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Vermont Principals' Association
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VPA Executive Council Meeting at the Killington Grand Hotel
Thursday August 7, from 3:30 to 5:00 & Friday, August 8, 2014; 8:30-1:00

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, August 7, 2014

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

The Thursday afternoon EC meeting was called to order at 3:15 by president Dean Stearns
In attendance Dean Stearns, Lissa McDonald, Joan Cavallo, Heidi Lucas-Moccia, Pat Burke, Andre Messier, Beth O'Brien, Bill Anton, Shaun Pickett
Absent-Jeff Moreno, Ed Webbley, Tom Bochanski, Amy Minor, Andy Paciulli, Wayne Howe
VPA Staff: Dave Cobb, Ken Page

Focus Question: In your opinion, what can VPA do to continue to “support learners and leaders?”

EC Members reflected on both the leadership Academy and other PD offerings for members.

Above all, the sentiment was that the VPA leadership Academy was a big success. They focused on how it could even be better. Ken led them in a START/STOP/CONTINUE exercise. People reflected first and then shared out. Ken collected the sheets and had hoped to combine the ideas and to send to all.

Unfortunately, the hotel staff picked up all of the papers and so we have no record of this exercise. So, to give all members a chance to participate, I am re-sending the exercise in hopes of gathering EC opinions on best ways to “support Learners and leaders.”

2. Approval of Minutes from EC meeting May 2, 2014 Dean Stearns

Motion to approve as amended made by Lissa McDonald, seconded by Joan Cavallo and approved unanimously as amended.

3. EC Subcommittees for year-Finance, Policy Revision, 100 Year Celebration, Legislative, Others? Tabled until Friday morning

4. How Do We Celebrate/Commemorate 100 Years? All EC members Tabled until Friday

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Friday, August 8, 2013

In Attendance: Wayne Howe, Joan Cavallo, Dean Stearns, Lissa McDonald, Heidi Lucas-Moccia, Pat Burke, Bill Anton, Beth O'Brien, Ed Webbley, Shaun Pickett

Absent: Andre Messier, Amy Minor, Tom Bochanski, Jeff Moreno, and Andy Paciulli

VPA Staff: Ken Page

The Friday EC meeting was called to order by president Dean Stearns at 8:36

5. 8:30 Welcome and Announcements Dean Stearns

Business from Thursday's Agenda:

VPA's 100th Year celebrations: It was decided by consensus that this should be on all agendas for the year and that the committee that signs up will be a Steering Committee and will not be expected to do all of the work.

Dean finished some Day 1 business by establishing VPA EC subcommittees

VPA EC Finance Subcommittee-Bill Anton, Pat Burke, Dean Stearns, Wayne Howe, Shaun Pickett, Ken Page, Delina Benway (Bob Johnson and Dave Cobb as needed)

VPA EC Policy Revision Subcommittee-Lissa McDonald, Wayne Howe, Dean Stearns, Ken Page

VPA EC 100th Year Committee-Pat Burke, Heidi Lucas-Moccia, Lissa McDonald, Beth O'Brien, Ken Page

VPA EC Legislative Committee-Joan Cavallo, Ed Webbley, Tom Bochanski, Ken Page, (Available to committee-Dean Stearns, Wayne Howe)

A robust discussion ensued at the thought that VPA could and would be taking positions on possible legislation:

Shaun-thought we need to be active with regard to preschool legislation

Bill-Says that we have a real opportunity, that VPA could be hosting legislators, and that a committee like this one could be powerful

Pat-Says that VPA has come a long way in 10 years-we never took positions before and this is a good step.

Beth-Important to get the message out to superintendents (about VPA position on legislation)

Ed-Gave an update about possible federal legislation. In particular, he spoke of the e-rate discussions and The School Principal and Recruitment Act

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6. Policy Review Project

Dean Stearns, Wayne Howe, Lissa McDonald

Dean gave overview of the work done this summer by the policy revision committee (Wayne, Lissa, Dean and Ken). He referred to the draft VPA Organization Chart (later in this meeting, the committee gave ken edits for the Draft Organizational Chart to be put on the VPA website). He also shared the two policies that the subcommittee worked on **Policy Development Policy** and a **Policy on Partnerships**

Joan-wondered if organization chart is enough to talk about the flow of information

Beth-Agreed with Joan and asked how decision-making fits into this

Ed-Asked that we consider taking "Executive Council" off of title

Lissa-Reminded members that our bylaws define roles of the EC and its standing committees, the ASC and PL&S

Wayne-Indicated that the work ahead is really a sea change for the organization, to separate policy statements from procedures.

Joan-indicated that she would like the link to PL&S committee to be stronger.

Beth-Again, a communication flow chart is needed

Ed-Sometimes ASC confuses policy from procedures

Dean-It seems to me that any policy that EC considers regarding sports and activities must have an ASC member there for the discussion

Lissa-Said that when the so-called policy was being discussed, we (EC), missed the opportunity to be there (Regarding the loyalty policy... can we warn it and adopt it at the next meeting?)

Wayne urged the Council to vote today on this draft

Pat-Seconded the idea of a communication flow chart

Lissa-Suggested to EC that we need a regular schedule on each meeting's agenda to review policy

Dean-Reminded everyone that our Policy Development Policy says that we will review all policies every five years.

At 10:30, the EC got into talking about the so-called Loyalty Policy draft

Dean Stearns gave the background

Pat Burke said it should be up to individual schools

Joan encouraged us to have all policies (and proposed policies) to look the same (it is confusing when there are two different forms) (later Shaun Pickett voiced his support for having all policies look similar!)

At 10:44, **Bob Johnson** visited the EC and gave them the background and genesis of the loyalty policy (called non-school competition policy)

Dean-Any appeal needs to be handled at the local level

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After a 30-minute discussion, the Executive Council decided to vote on the language proposed by the ASC with one exception:

At 11:30, with the Activity Standards committee about to join the EC for a meeting, it was moved by Sean Pickett and seconded by Lissa McDonald to approve the Non-school Competition as proposed by the ASC with the following amendments:

1. The last sentence of paragraph #2 should read: "It is expressly understood that permission shall not be granted on a regular basis."
(Delete part from draft "...and shall be granted in extraordinary circumstances.")
2. The reference at the top of the policy should read: Article III, Section 4 (not Section 3)
3. That it be put in VPA policy format

The vote was eight in favor and one opposed. The motion passed

7. 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.

Tabled

8. Follow Up: NASSP Report-President's Update-Dean Stearns; NASSP Report-Ed Webbley; NAESP Report-Tom Bochanski (written report and Ken to add to it because Tom is unable to attend); PL&S Update Dave Cobb; Executive Directors' Update-Ken Page

Tabled

8. 11:30 Following Up, Part 2: A Conversation with ASC-Moving Forward Together: Progress Made

At 11:35, the members of the ASC Standing Committee joined the EC

Dean Stearns welcomed the members of ASC and spoke of the work EC is doing around its policy Revision Project. He said that EC has a goal of separating policy statements from procedures and asked for ASC's help with this. Bill Lawson spoke of the initiatives of the ASC Standing Committee. Bill also urged us to be aware that under AYP, school art offerings have been seriously eroded. He urged us to show strong support for the Arts: the importance of the Arts, and that kids in poverty often do not get as many art opportunities.

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Pat Burke said that in referencing the Non School Competition Policy that just passed is an example of putting more back to the local level; it should be seen as progressive and not reactive putting more back.

Members of these two committees reaffirmed their willingness to talk regularly.

Meeting Change: Before adjourning to lunch, Dean Stearns acknowledged the conflict of the next scheduled meeting (NOV 7 with the NAESP Region 1 meeting in Cheshire CT. This is predominately a conflict for Ken Page and Tom Bochanski. In suggesting an alternative, Ken informed the EC that the next scheduled meeting of the PL&S Committee was November 5th. Ken suggested that we move the meeting to November 5th to coincide with the PL&S committee meeting that is (9-12 that day at 2 Prospect Street). This was approved by consensus of the members present.

Ed Webbley spoke in support of Bill Lawson's support for the Arts and urged us to also promote the Arts with our radio spots we currently use radio PD spots from the NFHS).

With no additional business before it Shaun Pickett moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:10. It was seconded by Ed Webbley and approved unanimously (NEXT MEETING WED. NOV 5th, 9-3 MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!)

9. 11:45 Lunch followed by return to summer

Future meeting dates-To be discussed and firmed up

Draft of proposed meeting dates for 2014-15

- Tuesday, August 5, 2014 Annual (Business meeting), 9:30 just before the start of the Academy
- Thursday-Friday, August 7-8, in Killington EC Retreat
- Friday, November 7, 2014 VPA (Note: Conflict with NAESP Region 1 meeting in CT for Tom Bochanski and Ken Page. *Recommend a change of date*
NOTE: MOVED to 11-5 at VPA Office 9-3
- Thursday, January 29, 2015 VPA
- Friday, March 27, 2015 at Northfield High School (alternative site: South Royalton School)
- Friday, May 1, 2015 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Montpelier