



PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL for the SOCIAL STUDIES

PCSS Fall Board Meeting Minutes

Lancaster County Convention Center, Lancaster, PA

October 2, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 8:45AM and President Mark Previte called for introductions.

Old Business

President Previte called for old business and no topics were advanced.

President's Report

President Previte declared that the Lancaster Conference should be considered a success based on feedback provided by attendees.

The Law Summit on Thursday had 43 attendees. Commendations to David Trevaskis.

The conference next year will be held in Pittsburgh on October 13-15 at the Doubletree Center City. The theme for next year has not been determined at this time. President Previte called for Board Members to send to him any relevant suggestions.

President Previte stated that there were several requests that the conference programs be posted on our website in advance so that people could plan their schedule in advance. Executive Secretary Imler indicated that it had been posted this year.

There will be a "We the People" regional competition held at UPJ on December 9th. This is an attempt to reactive the program in the western part of the state. Act 48 credit for teachers who come to observe.

The Winter Program Workshops will be held on January 24th in King of Prussia, February 28th in Harrisburg, and March 28th in Pittsburgh. Efforts are underway to secure PaTTAN as a partner. If PaTTAN does not partner, the number of sessions might need to be reduced to two for economic reasons. The target audience will be methods professors, preservice students and student teachers.

Each Board Member was asked to recruit five new members and pass this information on to Don Imler.

The theme for the NCSS National Conference will be "Vistas, Visions, and Voices. One of our student chapters will be doing a presentation.

President Previte spoke in a favorable regard about seeking to collaborate with other professional organizations.

Conference Report

President Elect Labant shared feedback regarding the consideration of some presenters being permitted to have multiple sessions. Generally, he expressed the point of view that there were compelling reasons to permit the pattern of offerings.

There was discussion regarding the demographics of those attending the conference. We need to assess who is being served and how we can meet the demands of those populations which have been identified.

- 267 attended
- 54% students
- 46% teachers/presenters

Conference Coordinator Report

A detailed report was submitted by Ruth Stas and is provided as Attachment A

Executive Secretary Report on Membership and Finances

There are about 550 names on our membership list. A number of the names are simply individuals whose membership comes and goes with conference registration. A more accurate figure is closer to 300. To date, we still continue to see membership registrations for NCSS that are not translating into PCSS registrations.

There is a need to create a production model that allows for the completion of interim work between board meetings. Perhaps, we need to consider a return to special committees which carry on work between Board Meetings.

The bills for the Lancaster Conference will be about \$21,642. It was noted that the expenses were high, given the nature of the conference facility. At the moment, there is about \$16,000 to offset expenses. About \$2000 was received from PennCORD toward conference expenses.

American Institute for History Education

David Trevaskis has been working on the process of formalizing a proposal for a partnership with Kevin Brady's organization (AIHE). This relationship would provide PCSS with additional resources which we need and it includes, but is not limited to technology support. A friendly amendment has been proposed by Al Cunningham which must be approved. A conference call will be scheduled to further discuss the proposed agreement.

New Business

A motion by Ruth Stas commending Don and Linda Imler for their efforts with regard to the conference was voted on and passed.

2011 Nominations and Elections

President Previte reminded Board Members that we need nominations for President Elect. Nominations should be directed to Past President David Trevaskis.

Website Update

Updates for the PCSS website should be directed to Mike Rawlins.

Publications

The Journal is due out in November, 2010.

Jodi has developed an evaluation rubric to assist with the process of reviewing submissions for the Journal.

There is a need for additional reviewers. Please pass this information on to Jodi.

An advocacy was expressed for the idea of having students submit items for the Journal.

Nothing has been submitted recently for The Keystone. The question was raised about the need to maintain this publication.

A motion was made by Don to create an award for the best Journal submission of the year. The motion received a second from Leo and passed unanimously.

Local, Regional and National Councils

Leo reported that the Western Council is starting to becoming active. A newsletter has been generated. The organization received a \$16,000 endowment.

A detailed report on MCSS was submitted by Mike and is included as Attachment B.

Rachel reported on SVCSS and expressed concern about the impact of the economy on the activities of the chapter.

CUFA

President Previte seeks to delay the presentation on this topic until after the NCSS conference in Denver.

Federal Teaching American History grants (Mark Lemoncelli)

Mark Lemoncelli expressed a concern about the inequality seen in the award of TAH grants state to state.

A motion was made by Don that PCSS draft a communication to be sent to our legislative delegation regarding the situation. The motion received a second from Mark Lemoncelli. The motion passed unanimously. Mark Lemoncelli agreed to head up a committee to draft a letter that will be presented to the Board for approval.

It was further advocated that we organize a delegation to travel to Washington Travel to Wahington, DC to advocate for the cause.

Update on Keystone Exams

Don presented a brief update on the progress being made on the Keystone Exams.

Future PCSS Conference Sites

- 2011 Pittsburgh DoubleTree Hotel and Suites, Pittsburgh City Center, Oct. 13-15, 2011. Thursday History Summit at the Heinz History Center (tentative)
- 2012 Gettysburg - return to Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center;
- 2013 Valley Forge – return to Freedoms Foundation or Philadelphia – new American Revolution Center
- 2014 Western PA

Awards

Kim emphasized the importance of deadlines and she indicated that she would send out monthly reminders.

It was recommended that we maintain the flexibility to have “Special Awards” as needed from time to time.

The review of nominations will be on April 30th. The time and location of the review will be made known and all are welcome to participate.

It was recommended that we Encourage winners to present at the conference and waive their registration fee.

We need to have better follow up with previous winners and encourage their engagement with PCSS.

Various ways to reduce paperwork in the submission and management process will be explored and implemented.

A motion was made by Kim Kochanski and a second was offered by Don Imler in support of a permanent category recognizing a social studies leader of the future (K-12). The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Nicole and a second was offered by Keith to modify the award costs in such a way as to allow us to provide a small monetary sum to the award recipient. This would be accomplished by reducing the cost that we presently spend on the plaques that we distribute.

Adjournment

President Previte called for adjournment at 11:10 AM.