

NYSRSAS Executive Board Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2023
Minutes

1.0 Present: Gene Goldwasser, Corine Lipset-Huberman, Pat Galaskas, Ken Forman, Marty Mandelker, Ned Price, John Wallace, David Long, Mel Haley, Phyllis Berkowitz

2.0 Minutes of June 15, 2023 Executive Board Meeting presented by Mel Haley. Minutes were approved unanimously.

3.0 Treasurer's Report was given by Ned Price. Total Assets \$10,846.16. Reserve in Scholarship Fund \$1,300. 5,000 13-month CD (interest 4.64%) earned \$50.73 in interest bringing total to 5,076. 6 month \$1000 CD earned \$9.57 in interest. The total of \$1,009 will roll over for 6 months with an interest rate of 5%. The report was approved unanimously.

4.0 Announcements: Gene Goldwasser reported:

4.1 The status of the executive board membership. George Pincus retired from Executive Board

4.2 Need for a member to take notes. Ken Forman mentioned that Zoom will record meetings and provide a written transcript.

4.3 Several citizenship award checks have not been cashed. Gene Goldwasser sent notes to the schools to follow-up. Lawrence did not receive a certificate or check. Replacements will be sent to the school.

5.0 Committee Reports:

5.1 Education: Mel Haley reported:

5.1.1 Education Week article discussed increasing anxiety among students and the importance of social emotional programs. Unfortunately, many politicians have sponsored legislation to prohibit these efforts. There is a need for legislators to be informed of the need for these programs. Many schools used pandemic support money to add psychologists and social workers but schools face the problem of continuing these positions as funding evaporates.

5.1.2 Achievement levels in math and reading have decreased during the pandemic. Some states are funding support programs for teaching math skills. NYC adopted a reading program focusing on phonics. There is concern that this may be too radical a change in focus.

5.2 Newsletter: Corine Lipset-Huberman reported

5.2.1 One reader responded to the last quarterly query.

5.2.2 Several articles are ready for the next newsletter.

5.2.3 The deadline for additional submissions is October 5.

5.3 Membership Status: John Wallace noted we gained one new member. Membership renewal will begin in January.

5.4 Publicity: Marty Mandelker recommended:

5.4.1 Sending information regarding the Citizenship awards to principals in advance of asking for nominees.

5.4.2 Preparing information regarding the importance of public schools. He noted the book, *Death of Public Schools*, as a basis for reviewing the issue.

6.0 Old Business:

6.1 Citizenship Awards

6.1.1 It was agreed that we should continue to offer \$100 Citizenship Awards to 20 schools.

6.1.2 Ken Froman recommended getting advice from Frank Chiachiere about publishing names of students.

7.0 New Business

7.1 2024 Election

7.1.1 It was agreed that our focus should be on federal and state senate candidates. There is concern that key decisions are made at local levels, but we are unable to evaluate that many candidates. Maty Mandelker suggested sending information to candidates regarding critical educational issues.

7.1.2 Focus groups will be created at the December meeting to address these issues.

7.2 Lunch Get-together Gene Goldwasser will send possible dates.

Respectfully submitted by Ned Price