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Executive Board Meeting

5 PM, Tuesday, September 19, 2024

Marvin Lounge, First Congregational Church, 39 Main St., Essex Junction, VT

Agenda

1. Call to order (Jean McKenny)

- 5:19pm, after pizza from Rocky's!

2. Roll call & introductions (Jean McKenny)

- Jean McKenny
- Kiran MacCormick
- Steven Ushakov
- David Hathaway
- John Devino
- Judy McCullen
- Kristine Harootunian
- Jean Ohlson

3. Approval of [Minutes of May 2 Meeting](#)

- Motion to approve: Jean
- Second: John
- Discussion: none
- Vote: unanimous

4. Executive Director's Report (David Hathaway)

- Executive Director's Report Notable Summary:
 - Minimal changes on the website since last VSMC meeting (only board meeting agendas/minutes)
 - NASA Space Grant Meeting (met at OnLogic in SB recently)
Summary
 - Starting a new 4-year funding cycle, with significant changes to grants with funding down - despite this, supplemental grants (such as ours) have stayed constant.
 - Expanding a program to libraries in VT for STEM programs
 - Questions raised and need identified to have more robust plans to use this money and libraries asking for materials & programs to support.
 - VSAC STEM Fair all over
 - NASA also trying to build a 'story' program (in line with a goal of variety of offerings)

5. Financial Report (David Hathaway)

- Financial Report (notable income & expenses)
 - Notable Income:
 - From talent search: could not reach 7th place winner to give prize check! (credited check back to account)
 - Funds from school team budgets (\$450 pp)

- VT Space Grant (\$2000 this year, cannot expect next year... likely \$1000)
- Notable Expenses:
 - Registration, room & board, t-shirts, chaperone
 - Talent Search Dinner
- Looking ahead:
 - Expected some money back from donated honorarium
 - Anticipate \$5k from PCC
 - Deal with GIV: VSMC pays 10x the amount per student that they actually recover; capped at \$1000 more than the base amount last year
 - Expecting flat/break even between income & expenses
 - Summary of communication with John from PCC:
 - Not going to ask for more than last year
 - David H not going to take a salary
 - It is 'easier' with less tax paperwork
 - State of VT requiring all businesses (even non-profits) to have unemployment insurance
 - Every month with payroll must send forms to the state and we then have to pay a tax.
 - Similar case: Ethan Allen Homestead decided to do the same thing by not paying members.
 - Deciding not to take this off the table so that a future director does not have to do this work.
 - We are expecting to be ~\$2k less overall next year with GIV tuition increase and space grant decrease
- No financial questions from the board

6. Committee Reports

a. Expanding Horizons (John Devino)

- Our plan is to not solve a problem tonight, but share a quick overview of the last meeting & invite new ideas:
 - Program in existence for 29 years; initially sending pamphlets to schools with at best 15-20 invitations per year; then transitioned to email (4 emails per year); since COVID have seen a significant decline in participation.
 - Met this summary: Jean, George, John:
 - Recruiting more presenters as a way to invigorate program
 - Intentions to contact BETA technology engineers with goal of expanding beyond pure mathematics
 - Came up with a list of recommendations:
 - Reaching out to vocational centers, libraries
 - MS STEM Fairs
 - Putting something on the website to solicit talks
 - Thinking ahead: is email still effective? What is the most effective way to reach classroom teachers? Evident that these folks are not getting this message!
 - It would help to have a sub-committee meeting to address this and make concrete steps to make the program more viable.
 - Kristine H's Ideas:
 - Teachers have more stuff than ever on our plates! Easier to teach class than set someone up from EH. *How about an EH presentation as a sub plan?* If I can plan ahead, this sounds appealing!
 - E.g. South Burlington on this coming Oct 8th - expecting 2-4 math teachers out that day

- Subject line for future EH emails: “need a sub plan?”
“VSMC has you covered!”
- Highly appealing to offer a meaningful experience and require less work for the teacher.
- Re: communication: emails not effective & hard to navigate
- EH webpage is person-heavy and would prefer to be content-heavy/simplified as a math teacher. Can we provide filters to see how it can fit in the lesson?
 - Put ‘tags’ on the talks! Common Core affiliations are not as helpful in age of proficiencies. Example “systems of equations”
- Recommendation: target specific schools and communicate via department head/facilitator. Start really localized to experience success rather than broad strokes.
- Steven Rec: VSMC connection at VCTM Conference
- Steven/Kristine/Jean: We all highly recommend Chris Danforth (and graduate students) at UVM!

b. [Governor’s Institute in Mathematics](#) (Linda Wise, Karen Martin, David Hathaway) (see [slide show](#))

- Please see the attached report
- Just under 50 students! Many presenters, career panel, and strong engagement from the student cohort.
- Slideshow is GIV-wide and all are invited to watch via the link above!

c. Talent Search (Kiran MacCormick)

- First test in the works, not posted yet! Some ideas with mapping of what we want on the test.
- We will closely mirror the schedule from last year with the 4th test

- potentially released & finished a little earlier.
- A lot of participants from last years not seniors - we will email directly and post on the website!
- How do math teachers share this?
 - Announcements to all classes
 - Targeting math league students!
- Need to ask for a photo release on the talent search test!

d. ARML (Kiran MacCormick)

- Finally received a check from MVU.
- ARML is considering closer site (instead of Penn State) for NE teams (NH)
 - Pro: cost savings (1 day v. 2 days needing a bus)
 - Con: if we go down to that, then we will never go back to Penn State; it is fun to enjoy the weekend! Not able to meet students in other parts of the country!
 - Could be a nice way to alternate
 - Other possibilities: upstate NY (Albany, Plattsburgh)

e. [VCTM](#) (Steven Ushakov)

- See attached report. There are no summary notes as Steven was reporting!

7. Old Business

- Reminder for Kiran: disclaimers for the math talent search!

8. New Business

- Tutoring Program (via VSMC) Idea from David with wonder about viability and if worth the time and resources.
 - Kiran and Steven give feedback. In post-COVID age, students are throwing everything they can within their means to improve student mathematical understanding & subsequent test scores. Many schools are adopting MLSS (multi-layered systems of support) and placing teachers in tutorial/intensive intervention roles & assignments.
 - Oftentimes, students need tutors throughout the year.
 - Many agree that the AOE or Superintendent Association may be good places to start!

9. Calendar

- January Virtual Meeting: 1/16/25 7pm

10. Adjournment

- 7:03pm
- Motion: Steven
- 2nd: Judy
- Vote: unanimous