

Minutes: Vermont State Mathematics Coalition, September 30, 2021

Agenda

In attendance: George Ashline, Spencer Backman, Bob Chaffee, John Devino, David Hathaway, Kiran MacCormick, Kate McCann, Judy McCullen, Jean McKenny, Mary Beth Ruskai, Steven Ushakov

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

Bob Chaffee requested that a reminder notice be sent on the day of the meeting in the future, to make it easier for people to find meeting links and materials in their emails. David Hathaway agreed to do so.

Approval of minutes of the May 18, 2021 meeting: John Devino moved to approve, Judy McCullen seconded. Minutes were approved.

Reports:

Executive Director: David Hathaway: Report linked [here](#). The board expressed appreciation for the contributions of Barb Rippa, who is stepping away from the coalition and has asked to be removed from our mailing list. Board agreed to have David Hathaway add *Math Beyond the Horizon* to the list of committees on our board web page, with Mary Beth Ruskai as chair.

Financial: David Hathaway: Report linked [here](#). Expenses since our May meeting were for Talent Search prizes and mailing (\$1126.10), ARML registration (\$82.50), and Governor's Institute in Mathematics (\$908.19). David Hathaway has not taken any salary. George Ashline moved to accept, Mary Beth Ruskai seconded. Report was accepted.

Talent Search: Kiran MacCormick: Test 1 of the 2021-2022 academic year has been posted and has about a week to go before tests are due. Spencer Blackman requested some background on this program and on other programs and acronyms for the benefit of newer members not familiar with them. The Talent search is a series of four tests spaced through the school year, each with 6 questions. Students have about 4 weeks to work on them on their own. High scorers receive prizes and are recognized at our annual awards meeting. They are also recruited to our Vermont ARML (American Regions Mathematics League) team, and to the Governor's Institute in Mathematics (our summer institute).

ARML (American Regions Mathematics League): Kiran MacCormick: This is a one day mathematics team competition, normally held in person at various locations across the country. The Vermont team normally goes to Penn State, where they join around 1000 students from across the eastern region. Other locations include Iowa State and Las Vegas. The competition was held online again this year, due to COVID-19, using [slack](#). This worked well aside from one technical difficulty, though students miss the exposure to large numbers of students with similar interests they get from the in person competition. The Vermont team normally competes in the B division, and came in around the middle of that division this year. They did well enough one year to be bumped up to the A division for a time, but the A division teams usually come from large schools and are able to practice together all year, while the Vermont team comes together only shortly before the competition. There is no information yet about how the 2022 competition will be run.

Summer Institute (Governor's Institute in Mathematics): Kevin Beard: We received no report from Kevin Beard, nor from Elizabeth Frascoia, who is the executive director of the overall Governor's Institutes. Kevin is stepping down as director of the GIV in Mathematics. He is working with Elizabeth Frascoia, GIV director, to find a replacement. On August 14 she said "We have a great candidate, and when things settle down in the fall Kevin and I will meet to do some reflection and planning. After that I'll have more to report."

Expanding Horizons: John Devino: This is the 26th year of Expanding Horizons. John Devino sent a note to all math teachers in the state, reminding them of the availability of the program. When he gets bounces he goes to the school website to find new math teachers and sends them an introductory note. Usage of the program was very low last year. John has normally sent out three notices to teachers during the year, but would like to send more frequent notices, highlighting one presenter in each. He will be asking presenters to submit a one or two minute introductory video that we can post on the website. He does not plan to record actual talks or to put them on the website. George Ashline asked how many people visit the Expanding Horizons web page. We currently don't have a counter on that page, but David Hathaway will add one. Jean McKenny suggested that John ask Ryan Parkman from the Vermont Agency of Education to help publicize the program.

Math Beyond the Horizon: Mary Beth Ruskai: This is a series of online talks on mathematics and related topics, geared toward strong high school math students interested in new topics, but is open to anyone. It started last spring with five sessions at 11 AM on Saturday mornings. We had pretty low attendance, and are moving sessions up to 10 AM Saturdays this fall to try to

reduce the impact on students' days. We have sessions scheduled for October 16, November 13, and December 11. These are being publicized through mailings to talent search participants, registrants from past talks, the Vermont Principal's Association, the Vermont Library Association, the Vermont Agency of Education home schooling liaison, and 7 Days. John Devino has a list of community newspapers we will include for future talks. We are not recording or posting the talks themselves, as Mary Beth wants to emphasize interactivity in the sessions, and there is a great deal of very good content online already. John Devino asked if we could provide links to that material, and David Hathaway pointed out that we already have a [Links to Mathematics Places of Interest](#) link on our web page, and that if anyone has links they think we should include, they can send them to him.

VMI (Vermont Mathematics Initiative): Susan Ojala: Susan could not attend, but send [this](#) report. This program has been aimed at lower grade teachers in the past, and John Devino asked whether they were including high school teachers. Jean McKenny said they had begun to include some.

VCTM (Vermont Council of Teachers of Mathematics): Steven Ushakov: VCTM is the Vermont affiliate of the NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics). ATMNE (Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England) is another regional NCTM affiliate. VCTM exists to support math teachers in the state, and their activities include book chats, a spring Math Fair, and a fall conference. They are holding their business meeting on October 22, as part of their virtual fall conference which is being held October 21 to 23. They had considered an in person conference, but opted for virtual after ATMNE had to pivot from an in person to virtual conference late in their planning process due to the upswing in COVID-19. The VCTM Math Fair on April 21 was a big success. Presentations from it are still on the [VCTM website](#). Steven Ushakov is planning to step down as the director of the math fair and is looking for a replacement. This is in part to focus on the 2022 ATMNE conference which is scheduled to be in Killington, Vermont, probably around the third weekend of October.

Old Business: Recruitment of New Board Members: John Devino suggested we try to get another representative from business, someone else from higher education, and another high school teacher. It was pointed out that both George Ashline (St. Michael's College) and Spencer Blackman (UVM) are already from higher education, and we have several high school teachers, including Kiran McCormick, Kate McCann, and Jean Ohlson. John also suggested we specifically try to get the Vermont mathematics teacher of the year to join us. Thomas Payeur is the 2019 mathematics teacher of the year, and attended one

of our meetings at the Windjammer and is on the invitation list for our meetings. John also suggested we get a student to join us, pointing out that some Vermont School Boards include a student member.

New Business: Fund raising: John Devino: No fundraising has been done since Bob Chaffee stepped down as executive director. This was partly because our financial needs were less with so many of our activities going virtual. But we are hoping to go back to in person activities before too long, and this will increase our expenses. In the past Bob has gotten donations from Physicians Computer Company and from the Mergen's Foundation. David Hathaway will reach out to Mergen's and try to get a donation from them. Judy McCullen knows someone on their board through scouting, and offered to help.

Calendar: Our winter meeting will be held via Zoom at 7 PM, Thursday, January 20, 2022.

Jon Devino moved for adjournment, Bob Chaffee seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.