

## Minutes: Vermont State Mathematics Coalition, January 20, 2022

### Agenda

**In attendance:** Spencer Backman, Bob Chaffee\*, John Devino, David Hathaway, Kiran MacCormick, Judy McCullen, Jean McKenny, Mary Beth Ruskai, Steven Ushakov (\*came in mid-meeting)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM, and began with brief introductions from those in attendance.

**Approval of minutes of the September 30, 2021 meeting:** John Devino moved to approve, Judy McCullen seconded. Minutes were approved.

### **Reports:**

**Executive Director: David Hathaway:** Report linked [here](#). Items of note:

- Susan Ojala has resigned from the VSMC board, citing a reduced connection between VMI and VSMC.
- Kevin Beard has resigned as program director for the GIV in Mathematical Sciences, and as of this meeting, I' had not hear who would replace him.

**Financial: David Hathaway:** Report linked [here](#). Expenses since our September were \$20.00 for the Vermont Secretary of State business registration renewal, and \$90.03 for the website and domain renewal. We received \$1.53 in bank interest. David Hathaway has not taken any salary. Report was accepted (substitute secretary failed to record who moved and seconded).

**VMI:** As noted above, Susan Ojala has resigned from the VSMC board, as it is now based in New Hampshire and has no real remaining connection to VSMC. John Devino said he felt it important that the VSMC retain connection and contact with VMI participants from Vermont. David Hathaway will ask Susan Ojala to pass on an invitation to join the VSMC to those folks.

**Talent Search: Kiran MacCormick:** Test 3 of the 2021-2022 academic year has been posted. The number of submissions has been low. We did receive queries about the test from someone outside Vermont (and maybe outside the US?) who was informed submissions are accepted only from Vermont students, as this is intended as a feeder for our ARML team. We got another query from a NH teacher of a cross-VT/NH border school. Kiran and Evan said they would let all students in that class participate, but reserved the right to have a separate list of winners from VT and NH.

**ARML (American Regions Mathematics League): Kiran MacCormick:** The 2022 Penn State ARML competition will be hybrid, with both in person and remote options. We have not decided yet whether Vermont will participate in person or remotely.

**Summer Institute (Governor's Institute in Mathematics): Kevin Beard:** As of the meeting, we had not heard from GIV executive director who would replace Kevin Beard as the GIV in Mathematical Sciences program director. Spencer Blackman had heard a name in the halls of UVM, but had no confirmation.

*Since the meeting, David Hathaway met online with Elizabeth Frascoia and Nichole Caisse of the UVM math department, and who will be replacing Kevin Beard as program director. She will be invited to future VSMC board meetings. The GIV will be held in person from June 26 to July 1. Registration is open until April 3, and a notice of this has been posted on our website. Although our talent search winners will not be identified until after the end of this registration period, they said they would be able to add them later if they had not already registered.*

**Expanding Horizons: John Devino:** John invited all presenters to submit a video to help explain and advertise their offering(s). He has received two, from George Ashline and Josh Bongard, which are linked to the from the Expanding Horizons web page. Some declined to submit one and others said they would do so later.

**Math Beyond the Horizon: Mary Beth Ruskai:** The sessions in the fall had low attendance, and few of those attending were students. No future sessions are scheduled. Mary Beth may contact people who signed up but didn't attend to see why. There may be conflicts on Saturday mornings. We could consider weekday evenings. 4H has Tuesday evening meetings, and Math League could be another conflict. Stephen forwards all MBTH notices to all U32 Math League members. There is interest in holding more sessions this spring, perhaps starting in March or April.

**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:** See Steven's report [here](#). They have had 30 people signed up for book chats. Beth asked what kinds of speakers they are seeking for ATMNE (October 21-22,

2022). Answer: aimed at pedagogy, including increasing equity (this was the focus of the last ATMNE in CT). Still looking for a title/theme for this year's ATMNE - John Devino suggested "Mathdemic: Making Math Contagious.

**Old Business: Recruitment of New Board Members:** Spencer said that Puck Rombach (faculty) and Calum Buchanan (grad student) from UVM are interested in joining the VSMC board. He will follow up with them.

*Since the meeting: Spencer spoke to Puck, who said she is over-committed at present, but Calum would be interested in joining us for our next board meeting. I will contact him.*

**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. Other suggested places to look for funding:

- Beta (electric planes, South Burlington, contact - John Cohn)
- VMEC (Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center): We can ask if they can suggest companies interested in promoting math education. Contact: Robynn Albert, marketing and training manager (friend of David Hathaway)
- National Life
- IBM (Michael Healy, Graham McAfee, Judy can contact)

We should invite potential donors to our awards meeting. Spencer also knows people working in philanthropy.

**Calendar:** Our awards meeting will be Thursday, May 12, at 7 PM, via zoom. This is later than usual, but allows time for test 4 to be returned and graded and winners determined by April 30. Our next board meeting will be Thursday, May 26, at 7 PM, via zoom.

Mary Beth Ruskai moved for adjournment, Bob Chaffee seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:42.