

MAINE SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION

Mission:

*Educating and empowering members to provide healthy meals
to Maine Children in pursuit of lifelong wellness.*

Thursday March 17th 2021 10am

Meeting Minutes

This meeting will be held virtually using zoom..

Call to Order: Alisa Roman Time: 10:04 AM

Executive Board: Alisa Roman (X) Tina Fabian (X) Jodi Truman (X) Mary Emerson (X) Whitney Thornton(X)

Voting Board Members:

Dave Roberts (X) Jeanne Reilly (X) Blair Currier (X) Stephanie Salley (X) Ellen Demmons () Ellen Dore (X)
Vanessa Richardson () Martha Spencer (X) Allison Leavitt (X) Melanie Lagasse (X) Wendy Collins (X) Dottie
Janotta (X) Kathy Kittredge ()

Non-Voting Board Members:

Walter Beesley (X) Allison Marceau () Cassandra Ring (X) Melissa Motejunas (X)

Communications/Correspondence:

Full Plates Full Potential advocacy and legislation - deferred to Jeanne Reilly's report

SNANY- Received funds from SNANY for our previous participation. We will do a second round with them.

5-2-1-0- training - We have partnered with Let's Go and will continue with future trainings.

LAC-Virtual - Last week we had virtual LAC.

Director of the Year Award- One nomination. Congratulations Whitney Thornton!!!

Workforce - Anna Korsen notified Alisa about Workforce that is funded with Covid Funding through June 30th.
They provide EAP services and are willing to partner with us in providing training for our members.

Action Items:

Secretary's Report- Mary provided January 15, 2021 to board members.

Recommended Motion: Jeanne Reilly motioned to approve

Motion: Second: Tina Fabian

Vote: All approved

Motion passed

Treasurer's Report - Dottie presented the treasurer's report - checking account balance is \$56,969.54

Recommended Motion: Alison Leavitt motioned to approve

Motion: Second: Matha Spencer
Vote: Passed – All approved - Dottie is abstaining

Motion Passed

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: One email thread on SNANY. Another on The Maine Light theme being jazzier. Caroline Trinder did send out an email to obtain students' artwork to present an updated Maine Light logo. \$56,969.54

Education Committee: Farm to School Educational Session March 31 at 2pm. Topics for April & May are open. Summer conference survey had 60 responses.

Legislative Committee - Virtual LAC last week - we had 6 members & met with each representative office. We met directly with Susan Collins. Message was well received. Ask for universal meals with waivers extended for SY 22. CNR (Child Nutrition Reauthorization) should be raised in the next year. Positive message about how current feeding is going. We shared a 2 minute video Alisa created that was very well received. Senator Collins discussed the School Food Modernization Act and will introduce today March 18, 2021. MSNA supports this bill. Statewide - LD 655 promotes 30 minute lunch and LD636 Expansion of the Local Produce Fund. Jeanne emphasized the need for stories to provide impact for legislators. Alisa provided options for providing written and/or oral testimony- which is needed for legislators to know how important these topics are for us! Anna Korsen has resource information for how to participate in the legislative process during the covid 19 times.

Communications Committee: Mary reported that Caroline Trinder is now the editor. Plan for May publication. Vanessa has been sending updates to Ingenious Concepts.

Membership Committee: Blair has been cleaning up the membership list for email addresses to be corrected. He has been contacting expiring & expired members. Some districts have been dropping members to reduce expenses.

Nominating Committee: Dave reported they are seeking nominations for Vice President. They reached out to several candidates but given the times they deferred. Alisa Roman has stepped forward and is willing to be nominated if there are no other nominations.

Finance Committee: Met at Leavitt High School. Dottie provided crates of financials. Alisa, Stephanie and Dave conducted an audit. Dave reported that they were impressed with how organized the accounts. Dottie was thanked for her outstanding work for the past 6 years.

Industry Committee: Virtual NOI Show was well organized and presented well. We had 50-60 at each session. Flow went well. Well received.

Program Committee: Wendy & Whitney are co-chairing. Plan for Wendy to be solo chair when Whiney becomes President Elect

MSNA Partners Updates:

- Melissa Motejunas from Native Maine wants to increase the offering of items on DOD. 17-18 more fruits & vegetables, as well as more pre-packed fresh produce items. She has started a Facebook page for Schools. Trying to increase local offerings. Supports legislation for expansion of the local fund. She will provide samples if you want to try new items with your students. Native Maine is working on pre packaged broccoli with local farmers. Also working on partnering with Vertical Harvest who is opening soon in Westbrook.
- Cassie Ring from Let's Go discussed trainings provided from January thru March with good attendance and good feedback. Working on infographic on the value of completing the Free & Reduced Lunch application

to encourage more families to complete the form. Let's Go has started an Advocacy Committee spearheaded by Dr. Tory Rogers which will focus on legislative issues. They support school nutrition legislation, in particular the bill supporting expanding the Local Fund.

- Walter Beesley - webinar later today to discuss Waiver Extensions. Number of legislative bills involving school nutrition. SY22 - looking at all students coming back and following CDC guidelines. Discussed the few districts still under NSLP and they may be eligible for funding based on comparison of SY20 to SY21. March 31st DOE employees can come back to the office again. He is encouraging Universal Meals in all meetings he attends. Discussed Maine legislative process with these bills relating to Universal Meals - fear is that it will go to Appropriations Committee and not get funded. Focus is on moving away from Free Reduced Application. P-EBT card will probably be extended. Please use complimentary meal terminology as it has better acceptance. Caroline is a one year Vista worker working on increasing meal participation. Concern about waiver extension to Sept 30th will continue to reduce our Free & Reduced numbers for SY 22. Walter said it was down 5% statewide. Discussed positive support of Congressional delegation for universal meals.

Old Business

1. Laptops -ordered, Received
2. Winter conference NOI show - See above Industry Committee
3. Finance Audit- See above Finance Committee

New Business

1. Summer conference decisions- Virtual or in person - Tina reported meeting with the Augusta Civic Center. Committee would like to do an in-person meeting - perhaps hybrid if needed. Discussed potential hybrid food show with vendors on line and samples prepared by Augusta Civic Center. Alison presented survey results that more folks were interested in an in person meeting. Tina reports the next meeting is March 25th at 9:30 AM to finalize the decision. Augusta Civic Center does not charge a cancellation fee if we have to cancel due to Covid 19. Discussed having more Maine based vendors & Melissa M is willing to represent farmers & local products.

2. Leadership National - April 21-22 - will be virtual. More information to be sent out by Alisa.

3. ANC- Virtual July 2021. Bylaws and thoughts - Discussed leaders who missed attending national conferences due to Covid 19. Discussed need for each year to evaluate budgetary issues & determine best course of action.

4.Calendar for the rest of our dates - Alisa will send out a doodle poll for dates. Potential for in person meeting.

5. John Woods Donation - Mary Emerson moved to donate \$250 to Full Plates Full Potential in memorial to John Wood, founder of Full Plates Full Potential. Wendy Collins seconded. Vote was unanimous. Alisa asked Dottie to send check to Full Plates Full Potential.

Adjourn:

Motion: Tina Second: Stephanie

Vote: All approved

Time: Meeting closed at 11:49