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Vermont Principals' Association

Supporting Learners and Leaders

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APPROVED MINUTES (approved 1-29-15)

VPA Executive Council Meeting, November 5 from 10-3:00 at the VPA Office
Finance Committee meeting with CPA Sheila Valley at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, November 5

1. Welcome to New Members and EC member check in- Dean Stearns

The meeting was called to order by president Dean Stearns at 10:13 a.m. The following members were in attendance:

Executive Council: Pat Burke, Dean Stearns, Joan Cavallo, Wayne Howe, Bill Anton, Andy Paciulli, Heidi Lucas-Moccia, Jeff Moreno, Shun Pickett, Beth O'Brien, Tom Bochanski, Andre Messier (1:00), Ed Webbley (10:25)

VPA Staff: Ken Page, Bob Johnson (11:20), David Cobb (11:00)

Absent: Lissa McDonald, Amy Minor

Guests: Bob St. Pierre (River Bend Career and Tech Center-confirmed in meeting as an EC member, so from now on, he is no longer considered a guest); Amy Fowler, Deputy Secretary from the Agency of Education; Amy Molina, ASC member and U-32 Athletic director

Before launching into business, Dean asked each attendee to introduce himself/herself and to share one positive thing that has happened this school year.

For the first order of business, Dean explained that over the summer, the state Tech directors met and appointed Bob St. Pierre to represent Tech Center Directors (*This was made possible because President Dean Stearns has just taken a job as a K-12 principal and therefore could no longer represent Tech Center Directors*). So, Sean Pickett moved and I was seconded by Heidi Lucas-Moccia to approve Bob St. Pierre as an Executive Council Member. This motion was approved unanimously.

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2. Approval of Minutes from EC meeting, August 7&8 Dean Stearns

Joan Cavallo moved and Wayne Howe seconded to approve the minutes from the August 7&8 Executive Council Meeting. The vote to approve was 11-0-1, in favor (with Jeff Moreno abstaining)

3. Brief Update: President's Update, Subcommittees and National Reps-Finance, Policy Revision, NAESP (Tom). NASSP (Ed)

Dean Stearns gave an update of the NASSP Zone 1 meeting that he and Ken attended on October 16th in Concord, NH where the NASSP president GA Buie spoke. Tom Bochanski, the NAESP State Coordinator and Federal Relations Coordinator gave an update based on his written report to the EC members, included in the meeting packet. He also told the EC that he and Ken are going this weekend to Cheshire, CT, where NAESP zones 1&2 will be meeting. Tom also spoke on the national blog to which he contributes regularly. Ken gave an update from the Policy revision Committee, Wayne, a Policy Revision Committee stressed the importance of the policy work. Ed Webbley, the NASSP State Coordinator spoke of a report that is being distributed by both NASSP and NAESP called CHURN: The Dean spoke representing the Finance Committee and shared that the Finance Committee had met at 8:30 that morning with CPA Sheila Valley who reviewed the audit. The Finance Committee reviewed the audit that showed a surplus of approximately \$14,000 for the previous year. The committee discussed salary band benefits for the VPA staff as a way to give Ken direction as he and Delina Benway (VPA Office and Finance Manager) begin to craft the 2015-16 budget which will come before the full Executive Council by May of 2016.

4. Combined Meeting with Professional Learning and Support Committee

At 11:00, the moveable wall between Conference Room "A," and Conference Room "B," was opened and the two committees met together to talk about these four items: As a new VPA

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committee just starting up, what challenges have you faced and how can we work collectively to assist you in overcoming these challenges? What plans do you have for this year? How can EC help as you develop future plans? What questions do you have for the Executive Council? Executive Council president asked people to introduce themselves: The following Professional Learning and Support Standing Committee members introduced themselves: Laurie Singer (PL&S Chair), Dave Cobb (PL&S committee liaison), Brett Blanchard, Angela Stebbins, Dennis Hill, Stacey Rice, and Peter Evans, VPA mentoring co-coordinator. Committee chair Laurie Singer spoke of the PL&S Committee being the eyes and ears of the organization when it comes to professional learning for principals. She said that they were reviewing the survey results from the August leadership academy and also planning for the August 15 Academy. The main speaker for 2015 is Dr. Eric Jensen. The committee is busy working on finding a speaker for the summer of 2016. The emphasis is on leadership teams presenting at the strands, and to offer opportunities for whole SUs to come to the academy to learn together and to plan for the upcoming school year. Deputy Director Amy Fowler seconded Beth O'Brien's idea that it would be good to collaborate with other groups already offering PD such as the ESAs ,now called, PLN. Wayne gave a great example of his school district cooperating with LAPDA. Laurie also introduction to Peter Evans, VPA mentor coordinator, who spoke of the close work with the Agency of Education to promote the value of mentoring and the need to work closely with superintendents on this initiative.

5. Introduction: Amy Fowler, Principal Assistant to the Secretary of Education, Director of Education Quality

Deputy Secretary spoke of her work with the agency. At this point she is concentrating on Educator licensing; she briefed the two committees on the upcoming licensing changes. There was a productive exchange of ideas from members to the agency and a general agreement that this sharing of information is quite helpful.

6. Lunch

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Executive Director Ken Page interrupted lunch to inform people of two things: The November 17&18 conference called "Green Mountain Imperative," and the opportunity Vermont has to nominate a candidate from one of our committees to the national NASSP Board. After a brief discussion, Shaun Pickett motioned, and Jeff Moreno seconded the nomination of Brett Blanchard from the PL&S Committee to the NASSP national board. The vote was unanimous. Ken also shared that The VPA Executive Council members have been invited to join the Educational Change conference called the Green Mountain Imperative to be held at the Doubletree Hotel on November 17&18 in South Burlington.

5. 1:00-1:40 "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.

After lunch and following the meeting with the PL&S Committee, the Executive Council got back to work. Paramount on their minds was the discussion of "should we all go to the GM Imperative conference?" There was discussion about how principals can influence the conversation which has emerged about general discontentment about education spending in light of declining enrollments. One idea that emerged is that we should be creating white papers to tell the story and give stats from the school leaders' point of view. Although not all members can attend on the 17&18, it was discussed that those principal who attend should be evenly distributed throughout the room, that we should meet up after day one to share perspectives, and that we should share impressions of the conference with all EC members [Note: Ken has suggested that EC members who are available "meet" on a conference call on Wednesday, November 19 at 4:00 p.m. by calling 1-888-285-0307 and putting in this conference ID 9381199. This call will be recorded for those who want to hear the confersation but simply cannot be there to participate.]

President Dean Stearns in thinking about the work plan for the year asked "Is the Executive council poised to be more proactively engaged, by taking on a stronger legislative role?" Ed Webbley supported this, but also supported a white paper model. Joan Cavallo said we are experiencing

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legislative overload. She is hoping to see less legislation come out this year, but sees it as a very important role for us to keep them informed about the real picture in schools. Bill Anton said we are in a unique spot; he said we have an opportunity to share; he encouraged closer work with human services. Wayne spoke in favor of not losing the importance of the policy revision work we are already engaged in. Pat reflected about the value of the school to the community. Bob Johnson added the importance to changing the conversation by speaking with other groups like human services people. Tom urged us to think broadly in thinking about our work plan. He urged us to take a 3-5 year approach. He questioned that we could adopt a new advocacy role only meeting five times per year. He also expressed interest in VPA running Public relations radio spots similar to the ones put out by the NFHS. Joan added that we could use our 100th anniversary as a platform for interjecting our beliefs.

[So, although the EC did not develop a specific work plan, several members weighted in and indicated that there is an important role for VPA to play in the school spending and school efficiency discussions that are dominating the landscape in Vermont today]

6. 1:45-2:30 VPA Legislative Agenda for the 2015 session, Ken and others

Passed over; handled in preceding discussion

Before heading to other updates from staff, the EC went right to an update from Bob Johnson, Associate Director. Bob introduced Amy Molina and Amy reviewed a draft of a policy on 8th grade Student Athletes Playing on High School Teams Policy. This is not a newly proposed policy, but an update of the existing policy. Several EC members asked questions after Amy's presentation. Minor wording changes resulted, and Executive Director Ken Page was charged with capturing these changes and reviewing them with Bob Johnson. After this Shaun Pickett moved to approve, and Jeff Moreno seconded the proposed policy. It was approved unanimously

8. 2:30-2:45 Staff Update: Dave Cobb (PL&S standing committee); Bob (ASC Standing Committee), Ken Page, (EC and overall picture)

Development Director reviewed his written report. In it he spoke about VSAC scholarships for principals to attend the leadership Academy now being folded into the grant, the Service learning

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grant program. He shared that 13 schools were funded and the grant awards for service learning grants ranged from \$1,900 to \$1,000. No school who completed the application and did a creditable job o the application was denied finding.

9. 2:45-3:00 Follow Up, Plans for January Meeting and member check in

Not specifically addressed. Executive Director Ken Page has listed ideas to consider in the meeting packet.

10. Adjourn

With no more business before it, the VPA Executiue Council adjourned at 2:40. Motion by Shaun pickett, seconded by Jeff Moreno.
Respectfully submitted,

Ken Page
VPA Executive Director and minutes taker
11-6-14

Meeting dates for 2014-15

- Thursday, January 29, 2015 VPA(10-3 plus legislative meeting following at the VT Statehouse from 4:00-5:00
- Friday, March 27, 2015 at Northfield High School (alternative site: South Royalton School)
- Friday, May 1, 2015 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Montpelier