

New York State Retired School Administrators and Supervisors

Meeting of the Executive Board –April 30, 2020

Zoomville-Nassau/Suffolk, NY

Present: Edward Bellomo, Ken Forman, Pat Galaskas, Gene Goldwasser, Mel Haley, Corine Lipset-Huberman, David Long, Ned Price, Lois Small, Marty Mandelker, Stewart Mortman, John Wallace, Seth Weitzman

1.0 Welcome: Gene Goldwasser, President-Gene welcomed everyone to our first virtual Executive Board Meeting. He thanked Ken for coordinating this through his Zoom account, the membership echoed his gratitude. Ken informed us that the meeting was being recorded. Gene explained that he made all reports and documents for this meeting available through email and the website.

2.0 Minutes: The minutes of the December 11, 2019 Executive Board Meeting were summarized by Ed. Gene complimented Ed on the writing of the minutes. The motion to accept them was moved by Pat Galaskas and seconded by Corine Lipset-Huberman. It carried unanimously.

3.0 Treasurer's Report: Ned presented the treasurer's report as of 4/15/20. It indicates that we spent less than we budgeted for 2019-20. Account balances as of 4/15/20 were reported as follows:

Checking - \$4,190.56
Savings - \$474.42
Money Market - \$877.42
Certificate of Deposit - \$4,897.85
Total = \$10,440.25

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was moved by Ken Forman and seconded by David Long. It carried unanimously.

Ned also presented and explained the 2020-2021 budget. He stated that it includes a new annual grant of \$1,000 from CAS. He clarified that only paid memberships are reflected in the report. Corine commented that increased membership would increase the costs of the mailing of our newsletter. Gene shared that the increase should be minimal and offset by the CAS annual grant. Approval of the budget was moved by Pat Galaskas and seconded by Ed Bellomo. It passed unanimously with a special thank you to Ned by Gene.

4.0 Announcements: Thanks to the persistent, cordial, professional efforts of our president, Gene, we have entered into a productive relationship with CAS. He and Skip, their president, agreed to form a partnership that would allow us to send a letter, already done, from our organization to new retirees offering them a free one year membership with the hope that they would become paying members in the second year. 81 letters were mailed and so far, 34 have responded. In an

effort to offset our costs that we incur paying for Demetria, CAS secretary, in handling our administrative needs, Skip has agreed to contribute \$1,000 per year to NYSRSAS. We have to bill them in November to receive payment. In addition, Gene is hopeful that new retirees will join after their first year of free membership adding additional funds to our reserves. Ken will receive the list of our new CAS retirees and forward it to Tom to add to our directory. Gene will email the list to the Executive Board to see if members know any of them. David mentioned that the superintendent of Rockville Centre is retiring. Ken will send out an email to see if he would like to join our organization.

5.0 Correspondence: Gene shared that a gentleman from Pennsylvania objected to our newsletter and withdrew his membership. He felt that our newsletter was more politically weighted than educational. Mel posited that our newsletter strikes a good balance between the two plus contains other types of articles. Gene added that many members keep their membership because they enjoy the newsletter. He asked that the newsletter and website provide clear avenues for folks to share their perspectives on issues, in fact, it is welcomed.

6.0 Committee Reports:

6.1 Education: Mel reported on a piece in the NY Times regarding a court's determination that Detroit Schools failed to provide its public school students with a basic education to which they are entitled. Ned shared that previously courts had ruled that a basic education was not guaranteed by the constitution. The discussion then shifted to the impact of COVID 19 on education. This included an extensive and comprehensive conversation about the ramifications of a shortened school year on grades, testing, diplomas, graduation, college applications, and student preparedness for the upcoming school year. How do we assess the value and impact of remote learning? It also included the significant emotional and psychological issues that this virus has created, and will continue to create, in the future. How do schools provide the necessary counseling and support, when services, which had already been reduced, are required at a much higher level in the fall? Where does that funding come from? How will schools provide and maintain a healthy sanitized environment for students and staff? If school can not reopen, how do we provide quality, equitable learning for all children? As we move forward with the "bridge to the next school year" (Mel), Gene suggested that an article be written for the newsletter flushing out some of these ideas. Marty suggested using the phrase, "What's going on out there?", to highlight significant issues regarding the impact of the virus moving forward. Stu stated that the NYSED website is a good way to stay connected and get updates. Corine will develop a query related to this as well. All agreed that this is an extremely significant issue with far reaching ramifications that we will continue to monitor and discuss. Thank you Mel for a great report as always.

6.2 Political Action: Stu shared that a debate is raging over mail-in-ballots for future primaries and elections in light of the fear many have because of the corona virus. He expressed concern that the U.S. Post Office would not be able to handle the resulting increased costs due to their fiscal struggles and the current administration's unwillingness to bail them out at this time.

6.3 Newsletter: The deadline for submission of articles and query responses for our next issue is 7/1/20. All Executive Board Members are strongly encouraged to submit responses to the query. The newsletter will include a general welcome to our new CAS members.

6.4 Membership: John reported that we have 172 paid, 54 Life, 81 CAS members totaling 307. He added that 100 former members have not renewed their membership.

7.0 Old Business

7.1 CTE Focus Group Position Paper: Gene shared that the position paper was placed in the newsletter and the website for members to read. He thanked the focus group members for doing an excellent job. He then asked, "What should we do with it?" It was suggested that we ask candidates their view on this issue, and that the paper be sent to Ellen Palazzo at Hofstra and to the Regents. Gene will send it to Roger Tilles. The paper will also be sent to Boces.

7.2 Election Focus Group: Gene thanked Pat, Sherry and Seth for developing a model rubric for us to use in evaluating candidates for our organization to support in the upcoming elections. They explained how the rubric could be used. The goal is to create a rating system that assesses each candidate equitably and fairly. The idea of creating questions to ask each candidate based on each category was considered. After a productive conversation it was decided that the Election Committee needs to reconvene to flesh this out. The following members agreed to meet (virtually) on May 21st. at 10 a.m., Seth, Ned, John, Corine, Ed, Marty, Pat, Gene, Stu and Ken. Ken will set up this meeting on Zoom.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Annual Luncheon: Regrettably, there will be no luncheon this year because of the pandemic.

9.0 Next Virtual Executive Board Meeting: June 11, 2020

10.0 Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. on a motion by Stu Mortman and seconded by Corine Lipset-Huberman. It passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Bellomo