

**Maryland Retired School Personnel Association  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
March 9, 2022 – Virtual**

**Attendance:** George Denny, Jr., President; Wanda Twigg, Executive Director; Leslie Heiderman Schell, Dr. Stephen Raucher, Nancy Gordon, Phyllis Cherry, Carla Duls, Alicia Hardisky, Henrietta Lease, Betty Weller, Sally Smith, Brenda Barnes, Dr. Russell Wright, Trish Bendler, Virginia Crespo, Fay Miller, Alice Mitchell, John Sisson, Anne Humphrey, George Sparks, Jr., Ken Haines, Fred Evans, Janet Williams

1. **Call to Order/Welcome** – President Denny called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed all present. A quorum was declared; 23 members were present.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – The president called for approval of the agenda. Alicia Hardisky moved acceptance as amended to include discussion of a Resolution to Investigate Alternate Custodians for the *MRSPA Fund* during New Business, seconded by Betty Weller. Motion passed with all in favor.
3. **Review of Minutes** – On a motion by Ken Haines, seconded by Dr. Stephen Raucher, the minutes of the December 9, 2021, Board meeting were approved as presented with all in favor.
4. **Treasurer’s Report** – Dr. Stephen Raucher reported that we were down in our investment account since last month because of fluctuations caused by the war in Ukraine. We are not spending as much as usual, so we are about \$200,000 ahead in revenue over expenses. This is because of holding virtual meetings and less travel to meetings. We are spending about \$47,000 a month. The report will be filed for audit.
5. **President’s Report** – Nothing to add to his written report except his appreciation for our executive director and staff. Thanked them and all members of the board.
6. **President-Elect’s Report** – Nothing to add to written report.
7. **Executive Director’s Report** – Nothing to add to written report.
8. **Vice President’s Report** – Nothing to add to written report. (VP is traveling.)
9. **Area Director Reports**
  - Area I West** – Henrietta Lease – Shared she has not been able to visit her counties lately because of Covid and other issues.
  - Area I East** – Sally Smith – Enjoyed presenting Mini Grant to Westminster High School winner in Carroll County.
  - Area II North** – Charlie Gable, Jr. - Report in packet. (Traveling with his local in Florida.)
  - Area II South** – Brenda Barnes – Nothing to add to written report.
  - Area II North** – Betty Weller – Has not heard from some locals. Kent will be meeting in March.
  - Area III South** – John Sisson – The Worcester County Board of Education is starting a Hall of Fame program for school system retirees. The Senior Citizens Hall of Fame is also trying to resume its program this year and is soliciting nominees.

## 10. Standing Committee Reports

**Bylaws** – Frances “Fay” Miller – The committee has not met. Hopes to resume soon.

**Community Service** – Trish Bendler – Will meet April 14, 2022, to select Community Service winners.

**Consumer Education** – Phyllis Cherry – Meeting in April. Asked members to be on the alert for scams.

**Finance** – Alicia Hardisky – Presented the 2022-2023 Proposed Budget. Budget is based on 12,125 dues paying members. Explained including \$10,000 from our investment account interest in the proposed revenue for 2023. This money is to provide a COLA for current staff and to hire a part time person. It’s possible \$5,900 of that will be returned to the treasury, if not spent. Alicia moved acceptance of the 2022-2023 Proposed Budget as presented on behalf of the Committee. Motion passed with all in favor. The Proposed Budget will be presented for a vote during the Annual Business Meeting in May in accordance with the Bylaws.

**Legislative** – Fred Evans – Report in packet. Virginia Crespo, Legislative Aide reported that there are 2,500-2,600 bills and we are tracking 68 of them. 24 have to do with curriculum (not sure these are in our purview), 8 are tax cut bills. Most others deal with election access and senior exploitation. We are supporting 17 and opposing 3.

**Member Benefits** – Alice Mitchell – Report in packet. Meeting at the end of March.

**Membership** – Leslie Heiderman Schell – Report in packet. Held a virtual Meet & Greet on February 17, 2022. There were five new members in attendance; this was the second meeting of this type. Another is planned for September 8, 2022. The next joint membership committee and local membership chair meeting will occur on June 2, 2022. Board members who were present and who gave presentations during the Meet & Greet were thanked.

**Nominating** – Dr. Debbie Chance – No report. (Traveling.)

**Public Relations** – Anne Humphrey – No current projects. Meeting in April.

**Scholarship** – Nancy Gordon – Report in packet. There were 73 scholarship applicants, 4 winners were selected. Will meet in April to get ready for the Annual Meeting.

**Travel** – Judy Reiff unable to attend meeting. Meeting in April to select 2023 trips and tours.

## 11. Other Reports

**A. Retirement and Pension System Trustee** – Ken Haines – Trustees will be meeting next week. The pension fund is in good shape. We have about 70 billion and are about 78% funded. Ken spoke briefly about the difficulties associated with fully divesting from Russia as the war in Ukraine continues. He believes that they will divest to the greatest degree possible.

**B. Newsletter Editor** – Dr. Russell Wright – Deadline May 31, 2022, for the summer edition.

**12. Unfinished Business** – There was no unfinished business.

**13. New Business**

**A. Proposed Resolution** – Dr. Stephen Raucher discussed the background of the proposed Resolution regarding our involvement with the Community Foundation of Frederick County; how we got involved and current issues (fees, control over the money) that may or may not impact our organization and scholarship and mini-grant programs. He explained issues that might affect us if we sought to create a 501(c)(3) organization to manage our own *Fund*. He also gave a brief history of the donations that have come through our organization; the largest recent individual donation was \$200. A list of alternative issues involved was mentioned. The question put to the Board was “Do you want a small work group of Board members to look at these issues and report back to you at the August Board meeting?”

Ken indicated that we would have to establish another Board and the first thing would be to write bylaws.

Fay told us of a similar issue that she has been involved with in her county. She would support the resolution.

Nancy indicated that she had no issue with the Resolution but was concerned about the increased workload for staff. Trish said she has no issue with the Resolution.

Alicia thought a work group is a good idea. Carla was concerned about the staff workload issue. Ken will send a copy of the PGCEA Foundation bylaws to George, and he will send to Wanda.

George Sparks, Parliamentarian, reminded the Board that there was no motion on the floor.

Steve moved and Ken seconded the Resolution as presented.

George Denny indicated that he was generally in favor of the resolution but was highly concerned of the workload impact this would put on the executive director and the office staff given the preparations for the ABM that are occurring now. This may not be the right time to take on this issue. He also believed that the Finance Committee should look at the issue before the Board makes a decision. He would prefer a December time frame for a report back to the Board. George thanked Steve for his work in putting the Resolution together.

John Sisson made a motion to table the issue until after the Annual Business Meeting – the August Board meeting. Brenda Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried with one in opposition. President Denny asked Wanda to share the discussion (via email) among a small group of leaders behind the scenes about the situation with the entire Board.

#### **14. Announcements**

- A.** Wanda asked Area Directors to remind their locals to remit their ABM delegate lists. The final count is due by April 15, 2022. Board members do not count as local delegates.
- B.** Board members were reminded to send their Board reports for the ABM program and to RSVP their attendance. The ABM is May 11 at Camelot by Martin's in Upper Marlboro. All in attendance are to be fully vaccinated and boosted.
- C.** If a contribution to the Maryland Food Bank is made it may be done by credit card or check made out to the MFB not MRSPA. Cash and checks will be accepted during the ABM. Goal for ABM food drive is \$3,500.
- D.** The Legislative Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 15.
- E.** Money for raffle tickets can in the form of a check made payable to the CFFC – tickets are one for \$10; three for \$25. Monies are coming almost at the same rate as last year. So far \$4,575 has been collected.
- F.** We have reached out to vendors for contributions, swag, and to attend the ABM.

#### **15. Door Prizes**

- A.** Dr. Russell Wright
- B.** Alicia Hardisky

#### **16. Adjournment** -The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Recorded by  
Janet Williams, Secretary