**MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR HISTORY EDUCATION**

Regular Quarterly Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2019

Michigan Historical Center

Members Present: Michelle Anderson, Catherine Tuczek, Sean O’Neil, Kailie Burk, Nick Orlowski, Anne-Lise Halvorsen, Scott Durham, Elaine Themm, David Zwart, Jim McConnell

The meeting was called to order at 10:14 a.m. by Michelle Anderson. Introductions were made.

David Zwart moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting seconded by Elaine Themm. The motion was approved unanimously.

David Zwart reported we have $23,887.93 in our account. The only outlays since the last meeting were the $300 for McConnell award winners for $220 for the Day at the Capitol. We are waiting the income from that day to offset those costs and have pending $600.00 to award to the United States Youth Senate Program finalists.

Michelle reminded that we have allocated up to $500 for the NCHE conference for two people in Cleveland and asked if anyone wanted to attend. Some people were interested. David Zwart reminded that any costs should be supported with receipts.

There was a discussion about communications. Scott asked for members to send any information they think might be timely to put on the website. Elaine talked about the technological issues of sending out E-Notes. Over 200 bounce backs have been removed but there are two lists that are sent to which sometimes causes problems. Elaine will look into a different system to send out E-notes.

Michelle updated us on behalf of Jim Cameron and MDE about the upcoming PD rollouts. They are seeking proposals for a professional development role during the new social studies roll-outs across the state. The contract would be for $10,000 and would require a representative of MCHE to attend each roll-out session. The first three include Dec. 18 in Ingham County and two in January in the Upper Pennisula. We are waiting for the requirements in writing for the proposals and the template for the professional development presentations. There is some confusion as to who will pay for hotel, food, transportation – will MDE cover it or will it come out of the $10,000.

These professional development sessions will first include a general conversation about the changes in the standards and the more specific roll-out sessions by subject.

Michelle will check with Jim Cameron that we are interested and will see if there is a possibility of a virtual presence would be acceptable. Nick said he could do the event on January 24th. Michelle will try to get the contract as well as Nick asked how many of these events do are expected to staff.

Anne-Lise gave a report re-capping the USSYP process. She thanked Nick and Scott for stepping up to be part of the process. Anne-Lise reminded us of the program and that we changed the application process this year to include three components: an application, an exam/essay, and personal interviews of the finalist. The winners were . The alternates are Madeline Snyder, Arashi . We will also be giving $100 to the finalists to recognize them for all the work the students put in.

A couple concerns she shared were that we didn’t really get any applications from urban schools. Anne-Lise asked if anyone had ideas to get more applicants. She reminded us that this is a huge time commitment. If we are going to do this at this level we need to figure out another way to do this. Michelle asked what took the most amount of time. Anne-Lise said that the getting all the information out to all the high school principals – for example, getting the exam out to students and principals – and even getting contacted by parents. The reviews were fine, it was all the management that was really time consuming. Michelle asked if we could drop the exam part and there seemed to be an agreement from those that participated that the exam was an important aspect of the process.

Anne-Lise said that we need some management assistance, a staff member perhaps who could manage the dissemination of the exam and information. Sean said that there was an agreement with Grand Valley that there was some effort made to provide staff assistance. He suggested we go back to the Dean at Grand Valley to support this program. Nick offered his help in developing a Google Classroom that could be the hub for all of this information. Jim McConnell added that most of the time this program has existed it was run through MDE.

David Zwart will talk to Tammy and Grand Valley to see what the possibilities are of providing support in this area.

Anne-Lise talked of the Teacher of the Year awards due in March and the McConnell Awards due in May. Sean suggested the MSSS organization will be a great group to reach out to. Anne-Lise will look at developing a Google Classroom for the Awards that could serve as a single hub for all the applications.

Michelle then talked about the Logo contest. We have extended the deadline to February 7, 2020. We have five entries so far – all from Michelle’s district. That means we need to get the word out and see if we can get entries from other parts of the state.

Michelle took us into discussion of a strategic plan. She stated that we have lacked a strategic plan as to where our organization is going in the future. David Zwart said that we have the opportunity to partner with an institute at a place of higher learning, that can support and provide oversight with the organization. There is support in the GVSU for such a partnership.

Michelle asked how much autonomy we lose if we joined in with this partnership. We do not know exactly how this might look. Kailie said that there a lot of benefits for MCHE with this type of relationship and asked what does GVSU benefit from this? Nick explained that it was a way to for GVSU to take a lead in history education. Sean said that it sounds like GVSU has a great idea for the history institute and the MCHE can partner with them while remaining separate.

The sense of the room was to continue talks with GVSU to see what this might look like. Once the institute is set up, a memorandum of understanding between GVSU and MCHE can be developed. This could also be discussed in the context of a strategic plan for MCHE in the months to come.

Michelle talked of the WWII Project she had proposed: “Words of WWII”. Jim McConnell moved the endorsement of the project by MCHE, Nick Orlowski seconded it and the motion was passed unanimously.

Jim McConnell talked about the Electoral College contest. David Hales will take the lead with this, Jim and Annette will help develop the materials. Jim is looking for assistance in administering this.

Jim McConnell has written a history of the MCHE and wants to look at printing it out. Jim Cameron is proof reading as we speak.

Jim also talked about the Capitol experience for teachers. He said we need at least 25 teachers to make this event worth doing. The sense of the room was that a weekend in June would be best.

The next meeting dates will be March 7, 2020 (at the Michigan Historical Center) and June 6, 2020 (at River Raisin Battlefield). David Zwart mentioned that the Great Lakes History Conference on Oct. 23 (maybe the 24too), 2020. Jim McConnell mentioned the Local History Conference in Sterling Heights March 27-28, 2020 and the Midwest History Conference May 12-13, 2020.

There was a Nominating Committee set-up to provide recommendations for the next Board/Leadership elections. That committee will be chaired by Jim McConnell. Sean will serve and Jim will seek out David Hales to serve as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Durham, Secretary