

New York State Retired School Administrators and Supervisors

Meeting of the Executive Board –June 11, 2020

Zoomville-Nassau/Suffolk, NY

Present: Sherry Alessandro, Edward Bellomo, John Fogliano, Ken Forman, Pat Galaskas, Gene Goldwasser, Mel Haley, Corine Lipset-Huberman, Elliot Kigner, 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 virtual Executive Board Meeting.

2.0 Minutes: The minutes of the April 30, 2020 Executive Board Meeting were distributed online before this meeting. Gene asked if there were any questions or comments and there were none. Corine complimented Ed on the writing of the minutes. The motion to accept them was moved by Lois Small and seconded by John Fogliano. It was approved unanimously.

3.0 Treasurer's Report: Ned presented the updated treasurer's report as of 6/1/20. It reflects a paid membership of 189 since January. . Account balances as of 6/1/20 were reported as follows:

Checking - \$3,560.85
Savings - \$474.54
Money Market - \$877.42
Certificate of Deposit - \$4,920.80
Total = \$9,833.61

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was moved by Corine Lipset-Huberman and seconded by Lois Small. It carried unanimously.

4.0 Announcements: Gene announced that one of our members, Stan Opas passed away. He asked David Long to share some remarks and memories about Stan for the group. David remarked that Stan was his close friend for 50 years. He served on the Executive Committee, as Publicity Chair, interviewed candidates, and was a great teacher and principal. Pat added that he was a wonderful kind man. Gene concluded the remarks by stating that Stan was an active participant in our meetings and he met with his former teachers once a month after his retirement. Gene sent a sympathy card on behalf of NYSRSAS. He will be missed by all of us. Corine asked if we send our condolences to families when members pass. Gene stated that we really don't have a person designated to do this. Corine graciously volunteered.

5.0 Correspondence: While there was no correspondence, Gene raised the compelling need and desire to discuss the recent killings of George Floyd and others, Black Lives Matter protests, racism, and police brutality and reform, as it

relates to our organization and the need for us, as educators, to state our position on these significant issues. Our members freely and respectfully raised a variety of cogent points and perspectives. They included; abhorrence of police brutality of any kind, but especially based on race, education equality and funding, equal justice, white privilege, distinction between the BLM organization and the BLM protestors, social inequality and equal access for all, education and training for teachers and administrators, combining school districts to remedy funding inequities, programs that teach tolerance and respect, restructuring and reforming police departments as opposed to “defunding”, expressing support for dedicated police officers while addressing “bad apples”, and getting unions to expel racist officers while maintaining due process for all. Corine will use the July QQ to get members perspectives and suggestions for solutions. We also discussed recruiting minority members to provide a more diverse Executive Board which we all desire. Gene asked all board members to email their thoughts and perspectives to him so he can write a position paper for the organization. The Fall newsletter will include a review of books related to these issues along with an appeal to recruit members of color and other ethnicities. Gene concluded by discussing the “talk” many black parents have with their sons when dealing with the police and the importance of making the biggest impact through voting.

6.0 Committee Reports:

6.1 Education: None

6.2 Political Action: Stu expressed concern about possible voter suppression caused by issues related to mail-in balloting and the limited access of people to in person voting because of the virus.

6.3 Newsletter: The July newsletter will contain a welcome for CAS retirees who have joined our organization. Ned, Ken and Mel will be contributing articles, along with Gene. It will include obituaries as needed. The QQ will be about mail-in voting and/or BLM. .

6.4 Membership: John reported that we have 189 paid, 53 life, 49 CAS members totaling 291. Letters went out to non-paying members on May 15th.

7.0 Old Business

7.1 Selection and assignment of candidates to monitor: Members were assigned candidates to research and make recommendations for endorsements based on the newly adopted rubrics. Members can call candidates, meet with them, review website and materials from candidate’s office, and check previous voting records. Assignments are: **CD1-Kigner, CD2-Fogliano, CD3-Lipset-Huberman, CD4-Galskas, CD5-Haley, SSD1-Alessandro, SSD2-Mortman, SSD3-Long, SSD4-Wallace, SSD5-Price, SSD6-Bellomo, SSD7-Mandelker, SSD8-Pincus, SSD9-Small**

7.2 Endorsement Rubrics: Gene presented the revised rubric that Pat, Sherry and Seth developed. After further clarification and additional suggestions a final version of the rubric will be sent out by Pat Galaskas. Members are asked to take notes and do their best to assign point values based on the rubric and how closely the candidate supports the issues that are important to our members. Based on this tool each member will make a recommendation to the Executive Board in September.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Annual Luncheon: Regrettably, there will be no luncheon this year because of the pandemic. We will discuss reinstating it for June 2021 at our December 2020 meeting.

8.2 Publicity Chair: Marty Mandelker has agreed to assume the role of Publicity Chair for our organization.

9.0 Executive Board Meeting: The dates for the upcoming year are: 9/10/20, 12/10/20, 3/18/21, 6/10/21

10.0 Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. on a motion by Pat Galaskas and seconded by Stu Mortman. It passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Bellomo