

VCTM Board Meeting  
Tuesday, May 19, 2015  
5:00 – 7:30 pm U-32 High School

Present: Kate McCann, Christine Latulippe, Jean McKenny, Mary Calder, Sue Abrams, David Rome, Harvie Porter, Patty Kelly, Sean Sullivan, Katie Westby, Lara White and Karen Saunders

The meeting began at 5:10 pm

On a motion made by Mary and seconded by Sue the minutes of the April 29 meeting were approved with one spelling correction.

Roberta was unable to be here but sent a brief electronic treasurer's report prior to the meeting. She reported that not much has changed since the last meeting.

Kate gave a report on several items. She and Jean attended the Spring ATMNE Meeting in Westminster, MA. ATMNE is re-instituting dues for affiliate members. Each affiliate will count its membership as of December 1 and pay ATMNE \$3 per member by December 31. ATMNE will provide \$1200 for a VCTM board member to attend a NCTM Leadership Conference in Arizona in July. The Fall ATMNE Meeting will be held on October 28<sup>th</sup>, the day prior to the ATMNE Fall Conference in Portland, ME. Harvie indicated that as he is retiring at the end of this school year he may give up his VCTM position as ATMNE Representative.

Harvie reported on membership. Another 12 members puts our membership at about 100.

The NCTM update was given by Patty Kelly as she attended NCTM in Boston as VCTM official representative. She had prepared a write up for the group and the VCTM Newsletter. In addition to the regular official sessions she attended some “break out” sessions covering different topics. Some discussion about various tools for selecting curricular materials ensued. She and David talked about various ways that this information might be shared with the VCTM membership including perhaps blogs through the newsletter.

Mary reported for the awards committee. The May 1 date for PAESMT applications produced three applications in mathematics. The reading of these applications by a selection committee is in progress. A celebration dinner for finalists is planned for June 9 from 5:30-7:30 in Montpelier. A question was asked about gifts for the finalists. Some other states do give gifts. A discussion about the Innovator Award ensued. Sue explained that the committee had gotten bogged down while attempting to describe what would constitute merit for the Innovator Award. Various attempts to describe what might qualify were discussed. Could it be an activity, a lesson, a project, a general classroom practice, or an article written about a practice? Should there be a rubric designed for evaluating submissions? Should we just ask questions (3) trying to move from the theoretical to the practical to solicit submissions? Should submissions be linked to the eight Principles to Action practices? Should we choose the first award without asking for nominations as an example of the type of submission that we are looking for? Whatever is chosen for the award must be in a form that can be shared with other teachers. The committee (Sue, Mary and Jean) will continue to try to define this award. Jean reported that she had started to look at other New England affiliates to see what they give for service awards. NH has two. One is for service and one for a new promising teacher. Mary reported that Maine gives awards. The committee will attempt to continue this research to see what others are doing and perhaps use one as a model for wording for the Robert Chaffee Service Award in VT.

David reported for the Newsletter that it is out. Keeping the electronic mailing list is hard with so many educators mobile. He mentioned a common core misconception and what really constitutes “big picture” problems. He used Dan Meyer's “step problem” that many of the board members saw at NCTM in Boston as an example of a big picture problem. He hopes to use the Newsletter and blogs to clarify some of these topics. A suggestion was made to David that perhaps he could come up with some big picture problems for geometry and design a presentation around this for our fall conference. Lara pointed out that pages 80 and 81 in a CCSS appendix discusses what may be a common misconception that she deals with frequently in VT.

Lara reported for Math Morsels in VT. In this third round of presentations one or two had to be canceled for lack of sign up. She is experiencing difficulty in the Southeastern part of VT building interest. Several board members gave her suggestions as to locations and people who might help with this effort. Lara is exploring how Title 2A funds might be used to overcome a possible “outside of the school day” issue that might be affecting attendance.

At Kate's request Jean explained to the board the process that ATMNE had used at its Spring Meeting to create a budget for the coming year. As their funding sources are very volatile their net worth can vary greatly from year to year. The treasurer made several recommendations (reducing mileage payments & re-instituting membership fees to affiliate members at an \$8 amount) to try to reign in their budget. Those did not pass. Going electronic with part 2 of the New England Mathematics Journal and re-instituting membership fees to affiliate members at a \$3 level did pass. These changes resulted in serious budget reductions for ATMNE. Jean expressed her concern about VCTM spending. She distributed a hand out that contained information about 2007-2014 income, expenses and net gain or loss. In five of those eight years there was a net loss. In only three was there a net gain. She also included a graph of VCTM net worth for the same years. She predicted that if income is not raised and/or spending decreased VCTM could be out of money in about eight years.

Kate reported for the agenda item regarding the NCTM Affiliate Conference. It will be held this year in Phoenix, AZ on July 14th through the 16<sup>th</sup>. ATMNE normally allocates \$1000 for a VCTM member but increased that amount to \$1200 this year due to the location and higher air fares for that distance. Kate announced that Patty is willing to go also and that there is an advantage to sending more than one person as some of the planning done at the meeting is done as a local team. A motion was made by Harvie and seconded by Sue for VCTM to allocate another \$1200 so that a second person could attend. Discussion ensued regarding what could be gained by sending more people, how VCTM should be investing in itself as well as some discussion regarding what VCTM would actually gain from sending board members to the conference. This discussion resulted in considering sending a third person and David indicated that he was willing to attend. A friendly amendment to the original motion was offered and accepted to increase the VCTM contribution to a total of \$3000 so that Kate, Patty and David could all attend. The motion passed with six in favor, one opposed and three abstaining. This discussion also included the possibility of a board retreat following the leadership conference so that ideas could be shared and plans for the future could be made by the total board.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to planning the fall conference. After discussion a decision was made that all registrations (paid, volunteer or presenter) would include membership to VCTM through the following year.

The meeting adjourned a little past 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean McKenny, Temporary Secretary