

**Minutes of Board Meeting- Johnstown, Pennsylvania
October 10, 2009**

Attendees:

Mark Previte, Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen, Kimberly Kochanski, Mark Lemoncelli, Keith Bollinger, Rachel Finley-Bowman, Al Cunningham, Steve Koxol, Michael Phillips, Keith Bailey, Don Imler, Susan Griffin, Leo West, Pat Kelly, Ira Hiberman, Ed O'Brien, David Trevbaskis, Joseph Labant, Ruth Stas, Mike Stas.

Absentee Members:

1. Betty Cocoran
2. Steve Bullick
3. Christine Woyshner
4. Jill Pescatore (illness)
5. Jodi Bornstein (illness)
6. Alan Liebowitz

President's Report

PCSS President David Trevaskis presided over the meeting. He declared that there was no old business to bring before the Board. He stated that he had no message to share at this time. Commendation was extended to Don and Mark regarding their hard work in organizing and administering the Johnstown Conference,

Conference Coordinator's Report

Ruth Stas delivered the conference report. She stated that there were fewer vendors this year, perhaps due to the economy. She asked everyone on the Board to actively recruit vendors whom we do business with during the school year. She indicated that she would step down from her position after the Lancaster Conference. Don suggested that her replacement should shadow Ruth to learn the role. Commendations were offered to Ruth for her fine work. She reminded us that Middle States would be held in Gettysburg in February.

Membership and Finance

Don reported on several financial items:

The Johnstown Conference was expected to "break even". We extended registrations to reduced cost to add numbers to the conference. The favorable financial arrangements made with the facilities helped greatly. There were about 200 people registered with an average registration of \$80.

There are presently 542 members of PCSS. About 250 will be up for renewal in November. He expects that we will hold on to about 100 of those members. He would like to end the year with a membership base of 400.

We had about \$8,000 in the treasury coming into the conference and he projects that we will have about \$7,200 following the conference.

The Student Chapter from Lock Haven submitted a membership check in the amount of approximately \$500.

There clearly was a problem with school districts allowing their teachers to attend the conference. Perhaps, we need to discuss the idea of a central location to see if that attracts more attendance. This should be given additional discussion at a later date.

State of the Union

In October, The Bar Association. will examine the idea of a Constitutional Convention. The question was raised about the idea of getting a PCSS Board Member elected to that potential Convention.

Kevin Brady has offered to handle our web page, our mailings, and provide a variety of resources to PCSS. It is David's recommendation that we should accept this offer.

The California Council of NCSS wrote a letter regarding the proposed Common Core Standards advocating for the inclusion of social studies standards. It is expected that 85% of the standards for any given state will come from the common core with the rest being of state origin. We should consider a letter that makes a similar case to have social studies included. (SEE ATTACHMENT FOR LETTER)

According to Susan Griffin:

- The National Conference in Atlanta is on target with regard to registration.
- Vendors seem to be having budget issues impacting their registration numbers in the vendor area.
- Membership at the national level is down.
- Summer workshops went well.
- NCSS is planning an online course and a recent webinar went well.

Susan offers commendation to PCSS for its exemplary work.

Dave distributes token of appreciation to outgoing Board Members.

Passing of the Gavel

The transfer of leadership takes place and President Mark Previte takes the helm.

Mark distributed PCSS Bag/forms and explained the content of the bags. Membership forms are provided and the request is made for Board Members to share the forms which offer complementary membership for a year. Membership extension for Board Members is also included.

Each Board member should select an IU and build a data base of principals and chairs. The goal is to increase level of communications.

Nominations

We will do nominations electronically this year. We need to actively seek nominations. They should be sent to Dave. We need to expand to portions of the state where we are under represented.

Web Site Update

Please send information about any technical issues to Mark or Don.

Publications

“Best Practices” will continue to be the theme for The Journal. So far nothing has been received for The Keystone. It was suggested that the focus “differentiation” be added to the publications.

Leo suggests that we eliminate the password to get access to the various publications. Also, he suggests that they should also be sent out by e-mail. There is some degree of belief that the periodicals are not being accessed and read by many of our members.

Don raised the idea that a link be used rather than sending the entire journal out as an attachment.

Local Councils

SVSS has been revived. There were a number of activities hosted by Elizabethtown College.

Leo distributed a report of the status of WPCSS which is undergoing a reorganization. They have lost teachers from their mailing list and are having trouble attracting members. Leo would like to tap into the PCSS mailing list in order to recruit.

Middle States

The last conference was held at Salisbury University in Maryland. The next conference will be held in on February 25-26, 2009, in Gettysburg.

Teaching American History Grant

Mark spoke on the problem of Pennsylvania getting a fair share of the grant funding. It appears that other states are receiving considerably more grant awards than we are getting and it is believed that this is a political circumstance needing resolve. It was suggested that we need to work with our Federal Legislators to apply pressure to see that our high quality grants get a fair chance.

Don suggests that we encourage Intermediate Units to apply for grants in that they represent larger populations than individuals school districts.

Susan Griffin indicated that key personnel associated with the program will be doing a presentation at the NCSS convention in Atlanta. She feels that it might be an excellent opportunity to open discussion with them.

NAEP Testing

Mark Lemoncelli inquired about NAEP and wanted to know if the pilot taking place in social studies is obligatory. He indicated that his school district is not inclined to participate if it is not required.

Susan Griffin suggests that NAEP data is useful to the states.

New Business

The PCSS conference for Fall, 2010 will focus on Law Related Education and Differentiated Instruction. It will be held in Lancaster City at the new convention center complex.

The Spring Meeting in April will also have a conference component. This will be a no cost mini conference providing various sessions courtesy of Kevin Brady. It was suggested that March would be a better time in order to avoid issues associated with the state testing program.

A motion made and unanimously passed to give the executive committee the authority to set a conference plan into place.

It was noted that SVCSS should apply for affiliation.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to give Don the authority to negotiate a joint mailing with WPCSS.

Middle States needs personnel to man tables and sessions at the conference in Gettysburg. We get a share of the proceeds from this event. Ruth suggests that we establish a table at Middle States in order to promote our conference in Lancaster. We would be entitled to a table at no cost.

Joe asks that PCSS support the regional Lancaster History Day in late March. There is a discussion about the benefit of a PCSS sponsorship. Dave will work with Joe to see if he can assist in this matter.

Sharon agreed to explore funding issues faced by regional history day programs.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25AM

Respectfully submitted,
Ira Hiberman
Recording Secretary