Minutes of the August 1st and August 2nd VPA Executive Council Meeting

(Agenda items in black; meeting notes are in blue.)

In Attendance:
EC: June Sargent, Jeff Moreno, Becky Read, Joan Cavallo, Bill Anton, Lissa McDonald, Beth O'Brien, Patrick Burke, Tom Bochanski, Wayne Howe, Dean Stearns, Ed Webbley
Professional Learning and Support Committee: Laurie Singer
VPA Staff: David Cobb, Ken Page
Other: Laurie Singer Professional Learning and Support Committee
Absent: Shaun Pickett, Bill Rivard, Andre Messier

Thursday, August 1, 2013
1. Welcome to New Members and EC member check in President, Dean Stearns
President Dean Stearns welcomed all new and returning EC members and remarked briefly before asking people to introduce themselves, where they work and something about their summers

2. Approval of Minutes from EC meeting May 3, 2013 Dean Stearns
There was a motion by Jeff Moreno and seconded by June Sargent to approve the minutes of the May 3rd meeting as corrected. Approved on 11-0-0 vote
Result of your vote: 6 in favor, 0 against, 6 abstaining

3. Nomination and election of VPA president elect Nominations Committee
Dean Stearns updated the full EC about Bill Rivard’s request to resign from the his president elect position, citing future career considerations. This was discussed and Wayne Howe moved and Ed Webbley seconded it to accept Bill Rivard’s resignation as president elect of the VPA. The vote as 12 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining.
After a discussion about who else would be interested, Patrick Burke agreed to be considered for the role. Jeff Moreno motioned, and Becky Read seconded it to select Patrick Burke as new president-elect of the VPA. The vote was 12-0-0.

The Executive Council also took up the job of discussing filling the NAESP State Representative position, since Laurie Singer’s EC term has expired and since she has moved to the Professional learning and Support Committee. At the same time, our past President Madeline Young who had also served as the Federal Relations Liaison Coordinator with NAESP has retired, and that position needs filling too. The EC
discussed combining both positions into a NAESP/Federal Relations position. Before Laurie spoke about the position, she discussed her NAESP report with the full council. Following this, Laurie spoke in favor of combining both positions. Several council members weighed in on this.

4. By Law Changes  Dean Stearns & Ken Page (tabled until Friday morning)

5. 4:30 p.m. Following Up, Part 1: A Conversation with ASC

Dean Stearns, June Sargent, Bill Lawson

At 4:35, EC was joined by the ASC Standing Committee.

Executive Council Update: After go-around introductions, president Dean Stearns spoke of the work EC will be doing to try to align bylaws with policies. He and past president June Sargent spoke of the need to get the other standing committee, the Professional Learning and Support Committee, up and running. The PL&S committee has begun to work with Laurie, Madeline Young, Bonnie Johnson-Aten and Dave Cobb as an organizing sub-committee. Laurie said that once the have a process in place for deciding membership on this committee, the PL&S Standing Committee will bring this plan to EC for approval. Dave Cobb asked people for suggestions for principals who might be both helpful for the committee and representative of all areas of Vermont.

Activity Standards Committee Standing Committee Update: ASC Chair Bill Lawson gave the full group an overview of what ASC does (policies, alignments, hardship cases, rule violations and corrective plans for schools were some of the things he cited.

(continuing) Executive Council meeting:

Laurie Singer, who is resigning her position to move over to the Professional Learning and Support Committee recommended that the positions of NAESP Coordinator and that of NAESP Federal Relations Coordinator be combined. A spirited debate began about he recommendation. At 5:10, the EC tabled its meeting until 8:30 a.m. the following morning. Motion by June Sargent, and seconded by Wayne Howe

Friday, August 2, 2013

7:00-8:15 Breakfast available for EC and ASC (location in hotel TBA)
Agenda item #8 was really the overarching item for all work for this day. Although out of sequence below, the conversation was dominated by several other items that took considerable time.

8. 9:30-11:30 “Work Plan for the Year” to assure that all VPA policies and procedures are updated, accessible and in sync with bylaws; to assure that all VPA student activities remain viable and engaging, and that all professional learning offerings for leaders remain relevant, useful and available to our members.

At 8:33 a.m. on August 2nd, President Dean Stearns welcomed members back for day #2. David Cobb, VPA Development Director, gave his opinion on combining positions and spoke in support of Laurie Singer’s recommendation. Past president June Sargent said she had concerns about combining the positions. She said she leans toward separation of the positions.

Laurie Singer said that she could go either way with regard to combining the positions, but told the board that both NASSP and NAESP are making dramatic moves to do more together. Pat Burke weighed in and said that he was conflicted. He suggested that the same person fill both positions but that there be separate votes. This would allow the person to drop one position at a later date and the full EC would not have to have this discussion all over again.

**NAESP State Coordinator and Federal Relations Coordinator Positions:**
President Dean Stearns asked who was interested in the position(s). Becky Read and Tom Bochanski said they were interested in the position. After some discussion which included a brief talk by Becky and Tom to state why they were interested. Becky Read spoke of the importance of Advocacy and her interest of being involved a the national level. Ed Webbley spoke of his frustration that the position is mainly related to elementary and that high school is not getting important initiatives advanced. Then June Sargent moved to appoint Tom Bochanski as the NAESP state Representative. This was seconded by Jeff Moreno and the vote was 11-0-1 with Ed Webbley abstaining. Following this, June Sargent moved to appoint Becky Read as the new Federal Relations coordinator. This was seconded by Jeff Moreno and voted affirmatively 12-0-0.

**VPA to Pay for NAESP or NASSP Membership for Fed. Relations Coordinator**
Joan Cavallo supported the Federal Relations as a K-12 position and she recommended that VPA pay for the membership that the Federal Relations person does not have (either NAESP or NASSP) to insure that the position represents both elementary, middle and high school constituents. This was moved by Ed Webbly, seconded by June Sargent, and voted in the affirmative on a 11-0-1 vote (Becky Read abstaining)

**Middle Level Athletic and Activities Policy Follow Up:**
At 9:05, (taking up business passed over on Tuesday afternoon) the EC Council then heard from Dave Cobb about the new Middle Level Activities and Athletic Policy. Dave gave the full EC ands update and gave a summary green sheet and the revised ML Activities and Athletic Policy. Becky Read said that she believes the new policy for middle level needs some teeth. Dave Cobb indicated this still guidelines for a year and after that the next phase would deal with consequences. He said this was the first step of several steps. Dean Stearns said the new policy looks like bylaws. Tom Bochanski spoke of the need for an overarching policy statement about creating policies. Both Ed Webbly and Lissa McDonald spoke of the need for middle level kids to be safe. Lissa urged The EC to tighten up training for middle level coaches. Beth O'Brien asked about cooperative sponsorships. June Sargent told her that schools can request waivers from this rule. Tom Bochanski supported a training component for middle level coaches. He said that coaches should have 24-7 access to coaching modules. Dave Cobb said this is being worked on right now. Lissa McDonald urged the the wording in section 5 be amended from recommended to required. Jeff Moreno informed members of the required training needed on concussions. Lissa McDonald said that we need “sports specific training.” June Sargent reminded members of the wording in the proposed policy that says that “additional training may be required for sport specific team.” Pat Burke said that even some youth hockey team coaches have more training than school middle level coaches. He encouraged VPA to step away from the National Federation of High Schools and go with USA Hockey. Dave Cobb reminded Pat that we are governed and affiliated by bylaws with the NFHS. Laurie Singer said that VPA will have to recognize the reality here that there is a need for middle level coaches to also have required training. She urged VPA to think of the reality. She said that we need to offer resources. Ed Webbly said that the issue belongs back to the Activity Standards Committee. Dean Stearns urged us to send it back to ASC with a recommendation that safety training for ML coaches be required. Again, Tom Bochanski urged a general policy statement be included.
Tabled:
After almost an hour discussion, June Sargent motioned to table the discussion. Seconded by Becky Read. Approved unanimously. Wayne Howe urged the need for us to offer elementary principals generic guidelines. Since this policy was actually approved at Annual meeting, June urged us to at least get the regulations sections out to principals right away. Again, Lissa McDonald urged every coach of a middle level team to have at least a minimum level of training to be a coach.

10:30 President Dean Stearns reflected on the long discussion we just finished regarding the differing opinions. He said that in some way, past practice has caused this. He urged the council members to join him in completing the work we need to do.

Lissa McDonald and Beth O'Brien to Join Middle Level Workgroup
For example, we need to have some members join ASC to form a workgroup to work on the Middle Level Athletic and Activities Procedures: Lissa McDonald and Beth O'Brien volunteered to do this. He said that since the Middle Level Policy was already in place, he would ask for the new group to complete its work by March.

Tom Bochanski and Advocacy: After a break, the EC convened again at 10:25. Tom Bochanski said to the full EC that he was honored to be considered for the NAESP State Rep. He sees himself as a schoolhouse instructional leader. In reference to meeting all levels, Tom said that the strength of the Executive Council will inform his opinions about advocacy. He said that he challenges himself to think across all levels. He said that he sees advocacy as a very important part of his new NAESP state rep position. He said that is is very grateful to the members for the opportunity.

Policy:
Ken was charged with sending out an e-blast seeking feedback on the new policy. 10:40 Ken gave a brief update about the new bylaws that were recently adopted at the Annual meeting.

VPA Finance Committee: Dean asked for volunteers to join the VPA Finance Committee: The following people volunteered: Tom Bochanski, Wayne Howe, Bill Anton, Dean
Stearns, Pat Burke, June Sargent and Ken Page, Bob Johnson, Delina Benway and Dave Cobb from the VPA Staff.

**Service Learning:** Ed Webbley volunteered to assist Dave Cobb to read applications for Service Learning grants.

Jay Hartman approved for ASC: In following up on other business, Dean Stearns asked the full EC to consider appointing Jay Hartman from Missisquoi Valley Union High School to fill Keith Gerrit’s seat on the Activities Standards Committee. This was approved on a 12-0-0 vote (Motion by Ed Webbley and seconded by Joan Cavallo).

**President’s Steering Committee:** Dean also asked the full Executive Council to help him by developing a president’s steering to help with establishing the agenda, the direction of the council, and the overall vision for moving forward. The following people signed up for the president’s steering committee on policy and transparency: Ed Webbley, June Sargent, Dean Stearns, Joan Cavallo, Pat Burke and Jeff Moreno. It was mentioned that we need clear direction before our meeting on November 1st. The committee will presumably meet before this time.

**Policy Work:** Ken was asked to do his best to gather up all policies from the many locations that house VPA policy right now. It is the president’s charge that we spend time cleaning up policies and making them available and transparent to the general public. Wayne Howe urged Ken to find out if there is a policy organization format for non-profits that we could use to organize our VPA policies. Tom Bochanski urged us to use Google docs for this purpose.

7. **8:40 Professional Learning and Support Standing Committee Discussion All Members**

**PL&S Standing Committee:** Laurie Singer spoke about the new professional learning and support standing committee. A short discussion ensured. It was decided that the organization and development of this important committee would be the focus of our meeting in January. Yet, in the meantime, Ken was asked to make sure that the PL&S committee has a web presence on our website.
(Recorder's note: So, it appears that the Executive Council is spending its November meeting talking about policy and its January meeting talking about the professional learning and Support Committee.)

After a full morning's work, the Executive Council decided to conclude its work. At 11:45 a.m. on Friday, August 2nd, the meeting was adjourned (motion by Jeff Moreno, seconded by Beth O'Brien). Approved on a 12-0-0 vote.
(Recorder's Notice: The next meeting will be Friday November 1st at the VPA Office from 10:00-3:00. The Finance Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. on that same day.)

9. 11:30 Following Up, Part 2: A Conversation with ASC-Moving Forward Together
(Because both groups had busy agendas, we did not meet at 11:30 as we had planned to do)
10. 11:45 Lunch followed by return to summer

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Page
notetaker for this EC meeting