**MCHE Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

September 11, 2021

10am to Noon - Virtual

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Nick presented the **Secretary’s report** on behalf of absent Secretary Scott Durham. He followed that with a **Treasurer’s report** on behalf of absent Treasurer David Zwart. He reported that we have $23,456.76 in our bank about and $76.58 in our PayPal account – which collects membership dues.

Nick moved on to report that the **MCHE website** is up to date and includes the latest information regarding the **United States Youth Senate Program**. The application is live and had already garnered seven applications. Interviews for finalists will occur the first weekend in November.

In addition, Nick mentioned that Scott is finalizing the videos of the **Teacher of the Year Award winners** which will be put on the site as soon as they are completed.

Anne-Lise reminded us about how we usually offer $100 to those USSYP applicants who get selected for interviews but do not get selected as the representatives or runners-up. There is agreement that this practice will continue.

Jim talked about the **Nominating Committee** work and that they will start their work in December for recommendations to be brought to the Board in February. But he mentioned they are in good shape now.

Dave reported that the **E-Notes Committee** has fallen into a groove and that they are working well. Jim suggested that we try to put the news of the MCHE and NCHE at the top of the E-Notes to help promote our own work.

Nick asked if anyone has an update on the **Great Lakes History Conference**. We reported we will not be doing a session of our Teacher of the Year Award winners as we usually do, but might try to return to that in the fall of 2022. Sean said that the presentations at the conference will be in one hall, one after the other, but the topic of Sociability is one that has drawn a wonderful cast of speakers.

Jim asked about supporting the **History Society of Michigan’s** three conferences over the course of the year. Their local history conference is March 25-26, 2022 and made a motion to support that conference at a level up to $1,000.00 depending on what they ask for and/or what we have done in the past. Catherine seconded the motion and was approved unanimously.

Jim asked if there were any numbers of joint memberships with the NCHE we have collected. Nick replied that since we had about $75.00 in our PayPal account that maybe that equtes to around 15 memberships, but David Zwart would be best to answer that question.

Jim updated the Board on **Michigan’s Re-Districting Committee** that is currently in the middle of their work. He mentioned that their work is public and anyone can virtually join many of their sessions. He added that we had been promoting their work in the E-Notes throughout their existence.

There was a question posed about any update on the possible **NCHE grant**, asking local organizations to focus on urban schools and history education. Tammy mentioned that since the initial letter, that hasn’t been any updates. Nick posted a link to the letter in the Agenda.

Nick posed the question if anyone knows where we are at with a **Michigan Department of Education Social Studies consultant**. Dave mentioned they are in the middle of interviewing and that one applicant had their third interview recently. Jim mentioned that when Jim Cameron stepped down, there was no one filling that position and pressure was put on filling that position.

Nick moved on to the issue of SCECHs. He said we have a process already set up for Gilder-Lehrman workshops. He said there is an opportunity with **Mt. Vernon**, who has done work with Grand Rapids and others schools, to develop a web-quest style professional development with Mt. Vernon resources. There is a benefactor who has supported Grand Rapids teachers visiting Mt. Vernon and wants to expand their reach in Michigan. Nick has copied the aforementioned course to the MCHE Google platform. He shared a screen of what this might look like. He suggested we could offer this for training for teachers, offer SCECHs, and do a follow-up in-person session to review and listen about their experience with the course. He said we could have this launched by October after getting MDE approval to offer SCECHs. It would for two SCECHs. Jim mentioned that Jana does a great job promoting Mt. Vernon in our monthly E-notes.

Anne-Lise asked about a question posed on the site about whether or not George Washington did enough to end slavery. This is a difficult question but we know of course he didn’t do enough. So, what, it was posed, are the possible answers students would give. Nick mentioned this might just be an example of critical analysis of Washington’s legacy, and that it does dig into both sides. It was mentioned that for African American students, there is no other answer so this question is not appropriate. Several option replacement questions were posed and Nick asked if anyone has time to review the question and offer suggestions to him. He will edit it accordingly.

Nick will submit that application and offer two two SCHECHs session – one for the course and one for live session.

Nick moved on to the **schedule for our 2021-22 meetings**. The suggestions were December 4, 2021, March 19, 2022, June 4, 2022. He asked if there any glaring concerns. Sean mentioned that March 19 is his normal History Day activities and wondered how these dates compared to past dates. The March date usually varies because of spring breaks, etc. He wondered if March 12 catches other Spring Breaks. Nick asked if February 26 would be better? No one could identify a problem with that date. The final dates will be December 4, 2021, February 26, 2022, and June 4, 2022. We will plan on December and February being virtual and try to revive our efforts to meet in person at River Raisin perhaps in June.

Nick asked if there was any new business we should consider. Seeing none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 am.

Respectfully and submitted in-absentia,

Scott Durham

Secretary