



Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 9, 2018
Embassy Suites, Ridgeland, MS

Welcome and Call to Order

The MRPEA Board Meeting was called to order at 10:06 AM by Ann Thames.

Members Present

Virgil F. Belue
Richard Black
Margo Bowers
Alton Cobb
George Dale
Jane Dykes
Howell Garner
Lester Herrington
Lucian Hill
Joe Johnson
Mike Larsen

Ed Legrand
Olin Lewis
Mike Lightsey
Randy McCoy
Michael Myrick
J. Hoopy Stringer
Ann Thames
Billy Thames
Sam Valentine
Wynona Winfield

Members Not Present

Ronald Bell
Tony Byrne
Judy Clark
James Cushman
Wylma King
Thomas Loftin
Robert McNeil

Keith Shaffer
Dale T. Sullivan
Anita Toler
Evelyn Webb
Wilma White
Marty Wiseman

Guest

Emily Pote, MRPEA Executive Director

Invocation

Ed Legrand called on Howell Gardner to give the invocation. Howell led the prayer.

Agenda Approval

Legrand asked for the approval of the board meeting agenda. Sam Valentine made a motion, Virgil Belue seconded the motion, and all approved.

Old Business

Treasurer's Report

Mike Lightsey reported that as of July 8, the Trustmark checking account had a balance of \$38,739.96 and the Regions CD had a balance of \$45,088.23. Lightsey also presented the

Expense report and Income report for May 1 through July 8, which included all expenses and income for this period. Expenses came to \$6,646.17 and income was at \$16,730.00. On the Profit and Loss Budget Vs Actual, Lightsey pointed out that total income for this fiscal year is \$26,375.80 and total expense is \$32,059.84. A motion was made by Jane Dykes and seconded by Ed Legrand. Motion passed.

Approval of April 9, 2018, Board Meeting Minutes

Ann Thames asked for a motion to approve the April 9, 2018 board meeting minutes, which had been provided to the board members. Virgil Belue moved for approval, and Howell Garner seconded. Motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Emily Pote presented her Executive Director's Report, prepared in advance. She noted that she has kept all normal activities consistent and has largely been working on the preparation for the 2018 Annual Meeting and the Membership Drive. The Board discussed the financial situation in regards to the Membership Drive and agreed that the Drive should begin in March of 2019 next year.

In her report, Emily also presented a response from Pat Robertson, PERS Executive Director, about research on comparing other states who have changed to a Defined Contribution or Hybrid plan and how it has affected them, positively or negatively. Robertson had noted that while the modeler that PERS uses is proprietary, she sent several case studies that the Board could review. Ed Legrand was still interested in what the modeler looks in 2055 or 2060 (aka when the Baby Boomers drop out of the system). There was much discussion about the system, unfunded liability, and the future of PERS. After much discussion, Ed Legrand moved for approval, and Lucian Hill seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Networking Committee

Mike Larsen presented a letter that will go out to all MRPEA Partners. He reported that the Communications piece that was created earlier in the year has already gone out to all Partners. He noted that Ann and himself met with MPE (Mississippi Professional Educators) earlier this year about working together. Hoopy Stringer called for a motion, Ed Legrand seconded, all approved.

Legislative Committee

Ed Legrand reported that while the legislative session is over, he asked everyone to stay vigilant in the coming year. Legrand reported that he, Mike Larsen, and Emily Pote met with Ray Higgins and Pat Robertson and he feels that the two Executive Directors have a similar mindset about the system. He thanked George and Ray for attending the meeting. He noted that the organization will be sending letters to all candidates in all districts in 2019. Lester Harrington called for a motion, Howell Garner seconded, all approved.

Communications

Wynona Winfield reported that she continues to work with the District Directors. She is continuing her grassroots efforts this year and encouraged all board members to find people in their districts to help with these efforts. For the annual meeting, she created a press release and District Directors helped get the press release out. She also reported that MRPEA will be acquiring the MS Press Association Media List for future events. Ed Legrand called for a motion, Virgil Belue seconded, all approved.

Membership

Howell Garner presented the membership report. Since the beginning of the fiscal year, we have had 50 new annual members, 785 renewals, and 12 life members sign up. He encouraged everyone to reach out to those who might be interested in becoming a member. Howell requested that MRPEA ask PERS about reaching retirees and speaking at PERS meetings with retirees. He also announced that we would be reaching out to organization about having a booth at open enrollments.

New Business

Strategic Plan

Ann Thames presented the updated Strategic Plan. After review, Ed Legrand made a motion to accept the Strategic Plan. Sam Valentine seconded, all approved, motion passed.

Budget

Ann Thames presented the draft budget for the new fiscal based on this year's numbers. After review, Howell Garner made a motion to accept the FY 2019 Budget. Billy Thames seconded, all approved, motion passed.

Adjournment

Ann encouraged the board to stay for the Annual Meeting.

There being no further business, Ann Thames made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:36 AM. Ed Legrand seconded the motion and all approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Emily Pote