

**Michigan FFA Board of Directors Meeting
March 15, 2007**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:28 PM in room 338 of the Natural Resources Building by State FFA President Alyn Kiel.

There were 29 members present, including Alyn Kiel, Katie Eldred, Gabriel Holdwick, Anna Timmerman, Emily Ries, Henry Reinart, Danielle Martinez, Kirk Yackle, Brooke Rockentine, Ashley Orłowski, Hannah Carruthers, Steve Beattie, Dr. Eddie Moore, Tom Smith, Tom Condon, Tammy Hyatt, Nadja Payok, Bart Marshall, Charles Scovill, Megan Merrill, Jason Griffith, Mark Forbush, Beth Steuver, Dave Wyrick, Dr. Randy Showerman, Floyd Beneker, Charles Snyder, Jason Smith, and Megan Hirschman.

There were three members absent, including, Nicole Schaendorf, Jerry Block, and Bart Marshall.

There were also 7 guests present, including Michelle Sidel, Tracey Groom, Robert Johnson, Mike Eagen, Ren'ee Bryant, Ellen Moro, and Gilka Paxton.

II. Opening Ceremonies

Kirk Yackle moved to suspend the rules, dispensing with opening and closing ceremonies. Second. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion from the Adult Board was made by Steve Beattie to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Secretary's Report

The minutes from the last meeting were submitted by the State FFA Secretary Gabriel Holdwick for review.

Henry Reinart moved to accept the Secretary's minutes. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Adult Board was made by Megan Merrill to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was delivered by the State FFA Treasurer Anna Timmerman. Currently, there is \$70, 206.64 in the Association's General Account, and \$47, 398.38 from 2005-06 FY in the Interest Account from the Glassbrook Endowment. The Outstanding Foundation Commitment for the 2006-07 Fiscal Year stands at \$170, 925.00, and the funds owed by the Foundation from cashed Certificates of Deposit totals \$75,000. Many

accounts from Convention remain open, and may skew these numbers. A handout was provided to outline this information given in the report.

Gabriel Holdwick moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Adult Board was made by Charles Scovill to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

V. Michigan FFA Association

1. State Officer Report.

The State Officer Report was delivered by Alyn Kiel. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. State Advisor Report

The State Advisor's Report was delivered by Dr. Randy Showerman. Dr. Showerman began by thanking the State Officers for doing such a fine job with Convention. He also expressed great concern about the grant the Association receives from the Michigan Department of Agriculture, indicating that it has been cut from the Governor's proposed budget. He urged everyone to be in contact with the representatives in Lansing about this issue. He also provided the assembly with several financial handouts indicating which schools currently hold an open balance with the Association. He ended his report by asking all teachers in attendance to pick up a packet after the meeting containing Ag Heritage License Plate information, order forms for the Michigan FFA Association history book and Convention newsletters.

3. State Executive Secretary Report.

Dave Wyrick delivered the State Executive Secretary's Report. He also commended the State Officer Team on an excellent job at the State FFA Convention. He also was very grateful to all of the past state officers and staff who worked very hard to make the Convention a success, and pointed out that 9 of the 11 State Officers from last year worked in some capacity. The National FFA President, Beau Williamson, was our guest from the National FFA, and did a phenomenal job energizing the students. There were 90 Alumni and supporters who assisted with the Leadership Contests. In the area of upcoming events, the newly elected State Officer team will be attending the BLAST-OFF Conference during the first week in May, and will be attending NLCSO in late June with Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee in Kentucky.

VI. Michigan FFA Alumni

Floyd Beneker delivered the Alumni Report. The Annual Alumni Meeting was held at Breckenridge High School, with 118 members and guests attending. During the course of the evening, the Marshall and Caledonia Chapters were recognized as outstanding affiliates, and silent and live auctions were conducted to raise money for WLC scholarships. The Annual

Meeting will be held in Region IV next year. At the State FFA Convention, the Alumni handed out their WLC Scholarships, and sponsored the dance on Wednesday evening. The next meeting of the Executive Board will be held on April 21 at the Farm Bureau Building.

VII. Michigan FFA Foundation

The Foundation Report was delivered by Annual Fund Director Megan Hirschman. Megan passed around several handouts outlining the summer activities of the FFA Foundation. The 8th Annual FFA Masters Golf Outing will be held on August 2nd at the Emerald at Maple Creek Golf Course. She also encouraged everyone to change their current license plate over the Ag Heritage License plate, as the traditional blue plates will have to be replaced this year. These can be used on fleet vehicles, but not on commercial vehicles. The Foundation will once again have the Toy Tractor Tent at Ag Expo, and will be auctioning off a gold-plated version of the new toy tractor at the Expo. FFA Race Day will also continue, and will be held at MIS on August 18th, 2007. The Annual VIP Dinner was held at the Kellogg Center during State Convention. Finally, Al Marshall has decided to donate a computer and printer with farm records software to the FFA to use in any way it sees fit. Megan suggested a type of giveaway be devised to give the computer to a qualified FFA member.

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee

Mark Forbush delivered the Finance Committee Report. The Finance Committee met before the general meeting to discuss the current financial position of the Michigan FFA. At the current time, the committee has been discussing the ramifications to the FFA if the Department of Agriculture Grant is in fact cut for next year, and half of the current year's grant must be paid back. This money is used to fund the position of the FFA Office Secretary. Mark indicated that the grant from this year has been spent, and there is not enough reserve money in next year's budget to cover the loss.

Mark Forbush moved to indicate that the position of FFA Project Assistant is very important to the FFA. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Student Board was made by Danielle Martinez to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

Mark noted that the financial position has been much improved over years past, and that the FFA Foundation will be changing its fiscal year to July 1- June 30.

Mark Forbush moved to change the Michigan FFA Association's Fiscal year to July 1- June 30. Second. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Hannah Carruthers to sustain the Adult Board's decision. Second. Motion carried.

In closing, Mark noted that there needs to be as many people involved as possible to help preserve the FFA Project Assistant's position. He urged everyone to remind others back in their respective Regions to write letters /make phone calls to their Representatives/Senators in Lansing. Inviting elected officials to chapter banquets and Regional Camps would also help promote awareness of our organization to our elected officials. There will be a meeting on April 21 to find a way to make the budget balance, and recommend activities for suspension if necessary. Tom Smith suggested that the State Officer Team form a Governmental Affairs Committee to help communicate with the Legislature in the near future.

2. Awards and Activities Committee

The Awards and Activities Committee Report was delivered by Beth Stuever and Emily Ries. They indicated that the addition of the State FFA Choir to Convention was very nice, and the Choir did an exceptional job. It was noted that the 20 year State Officer Team sponsored the FFA Choir this year.

Beth also stressed the importance of Thank You notes. Several of the members of her State Officer Team became Foundation Supporters because they read a one of her Thank You notes.

3. Career Development Committee

Charles Scovill indicated that there was nothing to report.

4. State Officer Committee

Jason Griffith delivered the State Officer Committee Report. The State Officer Election process this year included delegates walking over to MacDonel Hall to elect the Regional Vice Presidents. This change went over very well. If anyone has any ideas about making the State Officer Election process more effective, please send him an e-mail.

5. Governance Committee

Mark Forbush indicated that there was nothing to report, and apologized for the lack of an Official Dress proposal.

IX. Old Business

There was no Old Business to report.

X. New Business

Dr. Showerman indicated that the according the bylaws, some of the items on the New Business area of the agenda could not be acted on tonight. Item 6 relates to a CDE, and needs a 30 day advance notice before any action can be taken. Item 1 is a Constitutional issue, and needs to be approved by the delegate body at State Convention before it can be enacted.

Jason Griffith moved to Limit Debate on New Business to 15 minutes per item. Second. Motion Carried unanimously.

A motion from the Student Board was made by Kirk Yackle to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried unanimously.

1. New Region for Southeast Michigan.

This item was presented by several advisors, Ellen Moro, Ren'ee Bryant and Bob Johnson from the Districts I and IV of Region IV. The Advisors present outlined their reasons for submitting such a proposal. They indicated that they believe in the FFA and its ideals, but feel that their students could get more out of the experience if they had their own Region. They could have more representation in contests and on the State Officer Team, and have more general pride for FFA in their home area. Tammy Hyatt reported on a conversation she had with the Illinois FFA Association on their experience with a similar situation. They ultimately went through a redistricting process in their urban centers, and have found that it was the best thing that they could have done.

Some concerns brought up by the board in response to this issue were taking one Region and making two smaller Regions. It was suggested that more extensive work needs to be done on the Regional lines throughout the state.

Gabriel Holdwick moved to refer this matter to the Governance Committee, with any additional volunteers, to report back with their findings. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Adult Board was made by Mark Forbush to sustain the Student Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

The additional volunteers include Charles Scovill, Jason Griffith, Bob Johnson, Nadja Payok, Tammy Hyatt, Katie Eldred, Henry Reinart, Danielle Martinez, and Ellen Moro.

2. Religious Overtones at State Convention

This proposal was presented by Mike Eagan. He indicated that it is inappropriate for a prayer to be said before each session and meals at State Convention. The FFA is no longer exclusive to white Christian farm boys, but includes a diverse group of students from many backgrounds. Eliminating the prayers would be more inclusive for all students. He also spoke with other Career and Technical organizations, and they do not include prayers of any kind in their activities.

Several members expressed concern over Mike's proposals, arguing that the prayer before sessions honors our heritage as agriculturalists and current/former FFA members and supporters. Giving students a moral grounding is also part of what the FFA does for students, in addition to the leadership and career opportunities. They also noted that no one is forcing

a student to pray, they are merely being given the opportunity to pray with another student leading. It was also mentioned that praying is promoting diversity to those who have not been exposed to such behavior in their everyday lives.

State President Alyn Kiel asked for a motion from the Student Board to accept the proposal. None was made.

Beth Stuever moved to refer the matter to the Awards and Activities Committee with the power to report back. Second. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Katie Eldred to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion fails.

Katie Eldred called for a Division of the Assembly.

Ayes-6

Noes-3

Abstention-1

Motion carried.

2. National Chapter Award Form

Dave Wyrick delivered the proposal. Many chapters want to have more feedback from their National Chapter Award application. The current system has ranged from none to a numerical score card. The proposal also suggested moving the deadline for the National Chapter Award from February to late spring, and to have the presentations be given at SLCCO.

Some concern brought up in regard to the proposal where the National Deadline for these Applications (July 14), and getting students to put together a quality presentation when they are on summer break and not in the classroom. It was also noted that even though February is a busy time, the end of spring is not much better. Giving these presentations at SLCCO would also eliminate the need to do it at State Convention. Mark Forbush said that he has judged the National Chapter Applications at the National level, and Michigan has much to be proud of, as we have a very high percentage of high performing chapters.

Mark Forbush moved to leave the deadline for the State National Chapter forms in February, and make sure that comment cards are returned to the chapters. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Student Board was made by Danielle Martinez to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

Tammy Hyatt moved to video tape the Finalist Presentations at State Convention so they can be shown at SLCCO. Second. Motion Carried.

A motion from the Student Board was made by Katie Eldred to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion Carried.

4. Adult/Student Ratio

Dave Wyrick and Randy Showerman delivered the proposal. There was an incident this year at State Convention with some students in the Eppley Center, and it would probably be a smart move to set a guideline for the adult to student ratio at State Convention.

Charles Scovill moved to recommend that chapters bring 1 adult for every 8 students at Regional and State Activities. Second. Motion carried

A motion from the Student Board was made by Emily Ries to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

5. Member Behavior

Dave Wyrick and Dr. Showerman delivered the proposal. There were a few members that exhibited some borderline-inappropriate behavior while receiving awards. The purpose of this proposal would be to address an occasion where a member actually exhibited bad behavior.

Some concerns addressed were distinguishing between elation and inappropriate behavior. It was also discussed whether to call hugs given on stage by State Officers to siblings/chapter members inappropriate behavior.

Jason Griffith moved to accept the proposal, stating that if a student exhibited bad behavior, they would lose their award. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Student Board was made by Gabriel Holdwick to sustain the Adult Board's decision. Second. Motion carried.

6. Cell Phone Use

Dave Wyrick and Dr. Randy Showerman delivered the proposal. There is an old policy currently on record prohibiting "verbal and nonverbal communication" during contests. This new proposal is more similar to Nationals, and is much more specific. It was also noted that there needs to be a loophole for those students who need the assistance of an electrical device in order to hear properly.

Mark Forbush moved to refer this matter to the CDE Committee with the power to report back. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Student Board was made by Danielle Martinez to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

7. Junior High FFA Chapter Charters

Dave Wyrick and Dr. Randy Showerman delivered this proposal. There are currently no guidelines for Junior High chapters in Michigan. Some chapters add Jr. High students to their high school rosters, others have a chartered chapter. The proposal is to require all chapters that have junior high members to have a Junior High Chapter.

8. Junior High Opportunities

Because of the close relation of issues 7 and 8, they were discussed together. There are no clear guidelines for Jr. High Opportunities at the state level. Some of these include voting on State Officers, state dance participation, and others.

Tom Smith moved to refer both items 7 and 8 to the Awards and Activities Committee with the power to report back. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Student Board was made by Katie Eldred to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

9. Regional Display Guidelines

Dave Wyrick and Randy Showerman delivered this proposal. Each region is expected to have a Regional Display at State Convention. In the past few years, these displays have increased in size, and there should be some guidelines for their size, expectations, and content.

Charles Scovill moved to refer this item to the Awards and Activities Committee with the power to report back. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Student Board was made by Hannah Carruthers to sustain the Adult Board's motion. Second. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on May 22, 2007 from 5:00 to 8:00 at Michigan State University.

Henry Reinart moved to adjourn the meeting. Second. Motion carried.

A motion from the Adult Board to sustain the Student Board's motion was made by Nadja Payok. Second. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

-Gabriel B. Holdwick
2006-2007 State FFA Secretary