

Maryland Association of the Deaf Board Meeting
Saturday, February 15, 2020
Wegmans in Frederick, Maryland

Present: Richard Jeffries (President), Kirsten Poston (Vice President), Jacob Leffler (Secretary), Marie Campbell (Treasurer), Steven Gagnon (Board Member at Large), MaryLynn Lally (Appointed Board Member), Jade Sims (Appointed Board Member), Penelope Miller (Appointed Board Member), and Vikki Porter (Appointed Board Member)

Absent: Jill Owens Brick (Board Member at Large)

President Richard Jeffries called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Previous Board Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed minutes from previous board meetings.

MaryLynn Lally moved that MDAD approves the minutes as read.

Seconded by Jacob Leffler

CARRIED

President's Report

President Richard Jeffries gave updates on the mandates from the 2019 State Biennial Conference.

Mandate #1 – Text-to-911

Frederick County is the only county that has this and is public. Senator Kagan plans to submit a new bill to force the State to fund the counties to make this work.

Mandate #2 – CDI Legislation

It is on hold as MDAD is working on the Sign Language Interpreter Licensure.

Mandate #3 – Sign Language Interpreter Licensure

The Working Group is working on the draft. They have met with stakeholders. The Working Group have contacted 20-25 legislators and they are very supportive but are not willing to become a sponsor. The Working Group wants to submit the bill to the Delegate through the Rules Committee.

There was a discussion about the previous bill and how we can improve and hopefully to get it passed.

Mandate #4 – Taskforce for the online Video Accessibility

No Progress

Mandate #5 – Scholarship Programs

President Jeffries asked Vikki Porter to lead the committee. President Jeffries has few names who would be good for this Committee. Once the Committee get together, they will develop the project.

Mandate #6 – End Language Deprivation in the State of Maryland

MDAD has a seat on EDHI Council. President Jeffries asked Trudy Suggs to research further on this to determine if we need to draft a bill or with the state agency to achieve this mandate.

Mandate #7 – New Traffic Signals

The Frederick County is exploring further and MDAD is monitoring it closely. If it is successful, then MDAD will pursue that in other counties.

Mandate #8 – Send the Governor a letter regarding the Telecommunications Access of Maryland

MDAD sent the letter in March 2019 and this is completed.

Mandate #9 – Equal Numbers of Hearing and Deaf and Hard of Hearing workers in the Office of Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs in the Maryland Department of Health

President Jeffries learned that there is no new position within the office. The Legislative Committee Chair is exploring into this and see how MDAD can meet this mandate.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Kirsten Poston had several meetings with the President via text and video and discusses on different topics. They discussed about the upcoming National Association of the Deaf (NAD) priority proposals and how MDAD can gather inputs from the membership during the symposium. MDAD needs to get the word out as the Vice President has been approached by members specifically Suzy Rosen Singleton who has offered her legal expertise in helping MDAD to finalize the priority proposals so MDAD would send forward to NAD

The President and Vice President also discussed MDAD membership and email database.

On the topic of the Sign Language Interpreter Licensure Bill, Howard County Association of the Deaf (HCAD) and National Alliances of Black Interpreters DC Chapter (NAOBI-DC) have expressed interest in the Sign language interpreting bill. The announcement from HCAD went out last night on the social media that they are hosting a town hall meeting on February 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report

The minutes from previous meetings will be posted on the website since we have approved them. Secretary Jacob Leffler has been working on the MDAD Events Calendar and will share with the Board shortly.

Treasurer's Report

As of December 31, 2019

Bank Account: \$69,428.33

Investment Accounts: \$73,753.04

Total Balance: \$144,763.37

There were some questions about the financial report that was handed out during the meeting. President Richard Jeffries stated that he and Treasurer Marie Campbell will work together to provide a clean financial report to the Board.

Committee Report

Maryland Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (MD EDHI) – Trudy Suggs

MDAD has a seat on the EHDI Advisory Council and the council needs a Deaf Parent Representative. Trudy Suggs recommends Carrie St. Cyr to represent the Deaf Parents. The EDHI Conference is on March 8-10, 2020 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Maryland Digital Culture Digital Library (MD DCDL) – Michele Westfall

The website is still in works. Eyeth Studios has been hired as the website designer. Suzanne Stecker designed the logo.

2020 Symposium – Steven Gagnon

Jade Sims and Penelope Miller are working with Steven Gagnon. MDAD is partnered with the Deaf Grassroots Movement (DGM) on hosting different events. Penelope Miller will handle the event after the Symposium. The Symposium will be on April 11, 2020 at the Workforce Technology Center. MDAD will have its business meeting in the morning.

There were some concerns about the date of the Symposium. The Committee selected April 11, 2020 because the DGM National Representative, Wes Averly is only available on that day and wants to use it to prep the community about the National Rally on May 1, 2020.

New Business

MaryLynn Lally moved that MDAD donates \$5,000 to the Maryland Deaf Community Center – Frederick.

Seconded by Marie Campbell

Steven Gagnon moved to table the motion to the next meeting to gather more information and have informal discussion.

Seconded by Kirsten Poston

CARRIED

Steven Gagnon moved that MDAD spends up to \$2,000 for the Symposium.
Seconded by MaryLynn Lally.

Marie Campbell amended to change from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for the Symposium.
Seconded by Jade Sims
CARRIED

The Main Motion is carried with \$3,000 spending.

MaryLynn Lally moved that MDAD sponsors an event for the deaf-blind community.
Seconded by Vikki Porter

Kirsten Poston moved to table the motion to the next meeting to gather more information and have informal discussion.
Seconded by Steven Gagnon
CARRIED

Kirsten Poston moved that the MDAD Board suspends the section of 4.08 for the rest of the current term.
Seconded by Steven Gagnon
CARRIED

Kirsten Poston moved that MDAD hires an independent auditor to review finance all back to 2014.
Seconded by Vikki Porter

Steven Gagnon moved to table the motion to after Symposium to allow the Finance Committee to do the audit.
Seconded by Penelope Miller
CARRIED with 1 OPPOSED

Richard Jeffries moved that MDAD extends the current membership to the Symposium and change from conference to conference.
Seconded by Jacob Leffler

Kirsten Poston amended that the Board ensures that MDAD is certified to fundraising in the State of Maryland.
Seconded by Vikki Porter
CARRIED

President Richard Jeffries adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jacob Leffler
Secretary