

MAEE Board Meeting

MINUTES

July 23, 2014 / 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Children's Country Day School
588 Victoria Road South
Mendota Heights, MN 55118



Board Members:

Present: Angela Bianco, Molly Phipps, Jenni Poliseno, Callie Recknagel, John Smith, Wendy Tremblay

Present via online video medium: Matti Erpestad, Shannon Judd

Absent:

Excused: Katie-Lyn Bunney, Jill Nocera, Sarah Shimek

Unexcused: Roslye Ultan

Quorum Present? Yes.

Others Present: None.

Proceedings:

6:51 Meeting begins (motion by Matti Erpestad, 2nd Angela Bianco passed)
President's remarks & announcements

6:52 Approve agenda (motion by Callie Recknagel, 2nd Wendy Tremblay, passed)

6:53 Approve Consent Agenda (motion by Matti Erpestad, 2nd John Smith, passed)

6:53 Approve May minutes (motion by Angela Bianco, 2nd Jenni Poliseno, passed)

Election proceedings

6:55 Katie-Lyn Bunney voted in as Vice President

(motion by Matti Erpestad, 2nd Shannon Judd, passed)

-Board recruitment--7 people up for re-election/leaving the board, election upcoming in September

Board policies

7:00 General conversation of board policies and bylaws

-3 unexcused absences (not informing the President or Secretary beforehand) leads to a vacant seat

-Does the board have authority to pre-screen candidates who want to run for office?

John Smith proposes to start and head new committee to go over and revise online parts of Board Manual and other documents as needed

Strategic Planning

7:11 Conference World Cafe conversation take aways points

-conference participants think what we're doing is great

-we can do a better job of informing our members of what we do

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Due to late meeting start, we'll continue the conversation in the months to come

Conference Report

7:18 Over 80 total registrants; great reviews on workshops (great variety) and conference in general

-Summary of survey responses (18 people): 41% great; 53% good, 6% okay; complaints: small size of groups, low turnout; See more in 2014 conference folder under responses in evaluation folder on Google Drive

7:26 Conference financial report by Shannon: made over \$3000; need to send reminders to those who haven't paid fully; 2 years in a row we made money, and we're \$6000 (and more to come) ahead this year

7:31 Name tags for Board Members;
-Matti to contact Wolf Ridge about their name tag

7:35 MAEE swag for State Fair
-how does pricing and decisionmaking to purchase work?
-we can amend budget and make the decisions as needed (Shannon)
-Brainstorming about swag, both to sell and to give away

7:45 Stretch break

8:00 Meeting resumes

8:00 Meeting with Katie Pata of MNA
-need to keep a dialogue going
-preconceived notions of who the organizations serve
-collaboration between MNA and MAEE is informing people what we all do
-Katie's idea of MNA as a naturalist niche and MAEE as an umbrella
-re: combining conferences, etc; MNA runs things a little bit differently than we do, and we can gain some ideas/insights from them
-MNA often has 120-125, plus 60-80 of MAEE, but would Laurentian ELC (where there's planning on being) hold everyone? Not likely. Maybe in a couple years times this could be more of a possibility

8:12 Discussion of MEEK conferences and what kind of involvement in other conferences instead of holding our own;
-Support for finding keynote speakers for MEEK conference (**motion by Shannon Judd, 2nd Jenni Poliseno, passed**)
-Sending representatives to NAAEE conference in early October; we have access to scholarships; Molly will apply for these, and we will find out by August 8th

8:24 What about presenting as a Board at the MNA conference this year? As an exhibitor? We'll look into costs (Molly); we also have a Program Incubator Fund (Shannon) to use money for this type of purpose

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Financial Report (Shannon)

- did well at the conference
- \$6400 in the black for the year
- all major expenses for the year are covered
- budget revisions can be done in between Board meetings via email (Quorum votes for budget revisions)

8:31 John: what about attending MNA conferences this year and using our funds to represent MAEE there

- possibility of putting our “profits” in a program/board development fund to attend more local/regional/international EE conferences

8:34 Financial snafu at conference, inability of swipe cards, etc (Molly) and opportunity to use a different system than Pay Pal; something to consider

- Molly and Shannon will look at cost structures and other options to figure out what is best for us

8:40 **State Fair**

- how to engage the audience and hand out interesting things on tangible ways to get kids outdoors
- on printing costs; use reimbursement form on Google Drive

8:50 Need to find new spot to meet

- At Country Day School the days are open

8:53 Wendy will contact Sarah about a future Feast Forward

8:54 Adjourn (motion by Matti Erpestad, 2nd John Smith, passed)