**MCHE Board of Directors Meeting**

**August 22, 2020 – Virtual Meeting**

Members present: Michele Anderson, Scott Durham, David Hales, Nadine Hall, Anne-Lise Halvorsen, Brenda Mayes, Jim McConnell, Nick Orlowski, Jana Pisani, Tamara Shreiner, Catherine Tuczek, Bill Warren

Michelle called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Scott presented the minutes from the last meeting. Brenda moved to approve them, seconded by Michele. The motion was approved unanimously.

Michele gave David Zwart’s Treasurer’s report. We have a current balance of $22,935.93. We received $230.00 from Wayne RESA for Capitol Event catering and are waiting on $1600 from MDE for the standards rollout work. Jim McConnell mentioned that we might again look at offering $500 for two members to go to the national conference next year in Salt Lake City. Jim McConnell moved to accept the Treasurers report and was seconded by Michele.

Nick gave an update about the national Awards. He heard from the Senate Youth program stating that things are on hold. There was an email asking what our limitations were for secure testing. We cannot offer secure testing at this time. Nick let them know we can go off of applications, essays, and interviews to get our nominees.

Tamara asked how far off the schedule was. Nick remembered getting the word out at the beginning of last school year and doing interviews in November. He suggested we might be about a month or so behind.

Tamara mentioned that we took the names from this contest and submitted them to the presidential award as well. Jim asked what that was. Tamara mentioned that it was part of a package deal that we just had to forward some names. Jim suggested that we put info about this award on the website but Tamara said we are not really administering the program, just forwarding names. But recommended we be hesitant to expand it due to our limited capacity. She said we do not pick winners, we just submit names.

Nick asked if anyone is interested to serve on the Awards committee, let him know.

It was clarified the Awards committee will gather applications for all awards and submit a name for approval by this Board of Directions.

Jim has copies of the history of the MCHE for everyone and will get them out to all of us. He suggested that we submit that work for some awards. The Historical Society of Michigan has an award program that Jim has already submitted to but has heard nothing back from them yet. The Michigan Historical Commission has another award – The Milliken, Adams, Kelley Award – that requires someone from the outside to nominate you. That has not been done yet but Jim will continue to pursue.

Jim updated us on the E-Notes. He said that it has been a great improvement with four people working on it. We have limited the E-Notes to 30 items. Jim thanked Dick, David, Nadine, and Jana for the great last edition of the E-Notes and mentioned that they are almost down with the September edition. The next edition will include a lot of information about the upcoming election.

Tamara agreed that it was a great idea to spread the work out amongst multiple committee members. Michelle said that they look great and agreed that it was an improvement.

Jim then updated us on the Presidential Electoral College contest. He mentioned that he has been doing this since 1996 with David Hales. He said the consensus is that teachers are so overwhelmed this year that we should are not going to do this this year. Both political parties said they would consider giving us tickets after the election but not before. Michele stated that she knows how hard Jim has worked on this throughout the years but understands and agrees that this might not be the best time to do it. David Hales said there are just too many uncertainties to do it effectively this year.

Jim added that he will put in the September E-Notes to encourage teachers to do it in their own classes. Nick suggested that we might offer some sort of small prize for this.

Nick moved that we approve $50 gift card for the Michigan History Museum gift shop and the CSPAN book on Presidents as a prize for this contest. It was seconded by Brenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

David mentioned that we are still concerned about the number of participants. Scott offered to put up a webpage aimed at virtual learners for teachers to use this fall.

Nick mentioned that he has launched a Google Classroom this past week where every session MCHE is the SCECH sponsor is included. This seems to be a good way to document the hours and teachers that participated in the Gilder-Lehrman Summer Institute and the NCHE workshops. So far this seems to be working. It is a good way to keep the official record.

There is some limitations for those who use the district Google email addresses so sometimes personal emails will have to be used. Jim mentioned that Nick has done a great job with these workshops and mentioned that we had over 50 teachers participate. David Hales seconded that and mentioned that he got an email from a teacher in Monroe county, thanking him for the opportunity. David said this really raises our visibility because this teacher congratulated us on the quality of the presentation.

Brenda mentioned that NCHE can put a link in their website to our SCHECH link/website. Nick said he clarified things with them and will be following up with them.

Michele mentioned that NCHE still has Gordon as our Executive Director and her name is misspelled on our website. She will contact NCHE. Michele also noted that Petra has resigned from our Board and asked the Board to think about possible new Board Members. Tamara mentioned that we have a nominating committee to take this on and to consider issues of diversity as we reach out to people.

Names for potential new Board members should be forward to the Nominating Committee. That committee can also reach out to specific individuals. Jim McConnell, Sean O’Neill, and David Hales are the Nominating Committee. Nadine asked how that committee was formed. It was just a volunteer committee and that anyone who would like to serve on the Nominating Committee should contact Michele.

Jim contacted the NCHE about how they refund membership fees to state organizations. If we went to a $25 membership, we would get $5 back. They also give us all their member email addresses. Jim moved that we set a membership fee of $25.00. Jana seconded.

Scott asked what the benefit to membership is. Jim said we will give SCHECHs for members and NCHE gives discounts to museum.

Catherine suggested that we develop the list of benefits for membership. Bill asked to what the purpose would be for membership.

Jim said that we need to be an organization with a membership.

David Hales suggests that we should develop a plan. Michele offered to lead a committee to move forward. Catherine, Jana, and David volunteered to serve on this committee.

Jim moved to table the motion until our next meeting.

Bill gave a presentation about the issue of the decline of those who choose to go into teaching. He mentioned that WMU majors in social studies education has declined from 400 to 26 in the last 16 years. Jim mentioned that he shared an article about this same issue with Bill earlier this summer. Anne-Lise agreed that Michigan State has seen a similar declined. Bill mentioned a dropoff of 58% in those seeking teaching degrees in the state. Michele added that social studies teachers are now considering in a shortage. Jim mentioned that Jim Cameron has been furloughed and suggested we support the re-instatement of that position. Jana added that Ferris State has about 10 History Ed majors/minors. Michele said that MDE is moving forward with social studies issues without people like Jim Cameron to help. David Hales added that the MDE professional development committee has been frozen.

Bill said that the problem really is that young people are not entering the teaching profession. He asked how we turn this around?

Tamara said the developing the professional standards for social studies is about the new certification structure. She said they are in the process of putting together that committee. She said Grand Valley also has reduced numbers. She is hesitant to lobby the state for a social studies position because of the competition for resources right now. Some schools are just trying to make sure they can fund all their positions.

Nick mentioned that there might also be market correction that will offer alternative forms of teacher certification. He wondered what college advisors are telling their students.

Tamara mentioned that NCLB requires teachers to be highly qualified and resulted in the social studies endorsement. Sean Kottke at MDE suggested this committee look at perhaps areas of specialty, like history, in future endorsements. She said that she has been impressed with MDE’s commitment to high standards.

Anne-Lise shared this publication:

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/understanding-the-changing-structure-of-the-k-12-teacher-workforce> that might help us understand the issue better and potential for change.

Bill asked if anyone has heard more about alternative certification? Tamara agrees that we face a crisis in the teaching workforce. She said we have the power to offer teachers professional development. This is the immediate need that we can help fill. She suggested we have to be strategic how we can use our energies and voices to move the profession forward.

Nick added that being a SCHECH sponsor allows us to develop our own professional development. Tamara suggested her work with UofM about data visualization might be a good opportunity to test that out. This might be a way to get more credibility with social studies teachers.

Jim added that the newsletter NCHE puts out is highly beneficial and professional and would be useful to K12 teachers. He agreed that this might not be a good time to address Jim Cameron’s position but that there is never really a good time.

Nadine wanted to clarify that the original question was how to get students to choose teaching. Bill agreed. He mentioned that Michigan History Day contest was successful this past year and perhaps we can support district contents more. Michele asked if there is a possibility of setting up a booth at History Day about history teaching professions?

Bill said that it would be. David Hales said that Wayne State was at his regional contest.

Catherine suggested we need to cultivate teenagers to help them understand what their career options are. She agreed that reaching out at History Day is a good idea. She offered a mentor who might help them along the way.

Tamara mentioned that Grand Valley is working with local ISDs opportunities for students at technical schools to open up what the world of teaching looks like. They are also in the process of an endowment to support students of color who choose teaching. Nick said they have an Academy of Teaching in Grand Rapids.

Nadine offered to work on this more to so a small committee was set up and Nick, Anne-Lise, and Nadine volunteered to serve.

David asked about the existence of history clubs? He wondered who the supporting/founding organization for history clubs. Bill said it’s a separate organization. David said they don’t have a history of that in Wayne County. Jim said the idea of history clubs is valid and thought Gilder-Lehrman is doing something about recognizing schools as history schools.

Nadine shared the website for history clubs: https://www.nationalhistoryclub.org/

Michele ran her own history club at her school. Jim said the history day is probably more structured.

Michele asked for any outstanding business. Nick said the logo company said for $299 we will get 30 submissions and if we didn’t like any of them, we could get our money back. Jim said if its worth $299, let’s just do it. Jim moves to contract for $299 to get 30 designs for our Dec. 5 board meeting. Jana seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Anne-Lise suggested we write an opinion piece in the Free Press to reach a broader audience. Bill offered to help with this. There was support for this all around.

Michele reminded us our next meeting is December 5, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 12:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Durham

Secretary