Mitchell, F. Evans, B. Weller, B. Barnes, G. Denny, Jr., (President), W. Twigg (Executive Director), A. Hardisky, C. Duls, V. Crespo, J. Williams

GUESTS: J. Lotz, C. Boehme, Blaney Teal of VIV AutoPilot Program

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by President George Denny. There was a quorum present.
2. Welcome was extended to all by the president; invited guests were introduced.
3. **Agenda** – The Agenda was approved as presented with a motion by Fred Evans, seconded by Trish Bendler with all in favor.
4. Minutes of the August 12, 2020 Board meeting were approved without objection.
5. **Presentation: AutoPilot** – Jerry Lots and Cami Boehme, of VIV, presented a plan their company developed as a possible member benefit. The gist of the plan is that VIV consults with clients to determine their utility companies. VIV negotiates with the companies to lower the amount the client currently pays monthly. VIV in turn is compensated by collecting 50% of what the client saves. The presentation was followed by a question/answer session. It was decided not to go further with VIV.
6. **Treasurer's Report** – Alicia Hardisky reviewed the October 31, 2020 report. The report will be filed for audit.

Attention was directed to Line 4 – Checkbook Balance - \$413,625.55 – down a bit due to paying bills and reduction in memberships.

Page 1, line 34 – Retiree Health Trust – Used to pay our share of retiree plan.

Page 2, line 5 – Membership dues down, due to non-renewals of cash paying members and deaths.

Page 3, line 16 – Expenses – Officer expenses stable as due to pandemic little to no travel taking place.

Page 3, line 33 – Committee expenses mostly due to increase in mailings. Both blind recruitment mailings have been completed for the fiscal year.

Discussion: Wanda reported hiring of a part-time bookkeeper (Angela Larkin) to partially replace the OM who resigned in October. The cost for the bookkeeper is \$650 per month. The matter of insurance or bonding for the bookkeeper needs to be addressed. The Bookkeeper does not currently have insurance and is not bonded because of the cost. Alicia Hardisky and George Denny suggested that MRSPA assist in paying for the bookkeeper to be bonded and have liability insurance, since we want her to have it to protect MRSPA. Fay Miller asked if we would pay the entire cost. There was discussion if the previous person who performed the same duties was insured and/or bonded. She was not. Alicia Hardisky moved, and Dr. Steve Raucher, seconded, that MRSPA pay for liability insurance and bonding for Angela Larkin for 2021 not to exceed \$1,000. Motion carried with all in favor. Dr. Raucher brought up possibly moving some money from our money market account to our investment account to try to earn some returns while the market is doing well. Discussion ensued. It was decided by consensus that Dr. Raucher and Alicia Hardisky could work out the logistics of the movement between them.

7. **President's Report** – Nothing new to be added. George recognized Wanda and office staff are working under very difficult circumstances and thanked them for a job well done. We still need a chair for the Travel Committee and an Area III South Director. Dr. Debbie Chance offered to help in that area.
8. **Executive Director's Report** – Sees various staff intermittently since everyone is working between home and the office. Discussed the issue of health insurance or hiring part time staff. Hired Angela Larkin. Will review resumes to see if some of the non-bookkeeping duties handled by the former Office Manager can be picked up by other staff members. The lease has been renewed for another five years. The kitchenette installation is being worked on and should be completed over the winter break. There was been a decline in membership over 400 cash paying members did not renew again.
9. **Vice President's Report** – attended a number of Zoom committee meetings. Glad for the opportunity to attend committee meetings. Attended Andrus Awards in November via Zoom.
 - Diversity Work Group Report** – explained how work group came together and subsequently came up with the statement being presented for acceptance. The statement was accepted unanimously as moved by the Work Group.

“We, as the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, are evolving to reflect goals and aspirations of a contemporary organization. Through our shared values, we create an environment where all members are included, respected, and appreciated.”

Tillie Barckley, Janet Williams, and Fred Evans shared brief personal remarks about the Work Group and statement.
10. **Area Director Reports**
 - Area I West** (Henrietta Lease) – Nothing to add, Washington County meeting virtually.
 - Area I East** (Sally Smith) – Nothing to add; Howard and Frederick meeting virtually.
 - Area II North** (Charlie Gable, Jr.) – Getting newsletters from his area locals; has made contact with all his area local presidents.
 - Area II South** (Brenda Barnes) – Getting commitments for virtual meeting attendance.
 - Area III North** (Betty Weller) -Nothing to add.
 - Area III South** (vacant)
11. **Standing Committee Reports:**
 - Bylaws** (Frances “Fay” Miller) – agreed to become chair after passing of Chair, Jay Stevens. Fay moved on behalf of the Committee that proposed Bylaw Amendment Article IX Board of Directors, Section 3 (New) Emergency Powers be forwarded to the Annual Business Meeting for action by the membership. The motion passed with all in favor. The amendment is as follows.

“During a national or state emergency as declared by the appropriate federal or state authority that prohibits or otherwise prevents in person meetings, all functions of the Annual Business Meeting as specified in Article XI, Section 1, c of these Bylaws shall be temporarily assumed by the Board of Directors.”
 - Community Service** (Trish Bendler) Mini-Grant winners were selected by the committee in November. 58 applications were submitted from 15 school systems. The winners are as follows.
 - Area I West – Garrett County** – Southern High School, Bethany Meyers – “Hydroponic System”
 - Area I East – Carroll County** – Gateway School & Crossroads Middle, David Herman “Remembrance & Meditation Garden”

Area II North – Anne Arundel County – Lakeshore Elementary School, Alexis Haab “Hands on Learning”

Area II South – St. Mary’s County – Greenview Knolls Elementary – Jennifer Brodfuehrer, “Shark Week: Investigate and Dissect”

Area III North – Kent County – Kent County Middle – Patrick Stalter “Creating and Performing with Ukuleles”

Area III South – Wicomico County – Delmar Elementary, Stephanie Rush “All County Elementary School Choir”

Consumer Education (John Sisson) – The committee is sponsoring a webinar on preventing scams and fraud on January 6, 2021. It will be presented by a representative of the Maryland AG’s office.

Finance (Dr. Stephen Raucher) – Market doing well, recovered most of April loss. Audit was completed, met with auditor, our books are in order. Motion to accept auditors report carried with all in favor.

Legislative (Fred Evans) – Met in August to review priorities for 2021, couple new priorities were added, a new brochure was created, virtual workshop will be held January 26, 2021. Thanked committee members.

Member Benefits (Alice Mitchell) – No additions. Shared her experience with Covid-19.

Membership (Leslie Heiderman Schell) – Met several times, working with AMBA on an agreement to increase membership in MRSPA. AMBA agreement to begin January 2021. Since 200-300 net members are lost each year due to non-renewal and death, we need to try something new. Satisfied with proposed AMBA agreement. AMBA makes their money from the number of new members they get for us who purchase their products and services. Ann Marie Downey stated that we have been going around with the pro’s or con’s of this possible agreement for over a year and we need to say yes or no. AMBA has been very accommodating with the changes we have asked for over time. Steve Raucher had other comments. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Leslie moved (on behalf of the Membership, Member Benefits, and Public Relations Committees) to accept the AMBA agreement as edited to begin in 2021. The motion passed with all in favor. A potential virtual meeting will be held with Wanda, Carla, Steve, Ann Marie, Debbie, George, Alice, Anne, and Leslie to discuss any changes that are made to the agreement following further talks between Wanda and AMBA. Wanda will need time to work with AMBA to address the concerns brought forth today.

Nominating (Ann Marie Downey) – The committee met several times and today present the following slate of officers for approval: Treasurer – Dr. Stephen Raucher, Secretary – Janet Williams, President-Elect – Carla Duls. Ann Marie noted that Alicia Hardisky agreed to serve as Finance Committee Chair and a new newsletter editor will need to be found.

Public Relations (Anne Humphrey) – No report

Scholarship (Matilda “Tillie” Barckley) – Will present three \$2,000.00 scholarships. Raffle coming along well. \$2,030 collected as of 12/03, scholarship applications due by January 31, 2021.

Travel (vacant) – seeking chair. Judy Reiff will assist in making contacts for trips. Trips scheduled for 2020 that were cancelled will be rescheduled for 2021 or 2022 as the companies have availability. Four domestic trips will be offered for 2022 – Mackinac Island, Nashville, Philadelphia and Broadway. Meeting scheduled for March 4, 2021.

The agreement between Grand Circle Travel and MRSPA is finalized and will be presented to the Executive Committee in January for approval.

12. **Other Reports**

Retirement and Pension System Trustee (Ken Haines) – Dean Kenderdine is retiring at the end of the fiscal year. Statute prevents Ken from lobbying on pension related issues. There will be no return to double digit increases from investment returns.

Combined with the economics of the pandemic, not looking forward to usual State contribution to pension fund. MRSPA will need to pay close attention that the contributions are made to the pension system and lobby to ensure they are made.

Newsletter Editor (Carla Duls) – Deadline for next edition is January 15th.

13. **Unfinished Business** – None

14. **Announcements**

1. Please return budget requests and travel reports (green sheets) to Wanda.
2. Several speakers lined up for January 26 Legislative Workshop. Information will be in future memos. Plans still in the works.
3. Board members were reminded of the raffle drive being conducted for the MRSPA Fund and were asked to participate if they had not already.
4. Janet Williams, Charlie Gable and Alice Mitchell won door prizes.

15. **Adjournment** – 1:08 PM on a motion by Ken Haines.

Recorded

Janet Williams, Secretary