**MCHE Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

June 19, 2021

10am to Noon - Virtual

Members Present: Michele Anderson, Richard Cooley, Scott Durham, Anne-Lise Halvorsen, Martin Hershock, Dave Johnson, Brenda Mayes, Jim McConnell, Sean O’Neill, Vivian Pearson, Jana Pisani, Tamara Shreiner, Catherine Tuczek, Bill Warren

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

Scott shared the link to the **previous meeting’s minutes**. Jim moved they approved, Michele seconded. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

Michele gave the **Treasurer’s report**. We have $23,656.75 in our account; $52.61 in our pay pal account; and 22 paid members. Jim moved to accept the Treasurer’s report, Michele seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Michele shared the **election results**. All members who were up for re-election. Two new members were elected – Chika Ngozi and Vivian Pearson. Catherine Tuczek was elected as President-elect and Scott Durham as Secretary for two year terms. Kailie Burk, Richard Cooley, Nadine Hall, Jim McConnell, Chika Ngozi, Vivian Pearson, and Wilson Warren were elected to the Board for two year terms.

Jim talked about his work with the **E-Notes**. There are several members submitting items for the monthly E-Notes. Jim talked about the process about how it is compiled and distributed. He said we get it out to 4-5,000 teachers. He said we need an editor for it. Richard Cooley and Dave Johnson volunteered to act as co-editors of the E-Notes moving forward.

Sean updated us on the **Great Lakes History Conference**. There hasn’t been any update since our last meeting. Jim asked about MCHE’s participation. Tammy said she had met with Dave Eaton and said there aren’t the traditional ways to get involved but perhaps some connected PD for teachers that will be online. This will help connect the speakers to what happens in their classrooms. There was some concern that there would not be easy connections. But it would be up to members of the Board to plan and implement these PD sessions.

Jim asked about our award winners’ presentations and assumed we were not on their agenda. That looks to be the case. Jim suggested if we do other World History PD we can tie in the award winners. Scott reminded us that we did individual videos for the award winners last year and suggested we can do that again. Dick suggested we put a link to the videos in the E-Notes.

Catherine brought up that we talked about having a social event in conjunction with the GLHC and wondered if we are still interested in doing that. Tammy said it just means we would have to plan it. She suggested we have a link to the teacher awards in the program. Catherine suggested that if we aren’t going to have any teachers attending that we should not put in that work. She added that looking at the list of speakers it would be difficult to tie into MI Social Studies standards.

Michele suggested if we did one of the beer session this could be a chance to coordinate. Tammy said Dave talked with local businesses but at the time no one was really willing to have those conversations.

Tammy then talked about the **Michigan History Conference**. She received an email from Paul Keep asking if we would be interesting in sponsoring the MI History Conference. Tammy had sent out a sponsor list of what we would get at different levels of sponsorship to the Board. Jim asked if we are an organizational member. Tammy said yes. Jim said it’s a wonderful conference and worth the $500.00. Catherine wondered if teachers don’t attend the conference, is it worth the investment. Michele went through the benefits of a $500.00 sponsorship. Jim said he thinks that it is worth it and maybe we can share a video of what we do – and this would go out to a lot of people. Tammy said Michigan History Magazine is a great magazine and teachers do read that. Michele went through the $1,000.00 levels as well and suggested that could be a place to announce our winners.

Jim moved we sponsor the conference at $1,000.00 and work to take advantage of all opportunities available. Jana seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Tammy said he will let them know and work with David Zwart to make sure that payment is made.

Marty made sure we understood that the sponsorship included a sponsorship of a session, not running a session. Tammy will ask what opportunities we have with running or hosting a session. Sean said that besides the E-Notes, this group is the best access to teachers. Catherine said we could apply to have a session. Michele suggested that if we can’t get into the conference this year, this sets up a connection for next year. Tammy said looking at the website it doesn’t look like they are still accepting proposals.

Jim said he opposes the **Educating for American Democracy** and maybe that would be something we take a stand on. It is a national level program initiated by an organization called I-Civics. They are doing wonderful stuff, but it is not history, it is civic education. We should support the NCHE and make sure there is a focus on history. He suggested we might find a point person to follow and even participate in the project and keep our members informed. But we should focus on the thinking of history. Anne-Lise said she is aware of it and said she is impressed by it. She said it covers some history and since it’s hard to disentangle history from civics, she is very supportive of it. Jim just said he is concerned about civics education becoming the dominant strain in social studies.

Jim said he has been following the independent re-districting committee. He said things have been delayed because of census data delays but they are holding public hearings across the state. He said it is an amazing example of civic education work – they are very transparent and open.

Tammy talked about some **World History professional development**. Two districts, Battle Creek and Rockford, who reached out to her after watching the introductory video, asking for guidance as they look at their curriculum. She said she has very little to give them. She has resources like OER and her own guiding questions. She said she thinks they are open to professional development around world history curriculum. It is difficult to teach and can be overwhelming but there are few resources tied to the standards. 7th grade, she said, is particularly confusing for teachers because of how the content is split between grade levels. She said she would like to do PD with teachers over the long-term, but she is already spread thin, so would like help.

Michele asked if MCHE should create a professional development with teachers online? Tammy said yes, they should be online, where we can record them and make them widely available. She said the PD her and Nick are doing through OER project asks teachers to review materials beforehand and then meet for 1 ½ hours on a Saturday to see how they can be used in their classrooms. She said we need to think about how the structure would work but should be virtually.

Michele asked if it is something they would pay to do and SCHECHs attached? Tammy said no pay but yes SCECHs. Dave said we could do something on misocialstudies.org or edupaths where teachers can do the PD at anytime. This way a social studies department could do something together. Tammy loved that idea. Michele said she was willing to help too.

Scott suggested we use the website to distribute actual lessons and even pay teachers who submit quality lessons. Tammy said she is using as a model a previous project. She said we could try to start gathering resources by era and see where it goes.

Anne-Lise spoke of the **Racial Oppression Bill**. She said many organizations have signed on to this statement about issues about critical race theory and use of the 1619 Project: <https://www.historians.org/divisive-concepts-statement> . She said the NCHE has not signed on but the NCSS has. She asked if we wanted to make a statement or just put this link in E-Notes. She said in Michigan there is legislation introduced to actual dock pay from the state if schools are engaging in these things. Dave suggested a statement is one thing, but he is getting lots of principals asking questions as a result of people turning up at school board meetings who show examples of critical race theory. He suggested we put together some kind of guide.

Jim said he has put an item on this in the E-notes. He suggested we put these issues on the website. Tammy said that part of her doesn’t want to dignify these statements and that these efforts are appalling. But she does think we probably should be doing something. She asked Dave if what he is developing something like a toolbox that can be used by teachers and administrators? Dave said he does agree that we need to aim at administrators and be concise and to the point. He thinks this is good group to get feedback and work through. Michele said in addition to this resource, could we blast this out to superintendents so they would have this ahead of time, before any questions that might come up when school starts in the fall. Tammy said she would not want MCHE to be attached to any statement that we are against the use of critical race theory. Vivian added that as a teacher of the Civil War or anything without employing critical race theory. She said we have to be on the right side of history. Not saying anything makes us complicit. She said we should have a blurb explaining our statements. She said she would be willing to help on this.

Sean wondered if we should ask the NCHE if they would sign on to the statement? Anne-Lise said that is a great question and is not sure why they aren’t a signee. Sean moved that we urge the NCHE to sign on to the statement. Marty seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Anne-Lise will reach out to NCHE.

Michele asked if anyone was against sharing this information with superintendents. Jim suggested the superintendents and school board groups. Dick said he will reach out colleagues who is a superintendent how to distribute.

Scott suggested we put together a subcommittee – Dave, Anne-Lise, Dick, Vivian, Marty, and Tammy agreed to participate – could work together this summer to develop some concrete actions, statements the MCHE could make. Marty suggested maybe it would be important to re-educate legislators about what’s in the standards. This group will work and bring back some draft statements, actions to the Board.

Bill offered he could act as a conduit about the **state of social studies education today**. This is a topic, he suggested, could take up an entire meeting but perhaps we should start this conversation. He asked if members could email him a statement on the current state of affairs and he will put this together for our review for our next meeting. He is afraid that all states will be using alternative forms of teacher preparation and we should be concerned about that.

Tammy said that Grand Valley is working on pipeline projects and offered that if other institutions want to talk about to do this, she would be happy to talk more about it. Bill asked if Tammy could send him stuff about that work. Tammy said they partner with Muskegon to get students interested in teaching and come back to Muskegon to teach. They are interested in students having opportunities to have dual-enrollment and credit bearing opportunities that give them a chance to see what it is like to go to college. She said we might need an agreement across universities that college level work students do in their high schools can get college credit at multiple universities.

Michele asked is any one is working with schools that received the $10,000 grant to do this work. Tammy said Muskegon is one of those and Nick is doing this work in Grand Rapids. The problem she said was that schools have to spend this money by September so there is little time to do quality work. Michele asked if they are using a college professor to teach this class or a teacher in the building? Tammy said it is complicated. For a teacher to teach a course for dual enrollment, they would need the same qualifications for adjuncts. The other issue is tuition and the university does it do this for free. Grand Valley has been willing to work with districts on these costs.

Catherine said she read an article about Detroit schools has had so many positions filled now than in previous years because they can pay teachers and that they have funding that other districts might not have.

Jim said the last couple of years we try to get our leadership the **NCHE Conference**. Since they are planning it in-person in St. Louis, it would be appropriate to support attendance. Jim moved that we offer a $500 stipend for the Executive Director, the Past President, and Current President to attend this conference. Jana seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Jim said that the leadership all of our leaders has been amazing.

Michele said we have been meeting virtually but we have met in-person. She wondered what we thought about this. Catherine suggested maybe we meet in person once a year and the others virtual. Tammy said she agrees with that idea. Catherine suggested we might even do something socially. Jim said Nick and Tammy should develop this schedule (the constitution said these dates must be made public by Sept. 30th).

Michele said she is hearing that we should try to meet in-person at our next meeting. That seemed to be the agreement.

Catherine wanted to make sure we recognized that this is the first federal celebration of Juneteenth.

Michele said she has a parting gift for the Board with our new logo on it. They are little hand sanitizer bottles but can’t send them out.

Jim moved to adjourn, Marty seconded, it was approved unanimously and Michele adjourned the meeting at 11:49 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Durham

Secretary