

New York State Retired School Administrators and Supervisors

Meeting of the Executive Board- December 10, 2020
Zoomsville-Nassau/Suffolk, NY

Present: Sherry Alessandro, 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

1.0 Welcome: Gene Goldwasser, President – Gene welcomed everyone to the virtual Executive Board Meeting.

2.0 Minutes: The minutes of the September 10, 2020 Executive Board Meeting were distributed online before this meeting. Gene asked if there were any comments or questions and there were none. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

3.0 Treasurer's Report: Ned presented the updated Treasurer's report as of 12/1/20. It reflects a paid membership of 193. Account balances as of 12/1/2020 were reported as follows:

Checking - \$2845.80

Savings - \$474.66

Money Market - \$877.42

Certificate of Deposit - \$4943.85

Total = \$8195.91

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

4.0 Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

5.0 Announcements: No announcements

6.0 Committee Reports:

6.1 Education: Mel reported on several health and educational issues related to COVID-19. A highly effective vaccine is on the way. Health experts say it is possible that if large numbers of employees get vaccinated, schools may be able to return to full-time in-person learning. There are a lot of unknowns- number of vaccines available and the logistics of distributing it, and how school leaders deal with vaccine hesitancy among teachers and staff.

According to one national survey, close to two-thirds of district leaders reported that their school systems are implementing hybrid learning based on the local rate of COVID-19 transmission in their communities, and staff and students safety concerns about returning to the classroom. There is much to learn about what is,

and is not, working for students, teachers and parents. In response to concerns over exposure to the coronavirus, excessive screen time for students and changing school schedules, there is an increase in the number of parents who have shifted to home schooling this year. This shift together with the increased number of charter schools in some communities may have a lasting impact on public school enrollment.

6.2 Political Action: Stu expressed the concern that President Trump's actions to overturn the election present a threat to democracy. Specifically, he cited the Texas lawsuit filed with the Supreme Court to bar Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin from casting their electoral votes for Biden. This lawsuit would have resulted in millions of votes being thrown out. Trump's actions have destroyed norms and conventions of the presidential election process and the smooth transition of power to the next administration. It will take years to address this damage. It is important to take action to insure the integrity of the election process.

6.3 Newsletter: Corinne suggested postponing mailing the January newsletter until mid-February in order to ensure that articles are timely and reflect events up to, and through, the inauguration of Joseph Biden as president. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to mail the next newsletter on February 19, 2021. Deadline for newsletter articles is February 5, 2021.

6.4 Membership: John reported there are currently 193 paid memberships, 47 free (first year members) and 51 members who have not renewed their membership for a subtotal of 291 members. Including our 52 lifetime members, the total membership is 343. Renewal letters will be mailed on January 15, 2021. Corine will include a reminder in the February newsletter.

6.5 Publicity: Marty reported that as previously discussed endorsed candidates received a formal letter informing them of the NYSRSAS endorsement. Gene reported that we heard from one of the candidates that he/she planned to use our endorsement in their campaign materials. Marty recommended that the organization inform members about outcome of the results of the election for endorsed candidates. It was agreed that this information would be included in the newsletter.

7.0 Old Business: Endorsements: Review, Analysis and Assessment

7.1 2020 Endorsement Results

President Joe Biden Won

US House of Representatives:

District 1	Nancy Goroff	Lost
District 2	Jackie Gordon	Lost
District 3	Tom Suozzi	Won
District 4	Kathleen Rice	Won
District 5	Gregory Meeks	Won

NY State Senate

District 1	Laura Ahern	Lost
District 2	Michael Siderakis	Lost
District 3	Monica Martinez	Lost
District 4	Christine Pellegrino	Lost
District 5	James Gaughran	Won
District 6	Kevin Thomas	Won
District 7	Anna Kaplan	Won

7.2 Assessment:

The group reviewed the endorsement process for the 2020 election. Based on this assessment, the Board discussed the process and timeline for the 2022 New York governor and senate races. Pat suggested that we begin the process by surveying members regarding issues that they feel are important. It was agreed that this survey would be sent to membership with the January 2022 renewal letter so that the Endorsement Committee would have the information prior to their spring meeting.

8.0 New Business:

8.1 Motion to give DeMetria a holiday gift of \$200 was passed unanimously.

8.2 The group discussed topics for 2021 Focus Groups. The consensus was that the organization would form a focus group on the topic of changes in education caused by COVID 19. This group will target – instructional, funding and curriculum changes – that are expected to have significant effects on education. The date for the focus group meeting is set for Thursday, February 18, 2021, 10 AM on Zoom.

9.0 Next Executive Board Meeting – Thursday, March 18, 2021, 10 AM on Zoom

10.0 Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Mel Haley

