**MCHE Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

December 5, 2020

Virtual

Members Present: Michele Anderson, Kailie Burk, Richard Cooley, Scott Durham, Nadine Hall, Anne-Lise Halvorsen, Brenda Mayes, Jim McConnell, Sean O’Neill, Nick Orlowski, Jana Pisani, Tamar Shreiner, Catherine Tuczek, Bill Warren, David Zwart VISITORS: Dave Johnson, Martin Hershock

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

She introduced our two guests and potential future board members. She introduced the agenda.

Scott Durham presented the Secretary’s Report by sharing the minutes from last meeting. There were no changes proposed. Jim McConnell moved and Michele Anderson seconded approval of the minutes which was approved unanimously.

David Zwart gave the Treasurer’s Report. We have $25,240.25 in our account with some expenses still outstanding: two Teacher of the Year winners, the logo competition, and the Electoral College contest winners. He also had to purchase some new checks. He did mention we did receive $1,600 from the Michigan Department of Education in compensation for our professional development sessions from last fall/winter.

Nick gave a report from the Awards 26 application Senate Youth Program. Closing the application process this week. The committee will then go through the applications and identify about 6 students for interviews. He mentioned we nominate up to 10 boys and 10 girls for the Presidential Scholar Awards and will determine a pool from the USSYP applicants and adding the GPA as a way to determine nominees. Jim asked if we should go ahead and submit 10 and thanked Nick for putting this altogether. Michele added that some schools determine GPA’s differently so that we should be aware of that. Nick assured us that he is considering that.

Jim McConnell gave a report from the Nominating Committee, recommending Dave Johnson and Martin Hershock to serve on the Board. Michele introduced Marty and explained his experience, qualifications, and commitment. Marty introduced himself, a lifelong Michigander. He attended University of Michigan - Dearborn, a Masters in History at Wayne State University, and a PhD from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Faculty at Dearborn campus since 1999. His research focuses on Michigan angles on broader 19th century American themes. Marty said he is excited to make history more exciting and relevant to students in Michigan.

Dave Johnson introduced himself, the current social studies consultant for the Wexford-Missaukee area. He has a degree from Western Michigan University. He taught social studies for several years. MCSS President and is looking forward to working with this Board.

Jim moves to appoint these two. Brenda Mayes seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Michele welcomed the two new Board members.

Jim thought we should amend the Constitution Article 4 section 1, shall consist of 20 members. Jim made the motion, Michele seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Jim gave a report about the E-Notes and thanked Dick, Nick, Nadine, David, Jana for all their work in getting the E-Notes together and out. He also thanks Tammy and Michele and others for sending stuff.

Jim also commented about the Electoral College Contest. He said they had 4 entries, and it came down to the determination that the total vote was 304. Jim sent congratulations to the three winners and got a response of gratitude from some of them. Jim did email the Michigan Democratic Party to see if there were any tickets, but said that there will not be any tickets available. The 16 Electors will be present and each are allowed one guest and the galleries will be closed. Jim will share the public viewing URL when it is made possible. Michele thanked Jim on behalf of the Board for actually doing the contest.

Nick gave us an update on the Logo Competition. Nick shared the link to the proposed logo. Nick said we can send feedback to the artists but if we go to the final round, we are committed to the $200 plus fee. Board members ranked the logo options and the results were tabulated live. Nick said we could select up to 6. Nick took us through the top six and asked for feedback. He will send that feedback to the artists and see what we get back. Bill asked why we might be getting a new logo. Michele responded that we had a pretty plain logo to get us something pleasing to look at for display at conferences or awards or flyers that is more identifiable with us. Marty suggested that perhaps some people might be good to include in a logo about history. Anne-Lise agreed and suggested some changes. Bill agreed and suggested perhaps we use something more provocative.

Michele asked if we wanted to move forward and commit the funds required or should we leave it. Brenda moved we moved forward. Catherine seconded. The motion approves unanimously.

Michele introduced the issue of a joint membership might offer between MCHE and NCHE.

Jim places the motion on the table that he made last meeting of a $25 joint membership. Jim said he thinks we need a membership to be an organization. We send $20 to the NCHE and get $5 for us. Tammy said she likes that we included in the list of benefits things that we have been doing or tried doing in the past. David asked about who would set up this system.

Bill asked can’t we can offer programming without membership. There are other groups that offer incredible content like the Stanford Social Studies group. We do have money that we could use to offer programming. Scott asked if the e-notes and contests, etc. would be limited to members. Michele and Jim assured it would not be limited. The motion that Jim made was seconded by Richard Cooley. The motion passed 15-1-1.

Jim talked about the HSM Award and thanked Tammy for speaking so eloquently about the benefits of this organization. He mentioned that it will help us get future grants/awards, etc. too.

Tammy talked about the issue of Educating for Democracy. She asked if we wanted to take a position on this, publicize it, etc. This refers to the proposed funding for civic and history education (Educating for Democracy Act 2020). She mentioned that there was nothing alarming to it.

Michele talked about some concerns, for example, that there are some mandates like Constitution Day that are sometimes annoying. Would this be along those lines? She said she is worried that things will be placed on classroom teachers that might be like this. Jim said he read it the opposite way, that this would be like TAH grants to fund teaching professional development, a real positive step. Sean said it looks like TAH but not with the limits of the TAH, but right now the specifics are missing.

Michele asked if we should hold off on this or should we take a position. Catherine shared the text of the bill and said we should look at the actual text of the legislation. Tammy suggested we could just make sure people are aware of this legislation. Anne-Lise agreed and that we should let people know and if they want to contact their elected officials, they can. There was a consensus that we move forward in this way.

Tammy updated us on the past OER Project PD and reminded us of upcoming sessions, that can be found here: <https://www.teachinghistoryinmi.org/mche-s-teaching-history-in-michigan> . She mentioned that teachers who participated in these sessions now know of MCHE.

Jim reminded us that Nick Orlowski has agreed to take over the President-elect position and will become the President of the organization in July. Jim expressed heartfelt thanks on behalf of the organization to Nick for agreeing to do this.

Jim thanked Tammy for getting us back into the Constitution and to update it and thanked Tammy for all the work she had done.

Our next meeting will be February 27, 2021 (June 5, 2021 following).

Jim moved to adjourn the meeting. Brenda seconded. The motion was agreed to unanimously at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Durham

Secretary