

Minutes from QACREA Meeting – October 11, 2016

11:30 Visitation

12:00 President Richard McNeal welcomed everyone, especially the new retirees. Special guests were Mark Farley, Director of Human Resources and Captain Katherine Kelley and Tammy Harper from the Board of Education.

After Richard blessed the food we enjoyed a delicious chicken and lasagna lunch catered by Suzanne.

Richard asked for comments from our guests. Tammy Harper is running as a write-in candidate who promises to represent the whole county. Captain Kelly is running unopposed. She reminded us that education often competes with aging programs and the squeaky wheel gets the grease. It is important that we are represented at meetings. The teacher's union and school district are working as one in their dealings with the commissioners. They are asking QACREA to join them.

Mark Farley introduced himself and shared his background. He was trained as a lawyer, has worked at several colleges and most recently was retirement coordinator in Frederick County. He expressed some current needs in the county and encouraged interested retirees to apply. The positions are a para at Church Hill Elementary and counselors at QACHS.

Sara Jane Davidson shared her involvement with the dual enrollment scholarship program. Currently, Dorchester funds through Todd Foundation and Caroline offers tuition and book help to students. In 2015 a group was started in QA county through the Gray Foundation. The Mid Shore currently has \$11,000 but more money is needed to form an endowment. Sara Jane appealed to the group for help. Contributions are tax deductible. Students have to go to Chesapeake at this time. There was a concern raised that scholarships be based on need.

Joe Ollock, who was treasurer for QACREA for more than 10 years, was recognized and awarded a certificate of appreciation.

Minutes- Accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report-Accepted as presented.

Old Business A reminder that dues will be going up from \$7 to \$10 as of July 1, 2017.

Lunch reservations are due the Thursday before the scheduled luncheon. –

Richard shared some insights on the search for a new superintendent. He brought up several questions: Why is this a great place for someone to work? What challenges will a superintendent face? What are the characteristics you're seeking? There will be a block of time when we won't hear anything. The application flyers will be developed by the end of January then there will be a whittling down process. The top 2 or 3 candidates will be invited to visit. He has asked that QACREA have a representative on the committee making the final decision.

In the meantime, we will continue our positive relationship with the interim superintendent. Richard asked for other volunteers to attend meetings so the commissioners see different faces. Marita Reed commented on the importance of fighting the fight for health coverage. "Don't let them change the plan to save money."

Membership Fannie welcomed two new members. She shared dates for membership renewal. We had a 7% increase in our membership is 155 members. The membership goal for the state is 15,000 by 2017 and the goal for QACREA is 157 by 2017- almost achieved! A list was passed for local only members to sign. We have 2 special emeritus members. Each one reach one continues to be our motto to increase membership. The more people who are part of the group, the more people we have to protect the pension fund. Richard is hoping to have business cards by the next meeting to pass out with meeting dates and the web site information.

Legislative There will be a legislative update meeting on November 10th that Richard, Bobbi and Steve will attend.

Necrology Marcella Bordley retired as chair and Susan Boone is taking over. She wants to get the plaque updated. Profile sheets were passed out to be completed and kept in a notebook for when the information is needed. The names of those who had passed from June 2015 through June 1, 2016 were shared with the group.

Scholarship Jean read a thank you note from Caitlin Souder. Contributions of over \$200 this month would help cover the scholarship deficit. We then need to have the spring payment for recipients. Options are being considered on how to handle this situation.

Community Service Jolly said GES was the only school with a list of supplies that she could find. Donated school supplies were taken there. In December we are asked to contribute snack packs and books.

New Business Legislative Update will be held on November 10, 2016.

The newsletter costs \$400 to produce. Richard is working with Madeline and Ruth to present the newsletter electronically. Members are being asked to decide whether they want a hard copy or an electronic copy of the newsletter.

Prices were shared and a vote was taken whether to have the December luncheon at Annies or CUMC. The luncheon will be at the church. Bring a list of volunteer hours to the December meeting.

Tour and travel is offered through other organizations in the state. It didn't get off the ground locally. Sharon Darling shared that Mary Ruth Meredith had a procedure done on her back. 2:15 Meeting adjourned.

Marge Felty, Secretary