

VERMONT STATE MATHEMATICS COALITION

Minutes of the meeting of September 24, 2013.

- I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 5:20pm by Jean McKenny.
Present: Mary Calder, Bob Chaffee, John Devino, Marvin Glickstein, Jim Grittner, Ken Gross, Jean McKenny, Jean Ohlson, Barbara Rippa, Tony Trono, Sheila Weaver.
- II. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the January 17, 2013 meeting were approved.
- III. **Financial Report.** Bob Chaffee submitted the financial report, which was approved. Note that there is still another \$11,823.26 to be received from the Governor's Institute; this will be received shortly. The overall balance will be around \$28,000 after receiving the GIV money. This represents a decrease in the balance for the last few years, probably because VSMC has put less effort into soliciting donations.
- IV. **Executive Director's Report.** Bob Chaffee has sent out Talent Search announcement to all the principals in the state, and has publicized in numerous other ways. Bob met with the director of the Governor's Institute organization, Karen Taylor Mitchell. He plans to invite the new Vermont Secretary of Education to the 2014 Talent Search Banquet.
- V. **Reports:**
 1. **Summer Institute.** (Sheila Weaver & Bob Chaffee) Sheila reported that the Summer Institute was a success, as usual. A high point was a visit from Bernie Sanders on the last day of the Institute.

Since the Institute, there has been some negotiating of the budget with the GIV organization. Bob met with Karen Taylor Mitchell and worked out a plan that henceforth, VSMC will pay \$6500 to GIV for 10 to 12 Talent Search students to attend the Summer Institute. This money will come from donations solicited by VSMC (and Sheila). Any grants will be applied for and used by GIV. Sheila noted that she and Jeff Dinitz had applied for an AMS grant in 2012, and could reapply in January. Further discussion would determine whether it would be appropriate for Karen to do this reapplication.

In recent years, Karen has noted that more students apply than can attend the Institute; perhaps a second Institute could be run. Ken suggested a middle school level institute (including 9th graders), and suggested some people who would want to be involved (Jim Wright and Lynn Ryan).

Sheila noted that the Institute takes a great deal of time, and she is quite busy with full time work besides. Ken suggested pursuing a course release for Sheila to allow more time for the Institute. If such a change is not possible, Sheila and Jeff will run the Institute this year, but will not plan to continue.
 2. **Talent Search.** (Jean Ohlson) The new Talent Search is off and running, on an earlier schedule – it should be finished in March. This will give more time to plan for ARML. Jean and Rob Poodiack have worked on making early problems easier, to encourage participation.

3. Expanding Horizons. (John Devino) This is the 18th year of EH. Most requests for speakers were accommodated. New speakers: Janelle Hanrahan is a potential new participant, and possibly Charles Wheelan of Dartmouth. Communication through email has been discouraging, likely the result of people's tight schedules and email's ignorability.

4. VMI. (Ken Gross) Ken gave the following update: VMI is thriving and making a difference for teachers and students in Vermont, and it continues to play a significant role in the state's implementation of the Common Core. Recently, VMI received a grant from the state to extend the VMI from its current focus on elementary and middle school teachers to the high school level, and Julie Conrad will be the lead person in overseeing that expansion. As input from experienced high school teachers will be critical, an Educator Focus Group will be organized to help guide the program. The partnership of mathematicians and educators has been key to the success of the VMI to date, and the same philosophy will be foundational for the high school expansion.

5. ARML. (Jean Ohlson) The groups stayed for two nights this year, and this made a big difference. There was more time to work together as a team, and students enjoyed the experience. Accommodating students who live in the far reaches of the state is still difficult. Also, only a small number of girls generally go to ARML; they are always looking for ways to increase their participation. Jean will send an email about the Talent Search to Sheila who will forward it to all attendees of the recent Summer Institute.

6. VCTM. (Mary Calder) Mary, current president of VCTM, is helping plan the ATMNE conference, scheduled for October 24 and 25 in Killington, VT.

7. Others. Dave Hathaway couldn't be here, but said there is still space on the website – send information to him.

VI. Old Business.

- 1. Report of Nominating committee for 2014 Annual Meeting.** Dave Hathaway's position as business liaison is open; Dave may be willing to continue. John Devino volunteered to contact Dave to inquire.
- 2. A round of thanks to Bob Kenney** for helping found and providing many years of service to VCTM!!

VII. New Business.

- 1. Mu Alpha Theta** (a high school math honorary organization) is offering prize money to high schools that do well in math contests (e.g., the Talent Search). It would be necessary to create a ranking of participating schools, in order to offer prizes. Jean thought that the prize money should go to math leagues, in particular. Jim and others noted that the idea of ranking schools could have negative consequences for some schools.
- 2. Governor's Institute Proposal.** VSMC agreed to paying \$6500 for 10 to 12 scholarships, as described above. The AMS grant application issue is still up for negotiation with Sheila, Bob, Jeff Dinitz, and Karen Taylor Mitchell.

3. **People on VCTM email list who should perhaps be taken off:** Ken and Bob discussed some names. Tracy Watterson was a possible name to put on the list.

VIII. Calendar.

Date(s) for future Board meeting(s): Wednesday, January 15, 2014 is our next meeting – a phone meeting at approximately 7pm, providing Dave Hathaway can help set it up. The Talent Search Banquet is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 2014.

IX. Other. Ken suggested inviting the new Dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, Luis Garcia, to a meeting of VCTM. The new Dean is very supportive of K-12 mathematics. Sheila will send a get well card to Rob Poodiack, whose wife is very ill, and will send his address to members of the VSMC.

X. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Weaver, Secretary.

VERMONT STATE MATHEMATICS COALITION

Minutes of the meeting of April 30, 2013 – after the Talent Search banquet.

- I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:50pm by Jean McKenny.
- II. **Roll Call. Present:** Mary Calder, Bob Chaffee, Julie Conrad, John Devino, Ken Gross, Doug Harris, Dave Hathaway, Bob Kenney, Jean McKenny, Jean Ohlson, Rob Poodiac, Harvie Porter, Tony Trono, Sheila Weaver.
- III. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the May 1, 2012 meeting were approved.
- IV. **Financial Report.** Bob Chaffee submitted the financial report, which was approved. Bob purchased a new printer. Other charges include website rental and Talent Search expenses.
- V. **Reports:**
 1. **Summer Institute.** (Sheila Weaver) The Institute is nearly ready to go. It takes place June 16 to 21 this summer. Many good speakers and activities are lined up, and many of the students here tonight will attend the Institute this summer.
 2. **Talent Search.** (Jean Ohlson) It went well this year. They will move up the dates next year to make less of a rush at the end: The testing schedule will return to what it was previously and what it is on the web site: November, December, January and February. Rob and Jean will continue to work with the Talent Search for at least next year. Evan will continue to help write problems. There was discussion about getting the word to more kids to increase participation; kids are very busy. Ideas included providing a flyer at ATMNE this October; getting the word to principals and to Vermont NEA.
 3. **Expanding Horizons.** (John Devino) John has a new member, Janelle Hanrahan.
 4. **Web Site.** (Dave Hathaway) Dave reported that the website is still there, and has lots of room – Just let Dave know if you have something.
 5. **VCTM.** (Mary Calder) Mary is helping plan the ATMNE conference, scheduled for October 24 and 25 in Killington, VT. The theme is 'Getting to the Core.' They have some good speakers lined up.
 6. **State Department of Education** (Julie Conrad) Funding is tight, as they are in sequestration mode. Elementary licensing is being reviewed at present.
 7. **Other business.** Jean mentioned that the new Math Museum in NYC – MOMath – is impressive. It has a website that is also worth visiting.
- VI. **Election of Officers.** (Bob Kenney) Jean McKenny was elected for a 3-year term as Director. Mary Calder was elected for a 3-year term Co-Director for Education.
- VII. **Calendar. Date(s) for future Board meeting(s):** Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 24, 2013, at the Windjammer in South Burlington beginning at 5 p.m.
- VIII. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Weaver, Secretary.

VERMONT STATE MATHEMATICS COALITION

Minutes of the meeting of January 17, 2013 – a phone conference meeting.

- I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by Jean McKenny.
- II. **Roll Call. Present:** Mary Calder, Bob Chaffee, John Devino, Ken Gross, Dave Hathaway, Bob Kenney, Jean McKenny, Jean Ohlson, Harvie Porter, Barbara Rippa, Sheila Weaver.
- III. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the September 24, 2012 meeting were approved.
- IV. **Financial Report.** Bob Chaffee submitted the financial report, which was approved. The only main additions were payments for the website, and Bob's salary.
- V. **Executive Director's Report.** Bob Chaffee heard from NASSMC – a Christmas letter thanking him for being a member (which he has not been lately). They also offered membership forms, and an invitation to the February meeting on STEM education issues. Should we renew our membership? Ken suggested not – as long as they think we are members at the moment – that's free.

Lea Anne Smith, a math teacher from Essex High School wrote to Bob, describing her new course, which introduces STEM careers, having students collaborate with local businesses (doing presentations, etc.). She wanted to know if we'd like to be involved in any way. John Devino suggested having her come to one of our meetings. Ken suggested Ralph Bernadini of Vergennes as a teacher who used to work at IBM, and might be able to contribute.

Bob invited our new Secretary of Education, Armando Vilaseca, to attend our Talent Search Banquet on Tuesday, April 30, at the Sunset Ballroom. Jim Donateli has already promised to come and give prizes as in the past.

VI. Reports:

1. **Summer Institute.** (Sheila Weaver) Sheila has done a few things, but most of the action will take place between now and June.
 2. **Talent Search.** (Jean Ohlson) They've done two talent searches; two yet to come. It's not easy to get kids motivated to do it; teacher encouragement is important. Some teachers require the students to try it out. The intention is for teachers to then screen out the "0's". There were suggestions of more places to 'advertise.'
- Personal notes: Ken ran into Ben Bond at the Joint Math Meetings in San Diego. Ben was a past Talent Search winner, and attends MIT. Colin Sandon has graduated from MIT, Phi Beta Kappa, and is studying at Princeton.
3. **Expanding Horizons.** (John Devino) John is about to send out the second notice of the year to teachers, reminding them about EH. Two more at St. Michael's are likely to join the list (Phil Yates and Melanie Brown). Mary suggested Robert Snapp (from Engineering at UVM). Other suggestions are welcome!
 4. **VMI.** (Ken Gross) Ken gave the following update on the VMI: VMI is playing a significant role in the state's implementation of the Common Core with Judi and Bob Laird giving workshops across the state and VMI is running content courses administered by the

state's Educational Service Agencies (ESAs); and planning is underway to expand VMI to the high school level. The VSMC website now has a summary of VMI, written by Ken.

5. **ARML.** (Jean Ohlson) Jean is waiting for things to get started in a month or two.
6. **Web Site.** (Dave Hathaway) Dave reported that besides posting Talent Search tests and scores, he's updated VMI and GIV information. He also added an item noting the upcoming GIV Winter Weekend in Math, to take place February 15 to 17. Lots of room on the website – Just let Dave know if you have something.
7. **VCTM.** (Mary Calder) Marge Petit had encouraged advertising the GIV Winter Weekend, as well, and Mary sent this to MathNet. She's working with Dawn Densmore to promote MathCounts with a teachers' summer program. Sheila noted that these teachers may come to visit the Summer Institute. Mary is helping plan the ATMNE conference, scheduled for October 24 and 25 in Killington, VT.
8. **State Department of Education** (Julie Conrad) Julie was not present.

VII. Old Business.

1. **Vermont All Stars Transportation to Penn State.** Jean hasn't worked on this yet. She's checking out a few new bus companies. Drivers are limited to 10 hours max at a time, so this is a problem if there are many stops to pick up kids. They may be able to consolidate pickup points to avoid needing two drivers. It's probably worth staying an extra night to make the trip easier. The Coalition concurred.
2. **Report of Nominating committee for 2013 Annual Meeting.** Bob Kenney reports that Jean is willing to continue in her position. We are looking for a replacement for Harvie when his term ends. Bob Kenney will look into spreading the word outside our group.

VIII. New Business. Bob Chaffee would like members to send him their mailing addresses, email addresses and phone numbers, so he'll have a complete list.

IX. Calendar.

1. **Date(s) for future Board meeting(s):** April 30 is our next meeting; the following meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 24, 2013.
2. **April 30, 2013 Annual Meeting at Sunset Ballroom**

X. Other. Jean Kenney notes that on July 22 - 24 there will be a training for high school teachers at Essex High School: teaching to the common core using TI Inspire. There is also a two-day workshop using the TI84.

XI. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Weaver, Secretary.

VERMONT STATE MATHEMATICS COALITION

Minutes of the meeting of September 24, 2012

Present: Mary Calder, Bob Chaffee, Julie Conrad, John Devino, Ken Gross, Dave Hathaway, Bob Kenney, Jean McKenny, Jean Ohlson, Rob Poodiack, Harvie Porter, Barbara Rippa, Tony Trono, Sheila Weaver.

- I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 5:50pm by Jean McKenny.
- II. **Minutes.** The minutes of the January, 2012 meeting were approved.
- III. **Financial Report.** Bob Chaffee submitted the financial report, which was approved. The Citizen's Bank CD continues to accrue interest at an alarming rate (that's a joke!). Thanks to Bob for working on the finances.
- IV. **Executive Director's Report.** There was a brief discussion of whether we want to reconsider our membership to NASSMC; at this point, it seems the answer is still no. Bob noted that Jim Donatelli, at Texas Instruments, has the Talent Search Banquet on his calendar; Jim is thinking of prizes for next year.

V. Reports:

1. **Summer Institute.** Sheila W reported an excellent program and wonderful students this past June. Excellent week-long courses from Chris Danforth, John Voight, and Josh Bongard, as well as several other successful courses.
2. **Talent Search.** Rob P, Jean O, and Evan Dummit have been working on problems. They have the first test ready to go, and the second in the works. They've tried to include some more accessible problems, as well as some challenging ones. Julie C will put information about the Talent Search on a memo to all math teachers in the state. Jean O will also help get the word out.
3. **Expanding Horizons.** John said this is the 17th year of the program. It is in its fourth year with no cost to VSMC (brochure is online). Because the brochure is online, the list of available teachers can change at any time; John is always recruiting new instructors.
4. **VMI.** In its 14th year, VMI continues to get 20 to 25 new teachers each year. VMI is also giving other professional development courses around the state. Julie C reports an interest in expanding VMI professional development to high school teachers. Ken continues to travel, visiting other universities and school districts, who are interested in programs like VMI.
5. **ARML.** Jean reported that ARML went well this year. They didn't have enough for an alternate team, but did well anyway. The bus drive this year was rough! (Hit a deer, hit a curb, etc.) It would be helpful if students could stay one more night to make the trip back less tiring for all. Barbara R suggested trying Premiere Bus Lines for more reliable drivers.
6. **Web Site.** Dave Hathaway reported nothing new with the web site. There's always room for more!
7. **VCTM.** Mary noted that VCTM will have a meeting on Wed, October 3. Michael Hock is speaking; all are welcome. VCTM is organizing ATMNE 2013 meeting; stay tuned!
8. **Others.** Julie C is looking for someone to fill a position as an Elementary Math Coordinator; let her know if you have recommendations.

VI. Old Business.

1. **Coaches and Practice Sessions for Vermont All Stars:** Very hard to get kids together, due to distance and the fact that students are all very busy, but the team still manages to do well.
2. **Nominating committee for 2013 Annual Meeting:** Bob Kenney is chairing the Nominating Committee; Dave Hathaway offered to join him on it.

VII. New Business. None.

VIII. Calendar.

1. **Date(s) for future Board meeting(s):** Phone meeting at 7pm, Wednesday, January 16, 2013.
2. **Confirm Date of April 30 for 2013 Annual Meeting**

IX. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Weaver, Secretary.

VERMONT STATE MATHEMATICS COALITION

Minutes of the meeting of May 1, 2012

Present: Mary Calder, Bob Chaffee, Julie Conrad, John Devino, Jeff Dinitz, Dave Hathaway, Doug Harris, Bob Kenney, Jean McKenny, Jean Ohlson, Harvie Porter, Barbara Rippa, Sheila Weaver.

- I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by Jean McKenny.
- II. **Minutes.** The minutes of April 26, 2011 were approved.
- III. **Financial Report.** Bob Chaffee submitted the financial report, which was approved. Thanks to Bob for working on the finances!
- IV. **Executive Director's Report.** There's a \$5000 grant from Mergens to come in – to be split by Talent Search and Summer Institute.

V. Reports:

1. **Summer Institute.** Jeff Dinitz reported that the 2012 Institute is right on schedule: Instructors, counselors, housing, room reservations, field trips, etc., are nearly all in place. The main instructors, who will be teaching week-long courses, are Josh Bongard, Chris Danforth, and John Voight, all award winning researchers and teachers at UVM. Big news: the Summer Institute received a \$7500 grant from the American Math Society (AMS), a prestigious Epsilon grant, for funding scholarships for needy students. The quality of the applicants to the Governor's Institute organization has improved – we had to turn down a number of students (they were able to attend other Institutes, such as the Engineering Institute).

2. **Talent Search.** For the banquet next year, Mary suggested requesting problem presenters to bring power point presentations, and skip the use of the overhead projector. The Ungers were not present to report on the Talent Search. The main news is that they will not continue as directors; see discussion on new directorship below in New Business.

3. **Expanding Horizons.** John sent out survey of high school teachers, and received 22 responses. Those who had used EH were very positive. The main reason for those who didn't was a lack of time in their curriculum. EH still needs to recruit more presenters; it's always open to ideas for finding them. It might be good to have presenters think up topics more in line with curriculum. EH needs to get more presenters from southern Vermont; schools there would like presenters, but few are available who can travel that far. It would be nice to offer honoraria...

4. **Web Site.** Dave Hathaway reported that the web site is still there!

5. **VCTM.** Mary Calder said they had a joint conference with the science teachers on April 9, though it was not well attended by math teachers. The focus was on STEM. The guest speaker was from the Boston Museum of Natural Science. There were 10 good applicants for the Presidential award.

6. Julie Conrad noted that there will be more STEM funds available, possibly for math initiatives, such as Expanding Horizons – stay tuned!

7. **Nominating Committee:** Sheila Weaver has agreed to be Secretary, and Barbara Rippa, Fiscal Officer. Both were voted in.

VI. Old Business. None.

VII. New Business. The Ungers have stepped down from the job of running the Talent Search. Jean Ohlson noted that the TS problems have been more difficult than in the past; perhaps this is why popularity has waned. Perhaps including additional easy problems would encourage more students to try. Jean Ohlson offered to work with a college person if we can find one; Julie offered to help. Sheila offered to ask around at UVM. If a meeting is needed to deal with the Talent Search replacement issue before our fall meeting, this could be possibly be attended to with a subcommittee. This committee would probably include: Julie, Jean Ohlson, Sheila, Tony, Ken -- Jean McKenny could chair electronically.

VIII. Calendar. The date of **Monday, September 24** was confirmed for the Fall Meeting. The date of **Tuesday, April 30, 2013** is the date for next year's Talent Search Banquet.

IX. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 8:59pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Weaver, Secretary.

VERMONT STATE MATHEMATICS COALITION

Minutes of the meeting of January 10, 2012

Present: Mary Calder, Bob Chaffee, John Devino, Ken Gross, Dave Hathaway, Bob Kenney, Jean McKenny, Jean Ohlson, Barbara Rippa, Tony Trono, Barbara Unger, Sheila Weaver.

I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by Jean McKenny.

II. **Minutes.** The minutes of September 27, 2011 were approved.

III. **Financial Report** Bob Chaffee submitted the, which was approved.

IV. **Executive Director's Report.** Bob Chaffee reported that the Triangle coalition sent around a link to conferences, and there is one on Thursday, April 26, 2012. NASSMC appears to be back in business, and will be hosting a meeting on April 26 and 27, 2012. A discussion followed concerning whether VSMC should send someone to the NASSMC meeting. Costs would include hotel, meals, and flight, but no registration fee for one VSMC member. Jean noted that it's good to keep up-to-date, but maybe there's not much more of interest for VSMC. John and others felt that Vermont's Coalition is set up differently than those in other states, and NASSMC caters more to other types of coalitions. Bob C wondered if we should pay dues again, since we lapsed in 2011. Perhaps we should email NASSMC to tell them why we aren't coming. Ken and others felt it was fine to spare the details, in order to avoid being too negative. If we hear back from them, Bob Chaffee will email this information to everyone.

V. Reports:

1. **Summer Institute.** Sheila Weaver reported that planning for the 2012 Institute is ahead of schedule. Instructors, counselors, housing, room reservations, field trips, etc., are nearly all in place. The main instructors, who will be teaching week-long courses, are Josh Bongard, Chris Danforth, and John Voight, all award winning researchers and teachers at UVM. Sheila has applied for two grants for the summer Institute, one from the AMS, and one from Key Bank.

2. **Talent Search.** Barbara Unger reported that they've completed the first two tests and 124 students have participated so far. High scorers have been posted on the web page. Barbara is looking for more problems – always an issue. She hasn't gotten a response from UVM, or Evan Dummit lately. One possibility is to purchase books of national problems. Jean mentioned "The Art of Problem Solving" books and web materials. Ken noted that problems are not copyrighted – just the words. So words could be changed to use the same or similar problems. Tony offered his book of problems, and he will send it to Barbara. Jean noted that it's hard to balance how easy/difficult the problems should be – starting with a few easy ones would be encouraging.

3. **Expanding Horizons.** John Devino reported that he sent out a notice to all high school teachers in November to advertise the program. John might send out a survey to high school teachers – have they heard of it? If not, he would direct them to it. If so, have they used it? If

not, why not? What kind of presentations would teachers like to have? John welcomes input as to how this could be done.

4. **VMI.** Ken Gross reported that VMI has taught courses in Cincinnati, Tennessee, Wyoming. Possible future programs could happen in Florida, Pennsylvania and other locations. 50 teachers will be graduating in May. VMI is starting to offer courses regionally through ESAs (Education Service Agencies). The goal is to reach all the elementary school teachers in the state. Vermont placed second in the US on recent NAEP test. Coalition members are welcome to attend VMI courses.

5. **ARML.** Jean Ohlson reported that things haven't kicked off yet. She contacted schools to remind them to set aside funds to help send students. The hope is to send 20 students. Jean hopes that Evan is able to attend again. She could use more help keeping track of all the kids. Harvie Porter, for example, would be a welcome addition to the coordinator team.

6. **Web Site.** Dave Hathaway reported that Bob renewed the site fee. There is still a lot of space to post things.

7. **VCTM.** Mary Calder says that they're doing a joint program with the science group on April 9, which could allow them to get STEM funds for programs. She's working on the Presidential Award – getting VMI teachers and mentors to think of people to nominate, and help with the daunting application process.

VI. Old Business. Barb Unger noted that it is hard to arrange coaches and practice sessions for Vermont All-Stars, with students' busy schedules. Jean agreed and added that students are not that interested, also because of the distances between students. There's also not much time before Penn State once the team is determined. One idea is to send the team to a website (Jean can prepare this) with preparation materials. We can't force them to participate but it might be worth a try to just ask the students to do so.

Bob Kenney reported from the nominating committee for the 2012 Annual Meeting that Sheila Weaver has agreed to be Secretary, and Barbara Ripa, Fiscal Officer

VII. New Business. None.

VIII. Calendar. The date of May 1 was confirmed for the 2012 Annual Meeting, at the same location as last year. Texas Instruments will be giving prizes again this year (they will give a different prize to students who received one last year). Armando Vilaseca, Vermont's Education Commissioner, is supposed to attend.

IX. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Weaver, Secretary.