

NCSTA Full Board Meeting 9/16/21
Format Web Ex 6:30 p.m.

Quorum Established
Called to order at 6:31 p.m.

Members Present: Sandra Weitzel, Carol Maidon, Mary Ellen Durham, Joette Midgett, Lindsey Smith, Kristana Rogers, MaryKate Holden, Mike Tally, Adrienne Evans, Michelle Chadwick, Amanda Clapp, Brad Rhew, Brain Whitson, Brad Woodard, Gavin Fradel, Tammi Remsburg, Lisa Tolley, Cliff Hudson, Tomeka Altman, Manley Midgett, Tom Savage

I. Consent Agenda

Minutes from July 22nd and Treasurer's Report were approved with Brad Woodard making the motion to approve and Brian Whitson seconded the motion.

II. Awards Committee Report submitted by Alissa Wickliff, she was appreciative as there were 48 total nominations for 30 awards. She submitted that this was great for a COVID year, with more nominations than in past non-COVID years.

III. Nominations Committee Report (Amanda Clapp)

Online voting has started and closes on October 13th, please vote before that date.

IV. Communications Report (Allie Dinwiddie)

November Newsletter will be published, Allie is taking a new position and will no longer publish the newsletter after this upcoming one. She has a template created through Canvas, there is newsletter software available. September 24th is the deadline for submissions for this new newsletter, a google form will be provided for submissions.

V. PDI Updates (Joette Midgett)

- It is a different scenario regarding COVID from our meeting July 22nd, the pandemic is running rampant again.
- Options are on the table--- Cancel for the Fall; people likely could be on both sides of the fence. Let's look at the numbers.... How successful would we be if we proceed with PDI, in 2019 the year of our 50th birthday celebration we had 557 participants for PDI (#'s for 2021 would need to be what number of attendees or so to break even?)
- We have a fiduciary responsibility to NCSTA, we know monies will be lost this year.
- 4 Options on the table----1) proceed with 2021, 2022 and 2023 PDI's as scheduled (Benton contracts with negotiations) 2) proceed with 2021 and cancel 2022 and 2023 PDI's 3) cancel 2021 due to COVID concerns, proceed with 2022 and 2023 4) cancel all contracts with Benton Convention Center

- For 2021, we would need to have 500 attendees to break even, keep in mind with a non-COVID year (2019) we had 557.
- There are 2 contracts, one with Benton Convention Center for space and food and the other with Marriott for room nights.
- We made a \$14,000 profit in 2019
- Joette provided some numbers for us based off of the \$150 registration fee; if we had 500 attendees we would break even and have to pay \$12,114, if we had 457 attendees the amount of pay would be \$21,156, at 357 attendees the loss would be 42,312, at 257 attendees, we would have to pay \$63,468 and with 157 attendees we would have to pay \$84,624 (this 157 attendees would include basically the board and presenters)
- With the above scenarios it could be we would not have monies to pay Benton and have to dip into savings a great deal.
- Option 2---proceed with 2021 and cancel the remaining 2 years; until November 1st the cancellation fee would be \$18,306.25, (25% of the fee would go up after that date)
- Option 3---cancel 2021 and hold the the PDI in 2022 and 2023, Manley is in the process of negotiating with Benton for getting out of the contract \$18,000 for space and \$10,000 for food, quite a figure for the Marriott rooms, we would be talking between \$79,000-\$80,000
- Today it is a possibility of 30% of this or a small penalty to sign for one more year. Floyd, Benton's negotiator did not give specific details
- \$21,292 penalty to call off the 2021 PDI would not be too bad, there is a \$21,279 negotiating fee overall total would be out \$42,571
- Question was asked could we keep the Burroughs-Wellcome monies and apply it to the next year
- This \$42,212 is based off of 357 PDI attendees, anything less we lose money by having the conference (the loss would be greater by having the PDI)
- Option 4 the cost to cancel would be \$46,987
- Manley reminded all that we are not taking in any revenue, need to keep penalty as low as possible
- What is the thinking of the board members present tonight?
- Tomika mentioned their is a shortage of teachers and hard job right now of securing substitutes
- Registration to date is 75, in 2019 we had 129 total registrations to this point
- Joette did not push for a September 15th hard deadline due to the pandemic crisis
- The Math conference has been cancelled at Benton for the week after us
- The PE folks were to have there conference the first week of October and have since cancelled, pressure was put on the Winston-Salem city by these groups
- 4-5 presenters have cancelled for us so far and 2 vendors
- If we make the decision to cancel, we need to spend time talking about a virtual PDI

- The virtual PD's that were offered in Fall 2020 and the Spring 2021 were well attended and generated much needed revenue
- We need to honor our members with virtual options whether a full or half week in the spring
- It would not be possible to keep the same dates with a Virtual PDI as it takes much planning
- Joette has been working since February: vendor, presenters, registrants, etc. 12 concurrent sessions Zoom would incur excess funds and a person for each room)
- Hopefully our presenters that have been chosen would offer to be virtual instead of face-to-face
- During the school day teachers cannot be participating in Zoom
- We would have to adapt from Thursday-Friday to do a Friday-Saturday.
- We need everyone's input to address the needs of our membership.
- We need as much money as we can from our vendors with a virtual conference on the table
- Laura Lowder asked about the ethics of having the PDI: asking about vaccinations, comfort level, the spread of people in gathering AND personal reasons where medically fragile family members have not ventured out and have been isolating themselves with little social interaction during the pandemic period. We need google form surveys to gauge the interest of our members for a virtual type PDI.
- If we had the conference it would be bringing a possible super-spreader event from many in isolation the past 18 months
- There have been many breakthrough cases among vaccinated people
- Carrie Jones emailed about her feeling strongly that we would be losing our members without another face-to-face meeting
- Our membership numbers were kept up by the PD online offerings last year and the first part of this year
- We are currently at 500 members across the state, membership can get to a high of 700 typically after a PDI, we got renewing members from the online PD's
- We would need time to market a virtual PD, we would need Zoom accounts to set up these sessions
- Options 5 straight days from 5-6 in the evening or 4-7 in the evening; we need to think of creative ways to get this done
- We need to decide one of 2 things.....(1) cancel or not cancel (2) not ready to make a call, everyone's voice needs to be heard
- The longer we have waited, the better the deal has gotten
- We might could get an offer down to \$5-10,000 possibly
- Rationale to cancel: lack of substitutes, professional development has been cancelled across the state, systems not letting teachers travel, mask mandates
- Sandra called for a motion
- Carol asked for the board voting members to take a poll informally for their decision about cancelling this year's PDI (All said no, unanimous vote).

- We can keep the keynotes even with a virtual conference
- ******MOTION*** Carol from Executive Committee: Upon accessing alternatives and financial consideration, the Executive Committee will be charged with making the decision as to whether or how we move forward with the 2021 PDI. Rationale: The decision may have to be made quickly in order to take advantage of any offers made or to adjust the current situation. (Since coming from the Executive Committee, no need for a second)**
- Benton negotiations have been cordial, we have been at Benton many times in the past
- Burroughs-Wellcome grant could cover awards, Give-Aways,
- Tom Savage asked about if District Directors could still have outside Drive-In Workshop PD's in their district, this would be nice to start them up again
- Sandra told Tom that this does not require approval from the Board.
- There is money in the budget for having these types of events

District Director and Committee Reports

- Manley mentioned to go to your local banks, businesses, etc. to get them to support a District Director's endeavors. These contributions would have to be reported
- Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 3rd at 6:30 pm through Web Ex due to the meeting not being face-to-face at PDI
- At that time the gavel will be passed to MaryKate Holden
- The Conference Committee will need to meet with the District Directors for help with a virtual conference
- It was mentioned that Brian, MaryKate, Alissa, Adrienne Evans, Ann McClung, Lisa, Manley and Kristana all have Zoom accounts that could be used
- The Sched app would be used.
- **Motion to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. with Carol Maidon making the motion and MaryKate Holden in second; motion carried**
- Tom Savage thanked Sandra and the Executive Board for their leadership through this year
- MaryKate Holden is the President-Elect and Sandra Weitzel is the Past President at the end of the November 3rd meeting

Respectfully submitted by Brad Woodard, NCSTA Secretary