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Executive Board Meeting
5 PM, Thursday, September 17, 2026
Fellowship Hall, First Congregational Church, 39 Main St., Essex Junction, VT

Agenda

- Minutes summarized from voice recording by David Hathaway after the meeting.

1. Call to order (Jean McKenny)
   - 5:18 PM
2. Roll call & introductions (Jean McKenny)
   - Present: Jean McKenny, Kiran MacCormick, John Devino, George Ashline, Judy McCullen, David Hathaway
3. Approval of Minutes of May 13 Meeting
   - Motion to approve: John
   - Second: George
   - Discussion: none
   - Vote: unanimously approved
4. Financial & Executive Director's Reports (David Hathaway)
   - Combined financial and executive director's report discussion, as the latter is mostly about the former. Reorganized financial portion of ED report from past meetings to keep information about income and expense for each program together.
     - ARML: See discussion from ED report. David had misunderstood Kiran, and the two outstanding school team budget checks are for $900.00 each instead of $450.00 each, meaning our expected total income for ARML ($450.00 per student from school team budgets and $1,000.00 Vermont Space Grant) is $900.00 more than stated in reports. As a result, we are ahead over $1,800.00 for ARML, largely because of the decrease in cost by going to New Hampshire instead of Penn State.
     - GIV: Our expense increased $1,000.00 to $10,500.00 again this year, the lesser of ten times GIV's per student recovery rate of $1,647.00 in 2025 and $1,000.00 more than our payment last year, per our 2022 agreement.
       Last year it looked like that might plateau after this year, but the GIV recovery rate in 2026 went up over $160.00 from last year, so it seems our per year expense will increase by $1,000.00 per year for tat least the next few years.
       We are OK this year, with a year end estimated checkbook increase of $1291.30, largely because of the ARML surplus. But there was a lot of discussion about how sustainable this is, and the fact that we can't control this increase under the current agreement.
       John asked how many of our talent search winners actually went to GIV (we don't know). Judy asked how long the agreement lasted. Answer, until we terminate or renegotiate the agreement. We are required to notify GIV by January 1 if we want to terminate (or modify) the current agreement for next year, so any change for next year has to happen before our January meeting. Judy asked if we could pay only for those who actually go. Our agreement does not allow this. The intent was to provide predictability and stability for both GIV and VSMC, and keep us from having to pay full

tuition (highest rate now over $3,100.00 per student) for those we send. George asked whether our future funding from Mergen's and PCC looks stable; answer yes, but no guarantees. George also asked about ARML experience in New Hampshire, which was cheaper. Kiran said feedback was 50-50 on being better or worse than Penn State.

Discussed possibilities:

- a) Stop funding students to GIV. We already give cash prizes to talent search winners. But we would like to continue to get our winners to go.
- b) Directly give individual students money toward GIV, but would require us to assess need, David is not willing to take that on.
- c) We could give GIV a maximum of X (e.g., $1,000.00) to reduce the tuition of students we send (we would cap at 10 students).
- d) Same as c) but give a fixed amount (e.g., $10,000.00) allow excess over reduction in the tuition our students would otherwise pay to go to other math GIV attendees with need.

Questions on how things went before 2022 agreement: We "administered" GIV, paying some bills and adding overhead, then deducting that from GIV tutition. We were sort of a middleman providing no value add. Tuition was much lower; has risen sharply since then. Details are vague.

Discussed requirements for a vote – exactly who is on our board? We haven't kept firm list of board members. Generally acknowledge anyone who is willing to come to meetings and participate. Have never had contentious vote where it was an issue.

Update after meeting: Our bylaws state: "The officers of the Coalition, the Executive Director and Chairpersons of committees and/or task forces shall constitute the Executive Board." By this rule our executive board consists of all those present plus Steven and Evan. We do not have language about what constitutes a quorum, but those present at the meeting were a majority of the executive board, so any unanimous vote of those present would be a majority of the executive committee.

Question about how many students we've sponsored have actually gone in recent years. We don't know (David will find out).

We don't advertise free ride to GIV as a Talent Search benefit; should do so to encourage more participation.

Question from George about option d) above: Seems OK this year, but are we sure our funding will continue to come in and this will remain affordable? We can always renegotiate later if we lose funding.

Moved by George: Ask ED to discuss modifying agreement (linked here). Item 1 remains, but strike "free of charge." Items 2 and 3 would be replaced by something like: "2) VSMC will pay GIV $10,000.00 per year to support GIV in Mathematical Sciences. 3) GIV will determine the tuition they would charge each participant send by VSMC, and use the VSMC funds to reduce the tuition for each of these participants by the lesser of $1,000.00 and their calculated tuition. Any funds remaining may be used by GIV to support other students attending the GIV in Mathematical Sciences." Items 4 and 5 would remain the same." **Seconded by Kiran. Unanimously approved.**

- Audit: Judy went over books with me, flagged no issues.
- David submitted talk to VCTM conference, accepted. David also invited to do short (25 minutes) version of GPS talk at Essex STEM Academy. George also invited to give talk there.
- George moved to accept reports as presented, John seconded, reports approved.

5. Committee Reports
   a. Expanding Horizons (John Devino)

John asked Linda Wise last summer for list of GIV presenters to recruit them for Expanding Horizons. Didn't get it at the time, but ~1.5 weeks ago Tamira Martel from GIV sent a list. John asked several VSMC board members if we know them to make contact; none did. Many engineering presenters were from Norwich. John is interested in getting some new faces in program. Hoping David's VCTM talk will create some interest in

teachers. John also trying to get presenters from business, hoping for future funding to VSMC even if not willing or able to give presentations. Judy meeting with CMU alums including John Cohn next week and hoping to get some interest in VSMC. Judy seeking to replace herself as co-director for business with someone younger and still in business. Has candidate in mind.

b. Governor's Institute in Mathematics (Linda Wise, David Hathaway)
No information on the past summer's program.

c. Talent Search (Kiran MacCormick)
Number of participants has been going down.Hoping to get first test out by around October 1. David: would be great to get it before VCTM conference 10/5, so he could refer to first test in the talk. Kiran said they will try. Judy asked are students asked to assert that they completed test without AI? Kiran says it is on front page. General discussion of problems with people using AI for coursework. Considering dropping 4th test due to lower numbers. Around 15 took 1st test last year, goes down for subsequent tests. Almost everyone doing the last test has done some of the earlier ones.

d. ARML (Kiran MacCormick)
Went to St. Anselm in NH instead of Penn State. One fewer day so much cheaper. Kiran feels Penn State is run better and larger. Same tests given at the same time at all locations. Vermont team didn't do too well; alternates on team combined with alternates from other regions did better. Believes same locations will be offered next year. Kiran: May want to alternate between Penn State and NH. Judy: Does team do any practice together before competition? Hard to do because of competing activities on student schedules and geographic spread. Would also need to choose team earlier. George: How large is team? Size is 15, but we bring alternates, they join other alternates so they can still compete. Zoom practice might be useful.

e. VCTM (Steven Ushakov, David Hathaway)
   a. Talk for VCTM Fall Conference
Went over David's incomplete slides for VCTM talk. Went over structure more than content. Comments (some edited in during meeting): Judy – spell out acronyms on first use. Kiran – mixed team & individual rounds rather than "college bowl" style. Judy – add student presentations to awards dinner description. John – might want to drop "common core" connection. Judy – Need to connect engineers week presentation to curriculum. Kiran – Don't refer to it as common core any more. Common core are standards, not requirements. George – Good use is at end of AP class, after exam. John – specify enrichment topics related to curriculum. David asked John if it's OK to solicit topics of interest; answer yes. George will send info for his talks. George: Add invitation for new members to help with current programs and/or propose new ones. John – Ask for feedback to John if they use Expanding Horizons. Kiran – add pictures (ARML team pic we sent to VT Space Grant, award dinner pic, maybe GIV pic off GPS activity). Consensus: Overall structure is good. David will send initial completed slides when ready for more feedback.

6. Old Business
None.

7. New Business
None.

8. Calendar
Next meeting 7 PM January 19, 2027 via zoom.

9. Adjournment
6:58 PM.