

## **MCHE Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

February 26, 2022

10am to Noon - Virtual

Members Present: Scott Durham, Nadine Hall, Dave Johnson, Brenda Mayes, Jim McConnell, Sean O'Neill, Nick Orlowski, Vivian Pearson, Jana Pisani, Tamara Shreiner, Catherine Tuczec, Bill Warren, David Zwart

Nick Orlowski called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**Scott Koenig**, the Social Studies consultant at the **Michigan Department of Education** gave an update about the state of social studies education in Michigan. Scott thanked for the invitation to address the MCHE. State Superintendent Rice is leading an effort to develop a webinar series that will be presented from 4-5 pm to help teachers in the field called Teaching Comprehensive History. This will be coming soon! It will be focused on resources and content that might not always be taught in classrooms. SCECHs will be offered and should span 1-2 years. In addition, we are pushing PD around cultural competencies to help educators approach this content with confidence. Also, C3 inquiry is another focus area for MDE. Scott said he is committed to get into schools and talk/work with teachers and hear the voices from the field. He asked to be notified about upcoming PD including summer efforts especially if he could play a role in those PDs.

Tamara asked if the Teaching Comprehensive History is similar to the Teaching Movement concept. He said that it is the same effort just with a different name. He said look for an April release and he is excited about the quality of the presenters and overall quality of the project.

Catherine asked about an update about MSTEP – if we are revising it for 2023 and what might the changes be. Scott said that he will refer the question to the assessment counterpart at MDE.

**The Secretary's report** was limited to approving the December 4, 2021 minutes. It was moved to be adopted by Jim McConnell, seconded by Brenda Mayes, and approved unanimously.

David Zwart gave the **Treasurer's Report** and reported we had \$23,759.86 in our two accounts. He encouraged members to renew their memberships and to do that if possible through PayPal (as it saves us \$1.21 each membership). The biggest recent expense has been \$1000 to the Historic Society of Michigan and dispersing the funds from the Hearts Foundation to the US Senate Youth semi-finalists.

Scott Durham reported that we had 443 visits to our **website** in the last three months which was a little down from the previous quarter. However, he said we had more connections through Google meaning people were looking for us instead of just following a link. He said that we also are getting traffic directly through the NCHE website as evidence of our growing relationship with them.

Tamara wanted to address our Committees and if we have someone in the leadership role for the **Professional Development Committee**. It was clear that we didn't have one and wanted to find one. She asked for a volunteer. Dave Johnson volunteered to lead this effort. She said we are looking around an April Saturday morning conference about Movement History for an OER Project conference. This would be a keynote speaker with 2-3 follow-up workshops. This would be all online. She said they are looking for a keynote speaker, one that could speak about social movements in some way. Jim said that Wayne State Library might have someone on Labor and the Wayne State Law School's Keith Center has Peter Hammer might be someone who we can reach out to. David Zwart shared the Organization of American Historians speakers list to consult too (<https://www.oah.org/lectures/lecturers/>). Catherine Tuzcek shared a name about Labor history at Oakland University Daniel Clark; Hidada Williams from Wayne State does research on violence against African Americans and has a popular podcast; and Jamon Jordan, Detroit's official historian could speak about all sorts of movements in Michigan. David Zwart suggested too that our own Bill Warren can speak of labor movements extensively. Bill said it has been a long time since he has dived into labor movement history. Tamara also asked for teachers who implement this content well in their classrooms to give a presentation at the conference as well. She and a teacher from Novi will be doing a session on mapping social movements. David Zwart shared a website another teacher developed about Anti-Racism in AP History classrooms: <https://www.antiracistapush.com/>.

Tamara said that she received a grant for \$10,000.00 for 5 half-day workshops about civic learning. Teachers would attend these workshops, three of them led by historians with the teachers working on lesson plans using the C3 framework. The money would pay for one person from MCHE to be a project manager to carry out this professional development for \$1,250. Honoria would be provided \$750 for each of the three speakers. Fifteen teachers would be award \$300 stipends to complete this work. It must be spent by September so she was thinking about an August conference. She asked if anyone who is interested in being a project manager to contact her directly. Catherine suggested Daniel McGuire, who wrote a book called *At the Dark End of the Street* tells about movements to fight against violence against women included the role of Rosa Parks in this effort.

Tamara also suggested that the **Executive Committee** should meet in between our full committee meetings just to keep a pulse on things on all the things that happen during this time. Nick and Tamara will reach out to see if we can find a time amenable to make this happen. Nick suggested we use that time to dig into the MCHE Constitution to make sure we are on top of things and are running smoothly.

Nick updated us on the **Awards Committee**. He said the Gilder-Lehrman nomination deadline is April 30 and the McConnell Awards shortly thereafter. The Senate Youth Program has been completed for this year. He said it is never too early to get students to think about what students could apply for this for the next round, especially on the west side of the state.

Nick said as far as the **Nominating Committee** goes, we are still on the June timeline to make sure we have actively engaged Board and Committee members. Catherine met with Michelle this week on the Nominating Committee. She shared the sample ballot that could be used for elections. She reported that we have one spot on the Board for a two-year term and one spot for a one-year term. She said we could find someone who is currently a student teacher to get that representation on the board and get someone from the cultural sector to get that voice on the Board as well. Tamara suggested we reach out to someone at the Henry Ford. Jim suggested another name as well. She said we would like biographies of the candidates by the end of April to be included in the May E-Notes. The election will be online beginning around the publication of the May 1 E-Notes so we can have them returned before the June 4 MCHE Board meeting.

There was some question on how long the Executive Director position is for and it was shared that that position has one more year. Tamara asked for clarification about should there be self-nominating or third-party nominations for President Elect, Catherine said either would be fine.

Dave gave an update about the **E-Notes**. Richard and Dave are working together on setting it up and tearing it down and thanked all the reporters for their contributions.

Jim McConnell gave an update about the **re-districting efforts** in Michigan. On December 28, 2021, the commission adopted new maps for Congress, State House, and State Senate. They have been met with three lawsuits. One has been rejected. Two are waiting to be heard.

Jim also talked about the efforts to replace Lewis Cass' statue in **Statuary Hall** at the US Capitol. Cass has received criticism for removing Native Americans and owning slaves (which is unclear). He is wondering if we should get ahead of this and throw something in the E-Notes. Nadine asked if we are putting our names behind someone? Jim said no, we just will put out a survey and report on the findings. Brenda said it might be way to get some attention to people we haven't thought of and that it might be way to have a dialogue about it. Maybe not have a poll but just offering suggestions. Catherine said she liked the idea of asking people to make suggestions and to justify their rationale. Scott will put together an outline for a lesson teachers could use in their classrooms asking students to make an argument for what statue should represent Michigan and put it on our website which could be completed by any interested party.

Nick brought up our **next meeting** is scheduled for June 4, 2022 at River Raisin Battlefield. He asked if we still wanted to meet in-person that day? He said he certainly doesn't want anyone to be uncomfortable meeting in-person but perhaps we might be able to do this. Dave said pre-pandemic he was doing a lot of driving for short meetings and we should always have a Zoom option for our meetings. Tamara agreed and that we offered that even pre-pandemic. Nick suggested we say if River Raisin cannot provide a Zoom link (wifi) then we will meet online. But if they can, those that can meet in person can meet at River Raisin and the rest connect virtually. Nick will reach out to River Raisin to see what facilities they have.

David reported that during this meeting, more membership renewals came in. Tamara added that it was always encouraged that pre-service teachers were always encouraged to join organizations and that maybe we offer a special rate. Dave said they just had this conversation with MCSS and they lowered their rate for students which gave them free access to their annual conference. He will share the results of those efforts. Jim McConnell moved we offer a student rate at \$15 a year. David suggested we still send \$20 to NCHE and supplement the missing \$5 out of our funds. Jim amended his motion to continue to send the \$20 to NCHE. The motion was seconded by David Zwart. The motion was approved unanimously.

Nick asked about meeting dates for 2022-23 and suggested the following dates for our quarterly meetings: September 17, December 10, February 25, and June 3.

Tamara reported that the Great Lakes History Conference is happening this year and we usually have our fall meeting during that conference. The theme is Teaching Hard History which might be more useful for Michigan teachers. The dates are Sept. 23-24, 2022. Sean said that they would like to do it face-to-face with some Zoom connections still. But that is not definite yet. David added that this will be a joint conference with the Midwest World History Association so it should be a bigger conference than before. Tamara asked if we should consider sponsorship of the event again. Jim moved that we sponsor an event at the 2022 Great Lakes History Conference at a level that is appropriate and in line with past expenses. This motion was supported by Brenda and approved unanimously.

Tamara reminded that we suggested the idea to have teacher oriented workshops following keynote addresses at the GLHC to discuss the implications of the content.

Jim said the Local History Conference in which we had supported at \$1000 is on March 25-26, 2022. The other conference coming up is the NCHE conference which is virtual again this year. Jim moved to pay for up to six registrations for our organization's leaders (President, Past President, President Elect, Executive Director, Treasurer, Secretary) if they want to attend. David Zwart said the virtual conference is \$150 this year. Jana seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. Nick suggested those able to attend work with David on reimbursements.

Nick will let us know about the specifics of our June 4, 2022 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Durham  
Secretary