



MPAAA

MPAAA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2007

CALL TO ORDER:

Karen Eisinger called the Planning Committee meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on November 9, 2007.
Carolyn Claerhout called the Executive Board meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

The following Executive Board Members were present/absent:

OFFICERS:

	Present	Absent
Carolyn Claerhout, President	X	
Debi Hartman, Past President	X	
Karen Eisinger, President-elect	X	
Rob Dickinson, Membership	X	
Jean Nichols, Treasurer	X	
Jan Dodge, Secretary	X	

COMMITTEES:

	Present	Absent
Jackie Laymac, Educational Issues Chairperson	X	
Mary Ellen Welcher, UP Representative	X	
Sally Washington, ISD Representative	X	
Rebecca Rocho, Legislative Liaison	X	
Vicki Bott, Member-at-Large	X	
Mary Beth Stein, Member-at-Large (proxy with Claerhout)	X	
Julie Weiler, Newslite Editor (proxy with Washington)	X	
Victoria Burke, Historian	X	
John Petitto, Sergeant-at-Arms	X	
Janell Craig, Communications/Technology	X	
Dan Hanrahan, Michigan Dept. of Education	X	
Meg Ropp, CEPI	X	

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

	Present	Absent
Stephanie Abata		X
Julie Beishlag	X	
Heidie Ciesielski		X

	Present	Absent
Cathy Flynn	X	
Barbette Lane		X
Annie Monaweck		X
Michael Rivenburgh		X
Nancy Raymond	X	
Lynn Stephan		X

REPORTS

Minutes of Prior Meeting:

Motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2007, made by Dickinson, seconded by Laymac, with the following corrections: (1) Under MSBO Certification: "Trina gave her ~~with~~ information regarding data quality curriculum." (2) Under President's Report: "Carolyn Claerhout again stated that the fall conference site in ~~2009~~ 2008 would remain at the Bay City Doubletree Inn." Motion passed.

Financial Report:

Jean Nichols gave the financial report. She reviewed the Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual, projecting a net reduction in income this fiscal year of approximately \$15,000, which would reduce the year-end fund equity from \$111,000 to \$96,000. Several significant increases to expenditures this year include higher printing costs for the fall conference, higher monthly meeting room costs, and reduced income. Jean Nichols is proposing a budget amendment to reflect the actual expenses. She will continue to provide the budget-to-actual report each month.

Motion by Eisinger, seconded by Rocho, to approve the Financial Report as presented. Motion passed.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President's Report:

Reported under Old Business.

President-Elect's Report:

Karen Eisinger reported that the Lansing Better Business Bureau has contacted her about bringing the fall conference back to Lansing. Since one room was successfully used in Bay City for both conference sessions and meals, it opens upon more possibilities. She noted that we have until next fall to make a decision about the fall 2009 conference. She will continue to pursue possibilities in the Lansing area.

Karen Eisinger presented at the Michigan Career Placement's conference with Diana Bailey. Karen will present again at organization's June and fall 2008 conferences.

Airfares from the U.P. to Lansing have jumped by \$100 or more. Mary Ellen Welcher, the U.P. representative, would like to continue attending monthly meetings. The newest member of the Planning Committee from the U.P. is planning to travel downstate for meetings starting in the spring. It was suggested that MPAAA acquire a credit card for the purpose of accumulating airfare incentive miles. Motion by Washington, seconded by Dickinson, to authorize Jean Nichols to look into a credit card for MPAAA. Motion passed.

Past President's Report:

Debi Hartman read a thank you note from Norm Lupton.

Debi Hartman asked for volunteers to serve on the nominations committee. One MPAAA member is interested in running for Secretary. Sally Washington, John Petitto, Carolyn Claerhout, volunteered to serve on the nominations committee with Debi Hartman.

Membership Chair's Report:

Rob Dickinson reported \$1,370 in outstanding debt from the fall conference. He sent out second invoices a few weeks ago. There are currently 490 members.

He also stated that Grand Rapids Public Schools was one of the school districts cited as a "dropout factory" in a recently published study by Johns Hopkins University. Rob stated that the methodology used in the study was flawed – it didn't account for changes over time, restructuring, and transfers. A brief discussion followed regarding communication to districts about the dropout rates that CEPI will issue in spring 2008.

Treasurer's Report: None

Secretary's Report: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Spring Conference Site 2009 and Beyond:

Carolyn Claerhout reserved conference dates and is awaiting contracts from the Grand Traverse Resort. She is working with a different person now. John Petitto volunteered to visit the GTR to wrap up a few outstanding items on or before February during a planned visit to that area.

MSBO Certification:

Vicki Bott reported that the certification committee has been meeting via email, and researching how to satisfy pupil accounting certification requirements. Data quality requirements may be met at CEPI's Data Quality Symposium sponsored by MIEM on January 10, 2008. MSBO is already receiving phone calls from people who are wondering when the MPAAA/MSBO certification track will begin. Therefore, Vicki Bott is anticipating an increase in membership, if we incorporate the certification track into our conferences. Several ideas were discussed for promoting the pupil accounting certification and MPAAA, such as identifying and notifying people currently registered on MEIS about upcoming certification training, and posting training information on CEPI's website and listserv.

Grad Dropout Subcommittee:

No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

SAA – Alternative Count Day for February Count:

Carolyn Claerhout reported that the alternative count day in the new State Aid Act has been changed from the day before to the day after. However, in her county there are 10 districts that are not in session during February count week. They are planning to conduct their count on the following Monday.

SOC – Cooperative Agreements:

Carolyn Claerhout reported that Detroit is not signing any letters of agreement for special education students who are attending other school districts through 105(c), even though the educating districts are willing to pay 100% of the additional costs. There are districts that are applying for a one-year waiver with the State, and Carolyn has been in contact with Becky Rocho to request a legislative change. Parents are now trying to decline special education services because they do not want to leave their educating districts, and districts are talking about exiting special education students who become 105(c).

Proposed SAA – Audits for Single Building Districts:

Carolyn Claerhout and Debi Hartman reported that a proposed revision to Section 18(3) of the State Aid Act would eliminate the need to perform annual audits in single building districts – primarily one-room schoolhouses and single-building PSAs, defined as buildings with less than 700 FTEs and a stable count. A desk audit would be performed each year, and a field audit bi-annually.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Educational Issues Chairperson:

Jackie Laymac reported that last Tuesday school districts received yet another mandate in the middle of the school year that the MME must be given over three days instead of two. There was a lengthy discussion about the implications of this change.

ISD Representative:

Sally Washington reported that the Pupil Auditing Manual has gone through revisions again, and she anticipates that it will be approved shortly.

UP Representative:

Mary Ellen Welcher stated that people in the U.P. have expressed many positive comments about the assistance they have received from CEPI.

Legislative Liaison:

Becky Rocho reviewed the minutes from the last MPAAA legislative committee meeting. Under vocational issues, it is important to make it clear at the spring conference that the reprieve on the concurrent class requirement is for one year only.

She also expressed concern that CEPI's data referent group's concerns regarding the SRSD re-write are not being heard. Districts must be told well in advance what to expect with the new system.

The committee also talked about the inconsistency between what the State Superintendent is saying about pupil accounting and seat time issues versus the lack of willingness to change some of the regulations that govern these requirements.

Becky Rocho reported that she and a group of people from MDE met to discuss the following SOC issues that are in need of clarification either through a legislative fix or manual clarification:

1. Clarifying the right to continuously enroll regardless of future residency changes to 105 or 105(c)
2. Special education agreements – districts are revisiting the agreements if there are significant changes in special education delivery, and considering withdrawing the students

3. Special education agreements – addressing districts that are unwilling to sign special education agreements, regardless of the educating district's agreement to pay all added costs
4. 15-day application window – clarification of 15 work or calendar days
5. Excessive 5% state aid penalty for 105 or 105(c) violations

Carolyn Claerhout said that a provision in the limited language has caused confusion. In one section it says that everything is over and done with by the first Friday of the first week of school, but in another section it says that as long as the District notifies the student by Friday of the first week of school, it is OK to enroll that student after that day.

There have also been discussions about limiting the number of choices a student can make in one year. Originally when Section 105 was written, it allowed a one-time choice. Now there are students who are abusing SOC and Section 6 tuition, and moving back and forth between districts multiple times in one year.

Becky Rocho stated that amendments would be drafted into the State Aid Act. They hope to have these in the executive recommendations to pave the way. Legislators are not particularly interested in opening up this section.

Michigan Department of Education:

Dan Hanrahan reported that there was one veto in the 2008 State School Aid, which was a section that would have provided some additional transportation funds to districts with 200 or more square miles, and less than five students per square mile. It had been reduced substantially from what was originally proposed. There was a provision for an alternate count day with a waiver from the State Superintendent, which didn't require conditions beyond administration's control. This stipulation has now been added. Carolyn Claerhout noted that this would apply if the calendar had not already been set. Next year districts will not be allowed to schedule the count day as a vacation or P.D. day.

Two exceptions to the requirement for releases from resident districts were added for students who were expelled and asking for reinstatement to a non-resident District, and for students who are attending a middle college within the same ISD.

Members-at-Large:

Vicki Bott – No report

Mary Beth Stein – No report

Newsline Editor: No Report

Historian's Report:

Victoria Burke asked everyone to wear something dark or a solid color to the December meeting for a group photo for the Newsline.

Sergeant-at-Arms:

John Petitto suggested that this group meet for a holiday luncheon after the December meeting.

Communications/Technology:

Janell Craig stated that MPAAA's website was down for several days. After investigating, she found that EdZone removed the site for non-payment of a \$50 fee that was never billed, and therefore, not paid. Motion by Rocho and seconded by Hartman to approve payment of \$50 to EdZone. Motion carried.

In regards to the logo, she is going to talk with the person who designed the certificates. Vicki Bott said that a graphic designer in her office may design it for less money. She will ask this person if she is interested in re-designing MPAAA's logo.

Janell Craig also added that the job posting link isn't active on the website, and she is receiving many phone calls from individuals who want to know when the link will be activated. Janell Craig stated that it would be very time consuming for her to maintain a link of this type, but she is agreeable to working with MSBO about a job postings link to our website.

She also suggested posting conference materials to the website or providing a CD, rather than MPAAA paying for the cost of printing the documents and then compiling them into binders. Skyward, for example, requires conference attendees to print their own documentation prior to each conference.

CEPI:

No report

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no reports from Planning Committee members.

Motion by Laymac, seconded by Petitto, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dodge

Janice Dodge

Secretary