**MCHE Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

February 27, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Michele Anderson, Kallie Burk, Richard Cooley, Scott Durham, Nadine Hall, Anne-Lise Halvorsen, Brenda Mayes, Jim McConnell, Sean O’Neill, Nick Orlowski, Jana Pisani, Catherine Tuczek, Bill Warren, David Zwart (Visitors: Nkeme Nwajei and Vivian Pearson)

Michele called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Scott gave the secretaries report and asked that the minutes from the previous meeting be approved. A motion was made by Jim McConnell and seconded by Jana Pisani and was approved unanimously.

David Zwart gave the Treasurer’s report and reported we have $24,016.75. We have some outstanding bills around the US Senate Youth Program. He reported that we now have a PayPal account in which we collect dues. So far, we have 5 dues paying members and we have sent $100 to the national association.

Scott asked that anyone who has any info for the website to forward them to him.

Nick reported on the Awards Committee work. He announced the winners for the US Senate Youth Program (Naina Agramal-Harding and Kenneth Gu) and forwarded some names for the Presidential Scholars Award. He said the McConnell and Gilder-Lehrman Awards of coming up. McConnell Award nominations are due May 1 and Gilder-Lehrman on April 30.

Jim McConnell and Michele Anderson reported from the Nominating Committee. Michele reported we have two open positions. Catherine introduced some potential teachers from Detroit Public Schools Community District teachers who may wish to join us. Nkeme Nwajei teachers at Marcus Garvey Academy. Vivian Pearson teachers at Pulaski School. The Board introduced themselves too. The Board will review applications and vote on adding members at our next meeting.

Jim mentioned that the new E-Notes was sent out this morning and goes out to about 1,000 people, including MSSSA who then forwards it to 1000s of others. He shared that he got an email from someone in Iraq who thanked us for continuing to put it out. He thanked everyone that participates in putting this all together.

Sean reported on the Great Lakes History Conference. The plan is to hold it Oct. 22 & 23 and will be a hybrid format. We have participated in the past with an awards ceremony and a few sessions. They will hold one session at a time in a large meeting hall. The topic is “The History of Sociability”. There isn’t a plan for a lunch session where we usually did the awards. He asks that we have to decide what role we want to play in the conference.

Tamara said this might provide even greater opportunities to get involved. For example, we could hold a discussion after a session, along the lines of the OER project. In this way, we can focus on how we can connect the topic of the talks to MI Social Studies standards. Tamara, Nick, and Sean will meet together to develop a way on how we can be involved. Nick suggested we can extend the conference by offering more SCECHs following the conference itself.

Tamara said she attended a wine and cheese virtual event. They suggested a historical wine list where you could purchase the set of wines while the talk was going on. That might be something we can talk about – give people an opportunity to socialize without socializing.

Catherine mentioned that there are virtual happy hours in other conferences as well that might be an option. Jim mentioned something along the lines of Burgers with Bob might be an option too.

Catherine said that she has heard from teachers is that they don’t really have time to talk to other teachers. Thinking of the theme of sociability that that might be a way we can include teachers too. We are living and making history now with different experiences with it so a session just giving people an opportunity to talk might be good. Nkeme and Nadine thought this was a great idea. Catherine volunteered to plan and implement the social gathering. Tamara will think about a session or two and Catherine a plan for the social reception and report back in our next meeting.

Nick reported on the Logo Competition that we were deadlocked. He displayed the two logos that were deadlocked. Michelle said that she liked the state logo better to appeal to the entire state. Some said they didn’t recognize that the Joe Louis fist. Nick moved to accept the state logo. Jim seconded. The logo was approved unanimously.

Nick gave a Professional Development update. He said that he and Tamara have been working with OER and Big History to develop 1 hour Zoom that reflect on pre-recorded videos. He said we’ve had around 10 participants in the last few sessions. Tamara added that the plan is to hold a bigger conference later. She said this has been a fruitful partnership so far. The OER project is a joint effort between the Big History Project and the World History Project.

Tamara also mentioned that she has done Professional Development around data visualization and suggested we all could do this as well. She said both her and Nick would be happy to work with anyone who would want to develop their own professional development sessions. She said too they are looking for Michigan teachers to do some form of TED talks but we might be running out of time.

Michele asked what kind of topics individual PDs could be. Tamara said the topics could really be about anything – and that it should NOT be just about data literacy things. We can all kinds of things with our SCECH granting power now.

Nick mentioned that we are now offering SCECHs (up to 18) for the NCHE conference. Participants will receive from NCHE a completion form for their summer conference.

Sean asked for any volunteers for Michigan History Day judging. They are beginning to do this now. He shared the info here: Historical Society of Michigan, Amy Bradfield for History Day judging: <https://www.hsmichigan.org/> The state contest doesn’t start until late April so anyone can sign-up to judge at that website. Bill said they have plenty of judges (42) but they are having technical difficulties with submissions. He did mention they only have about half of the submissions this year as per usual.

Jim talked about the association with Michigan Historical Society and how we will be including them within our benefits as a dues paying member.

Richard said he was just appointed to the Ottawa Area Intermediate school district on a temporary basis. Their focus will be on educational equity and asked for any thoughts or advice that would help start this discussion with this school organization.

Bill asked about where the numbers of teacher education programs are these days. He said their numbers are down but stable. Tamara said Grand Valley numbers are stable. Anne-Lise said that there was a petition by students at MSU to suggest the cost of the five-year program was challenging. Jana said their numbers were stable but low still. Tamara talked about one initiative that her and Nick have been working on is a pipeline project to recruit future teachers. Nick said there is a project Grand Rapids Public is working on with Michigan State and community colleges to fast track students into MSU’s College of Education. Then they will fundraise to help support these students to do their internship back in GR Public.

Nick asked if the MTTC is on the table during the restructuring of Michigan certification grade bands. So far, it might mean more tests and more costs done in smaller segments. Nick said some states are doing portfolio reviews rather than subject matter tests. Tamara suggested there are power in numbers and how we talk about these issues every meeting but we need to do something in between meetings perhaps.

Jim said the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources has a consortium that we are a part of but no one attends. He will forward the email to everyone and hopefully a Board member could attend.

Jim forwarded to everyone the Education for Democracy – a national initiative of 300 organizations – and encouraged someone to attend.

Tamara announced Grand Valley is working on a Civic Education Network that might come together more this summer.

Jim moved the meeting was adjourn at 11:59 am. It was seconded by Nick and approved unanimously. Michele reminded us that our next meeting on June 5, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Durham - Secretary