

Maryland Retired School Personnel Association
Board of Directors Minutes
Hybrid
March 11, 2025

Members Present: Betty Weller, President; Carla Duls, Immediate Past President/Nominating Chair; Tillie Barckley, Vice President; George Sparks, Jr., Parliamentarian; Wanda Twigg, Executive Director; Sally Smith, Area I East Director; Nancy Gordon, Area II North Director; Dr. John Bowman, Bylaws Chair; Kathy Campagnoli, Community Service Chair; Christina Doucette, Area I West Director; Alicia Hardisky, Finance Chair; Leslie Heiderman Schell, Member Benefits Chair; Phyllis Cherry, Consumer Education Chair; Ayana English- Brown, MSRPS Trustee; Virginia Crespo, Legislative Aide Deb Ahalt, Public Relations Chair; Harold Siskind, Travel Chair; Debbie Hance, Newsletter Editor; and Sharyn Doyle, Secretary

Members Absent: Dr. Steve Raucher, Treasurer; Mary Holden, Membership Chair; Tom Slater, Legislative Chair; John Sisson, Area III South Director; Dr. Carroll Visintainer, Scholarship Chair; Dr. Debbie Chance, Area III North Director

1. Call to Order: A quorum being present, President Weller called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions: Everyone was welcomed and introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Leslie Heiderman Schell and seconded by Alicia Hardisky to approve the agenda with flexibility. The agenda was approved without objection.

4. AMBA Presentation: Garrett Mowery presented an overview of AMBA. Highlighted areas included *Resetting Your Marketing Perspective, Social media Advertising, Important –Useful Benefits, My AMBA Discounts, etc.*

5. Minutes from the December 10th Board Meeting: A motion was made by Nancy Gordon and seconded by Harold Siskind to accept the minutes as written. Vote was taken and the minutes were approved as written with all in favor.

6. Treasurer's Report: Dr. Steven Raucher was absent. Alicia referred to the Treasurer's Report dated 02/28/2025 and highlighted the following:

Page 1: Lines 2, 3 and 7: Total Assets of \$1,192,700.51

Page 1: Lines 22-40: Foundation Total Assets of \$194,774.54

Page 2: Line 4: We hope to bring in \$8473. in revenue during the remainder of this FY.

Page 2: Lines 7 & 10: Revenue may continue to grow during the remainder of this FY.

Page 3: Line 34: Over half of the FY has passed and the balance for our committees is high.

Page 5: Line 23: There is \$253,882. revenue over expenses and we are more than halfway through the FY. Conclusion: We are doing well.

There were no questions, and the report was filed for audit.

7. President's Report: Betty Weller reported she is slowly visiting the various associations and referred to her written report.

8. Vice-President's Report: Tillie Barckley referred to her written report. She had no additional comments.

9. IPP Report: Carla Duls, Past President, referred to her written report. She had no additional comments.

10. Executive Director's Report: Wanda Twigg referred to her written report. She had no additional comments.

11. Area Director Reports:

- *Area I West:* Christina Doucette reported she recently visited Allegany County to award one of the MRSPA Foundation grants. No report was submitted prior to the meeting.
- *Area I East:* Sally Smith referred to her written report. She had no additional comments.
- *Area II North:* Nancy Gordon reported she assumed this role temporarily in late January and has contacted all 4 Associations and has several luncheons scheduled for April and May. No report was submitted prior to the meeting.
- *Area II South:* Vacant
- *Area III North:* Dr. Debbie Chance was absent. A written report was submitted.
- *Area III South:* John Sisson was absent, and no report was submitted.

12. Standing Committee Reports:

- *Bylaws:* Dr. John Bowman reported that the committee focused on budget and membership during their two meetings. Reference was made to these Bylaw amendments submitted and moved by the Committee.
 - Article III, Section 1 a (Active membership): Adding the words "public and private" after the word "from" would be added to the proposed amendment as motioned by Harold and seconded by Phyllis. The amendment was approved as amended with all in favor.
 - Article V, Section 3: The term "membership" will be replaced with "delegates" throughout the proposed amendment. The amendment was approved as amended with all in favor.
 - Article V, Section 4: Unanimous approval vote.
 - Article V, Section 5: Unanimous approval vote.

The proposed Bylaw Amendments will be presented to the delegates at the Annual Business Meeting for their action.

- *Community Service:* Kathy Campagnoli thanked everyone who has purchased raffle tickets and shared that more were available. The written report submitted shows the approved grant winners as approved by the MRSPA Foundation Board.
- *Consumer Education:* Phyllis Cherry referred to her written report and welcomed additional topics for future webinars.
- *Finance:* Alicia Hardisky reported that the Executive Committee reviewed and approved the Proposed Budget for FY 2025-2026 as based on 10,900 dues paying members. Highlights were also reviewed as presented in the written report submitted. The Proposed 2025-2026 Budget as moved by the Committee was approved as presented with all in favor. The Proposed Budget will be presented to the delegates for their action during the Annual Business Meeting.
- *Legislative:* Tom Slater, Chair, was absent and submitted a written report. Virginia Crespo, Legislative Aide, reported on the 3-billion-dollar deficit that our state is facing. The polls show that Marylanders do not want more taxes yet would support a tax increase if it truly went to education. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future is the most expensive item and to ask school systems to pick up additional costs is not desired. All curriculum bills that we oppose are not progressing and these are our successes. Any bill with a financial component will probably not be successful. Time will tell.
- *Member Benefits:* No report was submitted. Leslie Schell reported on the Meet & Greet webinar for new members and a possible webinar to be held this summer about AMBA Passport.
- *Membership:* Mary Holden was absent. A report was submitted.
- *Nominating:* Carla Duls, Past President, reviewed her written report with Alice Mitchell from Dorchester County agreeing to serve as President-Elect. Two new Non-Board Members on the Nominating Committee candidates are: Wanda Molock, Caroline County; and Dr. Wanda Robinson, Prince George's County. The Nominating Committee candidates were moved by the committee for approval. The motion passed with all in favor.
- *Public Relations:* A written report was submitted and Deb Ahalt reported that she and two other committee members are drafting a letter for each association about maintaining or establishing a website and Facebook page.
- *Scholarship:* Dr. Caroll Visintainer was absent. A written report was submitted and Past President Carla Duls reported on Section C of the report. She highlighted that 5 scholarship winners versus the usual 3 were selected and approved by the MRSPA

Foundation Board of Directors. Carla extended a special thanks to Committee Members and Heidi Rothert for her assistance on behalf of Chair Visintainer.

- *Travel:* Harold Siskind referred to his written report.

13. Other Reports:

Retirement and Pension System Trustee: A written report was submitted prior to the meeting. Ayana English- Brown reported the COLA will be 2.949% in July and all Board members are invited to attend the Pension System meetings via Zoom.

Newsletter Editor: Debbie Hance reported the newsletter will be finished today and the Spring issue will be coming out soon. She will include the updated Bylaws proposals and other materials related to the Annual Business Meeting. There was no written report.

14. Unfinished Business: None

15. Announcements: Betty Weller, President, referred members to the new calendar for 2026 and suggested the dates be entered on their calendars now. She also reminded everyone that annual reports were due on 2/28 and are needed for publication in the Program for the ABM. She also reminded members about the Foundation raffle, Board training in May/June and the need for more Community Service project and individual nominations.

16. Adjournment: President Weller thanked all present or at home for their attendance. She adjourned the meeting at 11:31 p.m.

17. Door prizes: Prizes were won by Dr. John Bowman and Kathy Campagnoli.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharyn Doyle
Secretary