

Board Meeting Minutes
Michigan Alternative Education Organization
January 25, 2018

Present: Rhonda Phillips, Denise Cadwell, Rob Pawlowski, Deb Baughman, Karen Van Epps,
Dave Groenenboom, Mallory Soffin, Colleen Deaven, Amanda Miller,

Absent: Lisa Klink, Lisa Boschma, Chris Maes, Erin Sullivan

I. Welcome and Roll Call

Introductions by all. President Baughman

II. President's Comments

Deb Baughman - It has been a demanding school year and the MAEO organization has been a great deal of work this year. The trifecta of challenging mental health issues, meeting academic standards and dealing with challenging behavior has been a real trial for many alternative education programs.

III. Approval of October 26, 2017 Minutes

Motion made by Mallory Soffin to approve the October board meeting minutes as presented and second by Amanda Miller. Motion carried.

IV. Board Reports:

A. Past president: Dave Groenenboom. No formal report.

B. Conference- Denise Cadwell reported that the Annual Conference is moving along. Members have assisted in getting presenters. We need 16 total and we have approximately 8 scheduled. She hopes to get the speakers on the website next week. The 2019 Conference will be held at the Doubletree in Bay City. Summer retreat tentatively scheduled for the week of July 9-12 week. Board members are to let Denise know how the 10th-11th of July may work.

C. Membership-Denise Cadwell reported that we are up to 482 members.

D. Awards and Scholarships- Due date is February 2, 2018 for both the awards and the scholarships.

- E. MAEO STARS- Mallory Soffin reported Legislative Day is March 21st. The same venue has been secured for the day and is close to the Capitol Building. Mallory is setting up the speakers for the day. The Fall kick off was very successful with over 100 students participating.
- F. MEA- Rob Pawloski reported that he has reached out to Gretchen Whitmer and tentatively it has been put on her calendar for the Spring Conference. Reported on the 3% decision. Interest rate was very low. Most schools are trying to get the funds distributed by March. The amount was deducted from employees from July 2010-August 2012. SB 574 has some traction and will mean that funds are going to charter school in districts where enhancement millages were passed. Concern that if the FTE goes up that support and funding for some other program will go down as proposed by the Governor.
- G. Treasurer's Report: Rob Pawloski reported the January 2018 treasurer's report. Current balance is \$49,055.02. Motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented by Karen Van Epps and second by Rhonda Phillips. Motion carried. Deb Baughman asked if it would be possible to break out the different accounts like MAEO STARS so we can look at revenue and expenditures by program monthly. Rob indicated that he thought he could provide that breakdown. For the summer retreat this year, Deb would like to examine each category of expenditures and look for opportunities to balance income and expenses. (For example MAEO STARS demonstrates it is "self-supporting").

V. Other Business:

- A. President's participation at NAEA Conference.
Deb reported that she feels her purpose is twofold in attending the NAEA Conference: representing MAEO and the State of Michigan and that NAEA is setting out standards for Alternative Education. If we are not there, then we do not get the information and have a national presence. For instance Deb would like to follow up her contact with Ja'Net Bishop, in charge of Region 3. She is hopeful that their relationship could result in a Regional Conference and support for our organization.

Motion made by Mallory Soffin that we add to the agenda a motion and discussion that MAEO pay for the flight, hotel and meals not included

in the conference registration for our Board President to attend the National Conference. Support by Colleen Deaven. Motion passed.

Motion made by Colleen Deaven that MAEO pay for the hotel, flight and associated expenses (meal and public transportation) for the MAEO President to attend the 2018 National Conference. Second by Amanda Miller. Motion carried.

B. Attendance at board meetings and voting seats

Deb reached out to Erin Sullivan about her ability to attend meetings. Ms. Sullivan's job duties have kept her away from the meetings. Deb received a letter from Erin Sullivan resigning her position on the board. President Baughman will be reaching out to Gary Bigger who was the other individual on the ballot who did not get elected to the board.

C. Board meeting Calendar:

The president noticed that for the last two years we have cancelled the December meeting. She questioned whether or not it makes sense for us to schedule a November and a December meeting in 2018 which may improve our chances of meeting. This year our meetings were cancelled because of board member obligations and therefore we did not meet for three months which meant that board business was idle. Decided that the calendar discussion will take place at the summer retreat. Amanda reminded us of the FREE service of ZOOM for a possible electronic meeting.

D. Board Communication:

Deb Baughman asked if there is a better way of keeping in touch with each other. It is important at certain times of the year that we assist each other and figure out how to share information and requests for help. Amanda is going to put a google document together that may assist us.

VI. Board Matters/Task Updates

- Website update/Newsletter-Fall newsletter did not get sent out. Winter version will be going out ASAP. Amanda would like feedback on the format.
- Facebook/twitter: Chris Maes was absent so no report was given.
- Communication with and between board members: continue working on it.

- One Day Professional Development-Lisa was absent-suggestion about postponing until fall of 2018.
- Member Survey- Plan for surveying members at the annual conference.
- Review of Goals-Review was done and it was determined that we are making progress on them. Discussion that we may have been too big in our desire to accomplish things this year. We have a noticeable gap in the member school recruitment.
- Board member referrals for Keynotes/Presenters- Board members have been doing a good job in sending the names and contact information for presenters to Denise Cadwell. It was decided that Deb would present a session highlighting information she gained from attending the NAEA conference.
- SCECHs - Erin Sullivan has been working on this with her local ISD. Lisa B. has agreed to follow up on Social Work Continuing Ed. hours but was absent.

VII. Relationships and involvement with other state boards

- MDE- Rhonda Phillips-No one has responded to Rhonda since our last meeting.
- MACAE, MASSP-Lisa Klink was absent
- NAEA, MAAA-Deb Baughman-MAAA is struggling. Schools are not signing up for events. There seems to be many different reasons that schools are not attending.

Motion to adjourn at 6:45pm by Mallory Soffin and support by Colleen Deaven.
Meeting adjourned.