

Michigan Educational Research Association

Minutes

January 7, 2009

Present: Tovah Sheldon, Paul Robinson, Chris Schram, Ernie Bauer, Dave Treder, Kathleen Miller, Harvey Czerwinski

Absent: Bettie Landauer-Menchik, Laurie Smith, Mark Weinberg, Bill Brown

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:40 am by President Dave Treder
2. **Welcome to New Board Member:** Tovah Sheldon was introduced as the newest board member, and she described her role at Jackson ISD.
3. **Approvals:** The minutes were approved as written.
4. **Website Update:** There was some discussion of problems on the new website downloading the presentations from the Fall conference. We think it is a browser issue. Ernie was able to help the person through it. The rest of the website update was tabled until Mark can attend. At the last meeting, we attempted to update all of the officer's names, contact information and titles. Ernie will follow up with all board members.
5. **Incorporation:** Ernie updated on the incorporation papers. Apparently \$20 was due to the state on Oct. 1. Ernie will send it in, and get with Bruce Fay on what it all means.
6. **Spring 2009 Conference:** Mark checked out other conference facilities in Mt. Pleasant, and recommended we stay at the PohlCat. Bettie will have the speakers organized and will get a schedule out to us in the next couple of weeks for the Spring 2009 conference (May 14 and 15 at the PohlCat). Ernie has an evaluator, Wendy Tackett, and will get Bettie contact information. Ernie will confirm with the Gullens about doing hospitality.
7. **Fall 2009 conference:** Bettie and others are working on the program. Chris has the contract for Fall 2009, and will send in a signed copy to the Bavarian Inn. The possible theme is common assessments. Everyone shared what is currently going on with common assessments in their workplaces. We discussed common assessments and who might be good speakers. Some discussion of audience for our conference occurred. We settled on district level assessment directors. It is the person who is responsible for research, evaluation and assessment at the district, ISD and state levels, whatever their title may be.

Ideas about this topic included:

- A. How MEAP tests are developed.
- B. Is it a hard item or a bad item?
- C. Giving a test twice – should you or shouldn't you?
- D. Should common assessments be part of grading?
- E. PLCs using data.
- F. Challenging the practices of NCA
- G. Beyond multiple-choice – what does it take to write and score other item types?
- H. The perfect process for common assessment – what would it look like? This seems like an overarching theme, using the ideas and issues above and connecting them.

This feels like 2 full days. We will also include Paul Bielawski.

Meeting adjourned 12:15.