

MAEO
Michigan Alternative Education Organization
Board Meeting Minutes March 26, 2020

I. Welcome and Roll Call

Present: Amanda Miller, Deb Baughman, Rob Pawolski, Rhonda Marcum, Gina, Mallory Soffin, Sarah Johnson, Katie Myers, Colleen Deaven, Karen Van Epps, Denise Caldwell
Absent: David Groenenboom

II. President's Comments

President Baughman thanked everyone for making this virtual meeting work in the midst of unchartered territory and unprecedented times.

III. Approval of Board Minutes March 4, 2020

Moved by Rhonda Marcum and seconded by Mallory Soffin to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

IV. Board Reports:

A. Conference

Denise and Rob reported that they have been able to get ahold of all members who had registered for the conference. Rob has been reimbursing registration funds to all who have registered. Social media has been used to all extent possible to notify individuals of the cancellations. It was quite a negotiation with the Crystal Mountain to get all of our funds restored. We had to commit to returning to Crystal Mountain in two years 2022 and in four years 2024. The keynote speaker Tall Cop will be able to return to speak in 2022, he was already booked for our dates in 2021. He kept his deposit of \$580.00. The \$500.00 deposit was also kept by Crystal Mountain to insure our return in 2022. The board thanks the conference committee for all of their hard work during these uncharted times.

B. STARS

Legislative Day occurred right before the statewide lock down. There were 7 schools with 70 participants. Mallory felt like having only 70 students (rather than the past two years with 100) benefited from having a smaller gathering.. This enabled the students to have a greater voice, ask more questions and participate a bit more. It was determined that the current pandemic conditions dictated cancelling the Spring College and Career Competition event scheduled in May. Mallory volunteered to send this information to schools who participated in the first two events this year, and those who attended the

Spring event for the last two years. Amanda and Katie were asked to convey this in a post on our website and Facebook page. Deb will send them the text for the announcement.

In regard to placement on the website, it was asked that the announcement be put alongside the conference cancellation on the home page so that visitors to our website would see it immediately. Also post it under the MAEO STARS tab and take down the Legislative Day announcement. Amanda requested updated pictures be forwarded to her for the MAEO STARS tab. There was some discussion as to whether there could be some virtual options for the spring competition. Mallory agreed to give it some thought.

C. Treasurer

Rob reported that he has spent a great deal of time refunding conference and registration fees. He reminded board members that this is an example of when it is good to have a fund balance. Our balance is between \$50,000-\$60,000. We will have a decrease in revenue of approximately \$13,000 that is usually generated by the conference.

Motion by Karen Van Epps and Seconded by Sarah Johnson to approve the minutes as presented electronically. Motion carried.

V. Board Matters/Task Updates

A. Website/Social Media-

Please send updated bios to Amanda if you have not already so she can update the website.

B. Committee Work:

1. By-laws: Recommendations for publishing and timeline for vote
Continued discussion of bylaw wording. President Baughman had mailed some suggestions to Rhonda for consideration. After lengthy discussion it was decided that the committee will look at the wording again and make additional suggestions to the board for eventual voting.

2. Establish Service Award and Scholarship Committees

The board decided that we would wait until after the 13th of April to decide how we were going to proceed with the service awards and scholarships this year. Without the conference there are some challenges with presenting the awards etc. Denise, Karen, Rob, Mallory and Katie agreed to be on the committee to review both scholarship applications and service award nominations. Timelines to be established after we see what our quarantine time looks like.

C.2020 - 2021 MAEO Board Election

1. Method and deadline for soliciting candidates-Amanda was asked to post the Candidate form on the MAEO Home Page. Rob will forward the form to her. Katie will also announce it again on our Facebook page..
2. Procedure for voting/announcing results- TBD
3. Summer board retreat –Currently scheduled July 13th and 14th in Bay City. This date may be altered depending on whether we return to school this year.

D.. Other Board Member Matters of Interest/Concern

Because we will not hold our (traditional) last meeting of the year at the conference in April, it was decided that we should meet virtually on the same date. Next meeting is scheduled for April 23 at 4 pm unless otherwise notified..

IX. Adjournment -12:59pm.