

MAEE Board Meeting

MINUTES

September 17, 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, Katie-Lyn Bunney, Molly Phipps,
Jenni Poliseno, Callie Recknagel, Wendy Tremblay

Present via online video medium: Matti Erpestad, Shannon Judd, Jill Nocera,
John Smith, Sarah Shimek

Absent: Roslye Ultan

Quorum Present? Yes.

Others Present: Jennifer Elson (sp?)

Proceedings:

6:51 Meeting begins (motion by Katie-Lyn Bunney, 2nd Angela Bianco passed)

President's remarks & announcements

6:40 Approve agenda (motion by Katie-Lyn Bunney, 2nd Callie Recknagel, passed)

6:41 Approve Consent Agenda (motion by Callie Recknagel, 2nd Wendy Tremblay passed)

6:41 Approve July minutes (motion by Jenni Poliseno, 2nd Shannon Judd, passed)

Board Elections proceedings

6:41 Katie-Lyn Bunney: 3 new applicants for board member spots
Callie, Molly running again
Elections first week of October

6:43 Jennifer Elson (sp?) sitting in on meeting, will take John's seat as he leaves

6:52 Shannon, Sarah leaving MAEE

Recruitment

Need more outstate board members; it's hard to run a *statewide* organization with overrepresentation from the Twin Cities

Motion conversation to move how to make the outstate board experience better to now (as opposed to 8:30 pm)

(motion by Callie Recknagel, 2nd Katie-Lyn Bunney, passed)

6:55 Jill: biggest struggle is internet connection in Ely

Sarah's perspective: move meetings to different locations (as opposed to always in Metro)

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Molly: issue would be travel; solution could be to move the meeting to a weekend travel to alleviate travel time

Matti: it would be great to see people more than twice a year (retreat and conference), but need to think about monetary side of travel time

Shannon: can budget for that; could combine an outstate event with the same weekend as the meeting

Molly: possibility of having every other meeting in a different location

7:03 Thoughts about regional events and hosting the meeting in a certain region of Minnesota

Balancing logistical considerations of internet access and timing of the meeting

Conclusion: next year let's commit to two non-Metro board meetings in order to make MAEE more regionally inclusive

7:08 Sarah: let's use the Minnesota map of EE we made as a tool for recruitment

Callie willing to do this if someone else would take over the web and e-updates

Unresolved on who will take responsibility

7:10 E-updates

Callie: if you go to an event or experience something related to EE, do a quick write up and send to Callie

-Using Amazon Smile, which provides the option to donate to a nonprofit of your choice when you purchase via Amazon. Our website can have a link to Amazon Smile

Motion for Callie to help us set up an Amazon smile account (**motion by Katie-Lyn Bunney, 2nd Shannon Judd, passed**)

7:15 We have been contacted via email by various parties about the possibility of mentioning their books/companies on our e-updates and/or website;

Callie will send emails to board members to look over and comment

Stretch break til 7:30

7:31 Conference planning

MNA definitely wants to partner on a conference with us, but next year is too soon

- To have or not to have a conference next year? Based on the fact that MEEC (Midwest Environmental Education Conference) is in Madison next year
- Thoughts on the matter: to not have a conference and arrange a busload to Madison; we did make \$3000 on the conference, and it is our biggest money maker
- Shannon: we do have enough financial cushion to try smaller events next year and then seeing if we need to resume holding a conference thereafter

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- Conference planning takes so much energy; should we try on meeting the same needs in a different manner?
- Possible plan: we could hold smaller events on the years that MEEC is held and then have our conference on the “off” years
- If we decide not to have a conference, then we should commit to having smaller events and putting them on the calendar before January
- Conversation on how to work in an educational component (session/speaker as in conference) in addition to the networking
 - whichever organization is hosting or is benefiting from the Feast Forward could provide the educational component
- Conversation on financial considerations: should the Feast Forward benefit MAEE or the other organization;

7:48 Motion to forego holding a conference next year and focus our energy on smaller events (motion by Callie Recknagel, 2nd Angela Bianco, passed)

7:48 Conversation about smaller events (what, when, etc.)

- Report on Feast Forward, the organization of the event, the name “Feast Forward”
- Point could be to raise awareness of other EE organizations throughout the state and MAEE could at least cover our costs
- Visitors who came with Sarah were expecting something more “fundraiser-ish” and were planning to possibly give more money
- Decisions at this meeting: how many events
 - 4: Saturday December 13th, 2014 at River Bend, March (West), June (Metro), October (Duluth)
 - June event could have our annual meeting and possibly silent auction
 - October event could have possible outdoor recreation component
- 8:07 Thought that the River Bend event will be a pilot with the notion being that MAEE and River Bend will split the money raised once MAEE has covered its costs
 - The host organization would do in-kind donations of space, etc.
- Share this with membership in October E-update, reasons behind it, etc.
 - Callie will write it up and send to board members
 - Thought of possibly having organizations apply to host

8:16 Financial update

- Shannon: we’re doing well; made \$1000 more than last year total
- some payments still pending (from silent auction and registration)

8:20 Need for new Treasurer once Shannon steps down

8:21 Molly, Katie-Lyn, and Matti are going to NAAEE conference in Ottawa in October

- Motion to allocate remaining scholarship fund (\$982) to send Molly, Katie-Lyn, and Matti to NAAEE conference (motion by Angela, 2nd Angela Bianco, Molly, Katie-Lyn, Matti abstained, motion passed)

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8:32 Strategic Planning

Time to look over World Cafe comments from the conference

8:45 Discussion of prevalent themes that come from document

-Openness, inclusivity, MAEE as organization of young professionals, need to be more inclusive of formal educators

8:57 Final thoughts

Sarah: Feast Forward is less formal and with a combination of indoor and outdoor events

9:00 Adjourn (motion by Angela Bianco, 2nd, passed)