



American Music Therapy Association Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter

Delaware • D.C. • Maryland • New Jersey • New York • Pennsylvania • Virginia • West Virginia

MARAMTA Executive Board Meeting

MARCH 24 & 25, 2010

MARAMTA CONFERENCE IN PITTSBURGH, PA

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| MEETING CALLED BY | Debbie Benkovitz, <i>President</i> |
| TYPE OF MEETING | Executive Board Meeting |
| FACILITATOR | Debbie Benkovitz, <i>President</i> |
| NOTE TAKER | Gretchen C. Benner, <i>Secretary</i> |
| ATTENDEES | Brian Abrams, <i>Past President</i> ; Gene Ann Behrens, <i>VP for Membership</i> ; Nina Galerstein, <i>VP for Conference Planning</i> ; Elaine Abbott, <i>Treasurer</i> ; Bridget M. Skipper, <i>MARAMTS VP</i> ; Carol Shultis, <i>Historian</i> ; Carol Ann Blank, <i>GR Chair</i> ; Melissa King, <i>Regional Conference Coordinator</i> ; Mike Viega, <i>VP for Conference Planning-Elect</i> ; Meghan Hinman, <i>PR Chair</i> ; Barbara Maclean, <i>Parliamentarian</i> ; Matt Phillips, <i>Newsletter</i> ; Sister Donna M. Beck, <i>Archivist</i> ; Kristen O'Grady, <i>President-Elect</i> ; Sue Hadley, <i>Student Affairs Advisor</i> ; Brian Hunter, <i>AMTA Historian</i> ; Ronna Kaplan, <i>AMTA President</i> |

I. Opening Procedures

A. CALL TO ORDER

DEBORAH BENKOVITZ

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| DISCUSSION | D. Benkovitz called the meeting to order at 7:36pm. |
| CONCLUSIONS | The business meeting officially began at 7:36pm. |

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

DEBORAH BENKOVITZ

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| DISCUSSION | The proposed agenda was electronically distributed to Executive Board (EB) Members. |
| CONCLUSIONS | Motion to approve the agenda: G. Behrens; motion carries. |

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DEBORAH BENKOVITZ

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| DISCUSSION | The proposed meeting minutes from the AMTA Conference were electronically distributed to EB Members in December 2009. |
| CONCLUSIONS | Motion to approve the meeting minutes: G. Behrens; motion carries. |

II. Special Discussion

A. COMMUNICATION

DEBORAH BENKOVITZ

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| DISCUSSION | <p>B. Hunter was invited to assist the discussion with communication. He has been a member of the MARAMTA since 1982. He serves as AMTA Historian and teaches at Nazareth College. He expressed enjoyment of contributing to increase the productivity of MARAMTA. His wife was the first music therapist in the 1970's to be hired within a civil service! He considers the Mid-Atlantic Region to be his home. There will be three parts about governance and board function created by Andy Fardman & Pat Belanman, Consultant. This information was recently discussed during an AMTA Board Meeting in February 2010. Historically the presentation will review MARAMTA details.</p> <p>AMTA is one of 1.4 million 501(c) (3) organizations with tax exempt status that includes trust and entitles people to donate money to the organization. He reviewed the organization's mission statement from the MARAMTA Website. Additionally there are goals for the region to increase student and professional membership, advocate for the availability of music therapy, and be fiscally responsible and sensitive to financial needs of members. Furthermore goals are focused to empower members' activities, promote fair representation of diverse populations and ensure that volunteers have resources and support. These goals should focus the discussion for the board. If the discussion does not relate to the goals or mission then the board should refocus and/or change goals. One main area to consider is basic board responsibilities. A second main area is to ensure effective organizational planning is to review the mission statement, goals and participate within discussion and voting. A third area is to ensure and manage adequate resources. It is important to be a good ambassador of the board to the public, fellow members and assist with "positive press." It is important to focus upon our duties of care, loyalty and obedience. He inquired about the difficulty of finding eligible and interested people to run for various offices and positions within MARAMTA. Within knowledge-based governance it is important to base discussion upon facts, dialogue before deliberation and integrate such knowledge into strategic thinking. E. Abbott inquired about the difference between dialogue and deliberation. B. Hunter</p> |
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expressed that dialogue is less formal. Hints to avoid include wasting resources, spending time on trivial matters, rehashing decisions, and taking defensive or reactive stances. Essentially board meetings are open for any members to attend. It is important to remember how board work is discussed outside of the board meetings. Board members are encouraged to strive to uphold the mission, be succinct in communications, end debates in a timely fashion and focus on actions that foster teamwork, consensus and positive results. Additionally it is important to exercise due diligence and acknowledge that the majority's thinking is decisive. Once board actions are finalized then they must be supported. A few obligations of leadership were reviewed like providing a coherent stream of information to stakeholders and the fact that leadership is voluntary within nonprofit organizations.

There are some limits of influence and activities like supporting particular political candidates. B. Hunter then reviewed *Robert's Rules* from its origin in ancient Greece. The purpose of it is to facilitate effective conduct of business meetings. Quorum is always established to protect participants. Article V, section 2 of AMTA bylaws provides for Board of Directors (BOD) Meetings via electronic means as long as everyone can hear each other at the same time. He explained that it is easy to lapse into a context where only part of the BOD is "in session," and no meeting has been properly called or quorum established. It protects the minority voice since 2/3 vote is needed on issues. This evolved into the US Senate's filibuster. Majority of vote is defined as more than half of those present and voting. Abstention is not called for by the chair or is it recorded within records. A modification within *Robert's Rules of Orders* applies to small boards. Executive session requires confidentiality to conduct business. The minutes must be reviewed and approved in person not electronically in order to uphold confidentiality. Violating these rules may include loss of membership within AMTA. Members may request a "parliamentary inquiry" or a "point of information." A sense of a teamwork approach towards a mission is hopefully encouraged. E. Abbott requested a copy of the slideshow. M. Viega suggested that all new board members review this. R. Kaplan explained that the orientation is valuable for new AMTA Board Members.

MARAMTA is the largest of the seven regions. The registration numbers are impressive! He provided trivia questions with prizes. In looking forward members were encouraged by Peter Drucker's quotation. He revered William Sears' "A re-vision and Expansion of Processes in Music Therapy" from the NAMT 30th Conference in Dallas, TX in 1979 that was re-released through Barcelona Publishers by Margaret Sears in 2007. The future rests upon current decisions and there is a demand for our services. Unfortunately there is an absence of music therapists filling available jobs. B. MacLean shared that in 1947 there were only forty-four music therapists working within VA Hospitals. Currently there are sixty-one music therapists in 2010.

B. Hunter shared vision from colleague about breaking the 5000 barrier and having 10,000 music therapists employed within 2020. He described historical perspectives of music therapy in Pittsburgh. S. Beck reviewed historical perspectives of Dick Grey beginning the first music therapy program in the state of PA in 1972. 2020 will celebrate seventy years of music therapy. As of that year the registry of music therapists will disappear from the unification agreement. He explained that the first generation of music therapists has deceased or retired. The third generation of music therapists is charged with increasing the body of music therapists and retaining them. S. Beck shared that the feeling is collaborative and familial amidst historical musical therapists.

D. Benkovitz opened the floor for general discussion. Board members discussed implications of electronic communication. For example multiple discussions could occur simultaneously and not all board members have access to electronic discussion. S. Hadley expressed curiosity about the range of electronic options such as a chat room. C. Blank confirmed that chat rooms may be restricted via invitation only for example NJAMT uses such electronic means. Discussion pursued about the difference between "in session" and dialogue with board members. Additionally there was discussion about maintaining respectful communication with colleagues and maintaining open communication about decision making. There was delineation between maintaining respectfulness and creating communication protocol. G. Behrens proposed that a subcommittee will draft protocol related to *Robert's Rules* will be drafted to Barb then voted upon in the summer board meeting, for example. B. MacLean requested more information about the protocol. For example when there is dialogue, who may call it into session... only the president. In the future D. Benkovitz agreed to be more vigilant with online discussions. There were reminders about members' timeliness and accessibility to their e-mails. Board members shared concern that e-mails may carry unintended tones. Boards evolve with their members varying styles of leadership and communication styles. S. Hadley shared that we are lacking a list of detailed responsibilities to ensure that board members are educated about their roles and action items needed. N. Galerstein shared that she had minimal knowledge of her duties when she assumed the role of VP of Conference Planning. M. Viega stated that it is so important to explain current roles as the region grows. G. Behrens suggested that each person draft a document with action time line. R. Kaplan reminded that non-voting members should feel free to chime into discussion. B. Hunter shared background on AMTA policies. E. Abbott stated that the information passed on related to job responsibilities was too out-dated. B. MacLean stated that it's a perennial problem and she challenged each board member to draft a role description and update it. M. Viega explained that active mentorship is helpful for the first orientation period. S. Beck shared from a teacher's perspective that we must listen to the language of communication and trust fellow board members.

CONCLUSIONS

Motion to create a sub-committee to develop protocol that assists us in our communication in the various ways that we need to communicate and that there will be date before the summer to share report with MARAMTA EB; G. Behrens. Discussion includes "it's a good idea" – C. Shultis and "it's a great idea" – E. Abbott. Call to question – C. Shultis. Motion carries.

ACTION ITEMS

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

DEADLINE

Request copy of Power Point Presentation from B. Hunter via (bhunter7@naz.edu).

Interested EB Members

As needed

Document your role's responsibilities and time line of duties then submit to EB??

EB Members

Undecided

**III. Officer Report's
A. PRESIDENT**

DEBORAH BENKOVITZ

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| DISCUSSION | D. Benkovitz shared that she has learned a lot within her nearly year as MARAMTA President. She expressed gratitude for members' service to the region. She expressed the impressive stance with government relations in support of the healthcare bill, and the Nathaniel Ayers Project. There will be money spent on rebuilding the AMTA website. She clarified that Judy's position is Alternate for the Coalition of Rehabilitation Therapy Organizations (CRTO) on the Joint Commission Professional and Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) for Long-Term Care. The current, regional conference is going successfully, well. N. Galerstein was commended for her service with the regional conference. The newer generation is helpful to efficiently distribute information and minimize funds for newsletter and PR items. There were updates about health concerns for members who were unable to attend conference. G. Behrens again requested information from local members. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | A summer conference call will be organized for the EB Members because of busy schedules. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified. | . | . |

*Motion to recess—N. Galerstein; approved by consensus. Meeting recessed at 10:05pm.
Meeting reconvened on 3.25.10 at 8:35am with quorum.*

B. PAST PRESIDENT

BRIAN ABRAMS

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| DISCUSSION | B. Abrams explained that the board might want to begin considering who should apply for board positions. He requested a committee of five additional individuals in accordance with the Nominating Committee specified in the Bylaws. E. Abbott mentioned two willing candidates for treasurer include Brigette Sutton & Josh Schrader. Members mentioned Beth K., Becky Row, Lindsey Nester, Adam Staub, Scott McDonald, and Kim Febres. B. Abrams is recruiting for assembly delegates E. Abbott shared interest in running for assembly. Nobody has approached B. Abrams to volunteer, thus far. G. Behrens suggested that past presidents contact new professionals to welcome them to the region. B. MacLean stated the description must be detailed with the time and task responsibilities similar to a job description. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | - | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified. | . | . |

C. PRESIDENT-ELECT

KRISTEN O'GRADY

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| DISCUSSION | K. O'Grady thanked committee members in addition to D. Polen. Most of the suggestions related to consistency in wording and condensing wording of the various positions. Other revisions dealt with clarification of terminology. Suggestions affected ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4, ARTICLE V, SECTION 1, ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 1, ARTICLE III, SECTION 3, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 3, ARTICLE V, SECTION 3, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 1, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3, ARTICLE VIII, SECTION I, ARTICLE VII, SECTION 3, ARTICLE XI, and ARTICLE XII. There was discussion about all offices changing at the same time. As the president changes office it takes time to transition roles and new board members. C. Blank suggested that a policy is created to ensure mentorship and adequate time to transition. B. MacLean mentioned that appointed positions may have difficulty with the time lag between regional conference and the summer board meeting. E. Abbott suggested that the President-Elect is charged with duties to arrange summer board meeting and appointees prior to role transition. B. MacLean clarified that formal conversation should take place in the event that a presidential appointment is not confirmed by the board. B. MacLean suggested that a date is added to the suggestions of Article VII, Section 3. C. Shultis inquired about the rationale behind appointing as oppose to voting a chair from the assembly. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | The suggested date for transitioning board roles was January 15 th | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified. | - | - |

D. VP OF MEMBERSHIP

GENE ANN BEHRENS

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| DISCUSSION | G. Behrens shared the figures of new members, professionals and students. We have 899 members which is an increase of 1.01%. The biggest decrease is still in student membership in comparison with students last year. She requested and reminded board members to each provide her with one volunteer for this year's call-a-thon. A new student flier was distributed to encourage students and explain the financial savings of AMTA Membership. There will be a new postcard mailing from AMTA to encourage membership. She requested information about celebrations, condolences, etc. Members were reminded to explain to interns about the difference between AMTA and MARAMTA Conference certificates. Thirty-nine new professionals will be welcomed during this year's regional conference. G. Behren's work with WFMT has dovetailed into her responsibilities within MARAMTA. This summer will include proposals for members to receive CMTE Credits for podcasts, implanting a call-a-thon and reducing membership fees for students. G. Behrens mentioned a minimal job that volunteers could assist with is collecting e-mail addresses of non-members to receive newsletter. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | - | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified. | - | - |

E. VP OF CONFERENCE PLANNING

NINA GALERSTEIN

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| DISCUSSION | N. Galerstein shared that we have 535 registrants. Opening Session is time limited. There have been many issues with registration of non-AMTA Members. The webmaster has been very helpful with the online registration system. She asked the board for input about people that did not attend conference because of illnesses and are requesting reimbursement. The board confirmed that those requests may be granted for such health requests. For the most part presenters submitted proposals | |
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| | electronically without many glitches. M. Viega, M. King & N. Galerstein are still writing job descriptions. R. Kaplan shared background on CBMT and AMTA's developments with CMTE's. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | E. Abbott suggested an addition of approximately \$15.00 for processing and material charges related to CMTE Rates. Agree by consensus for the concept that registrants may pay to attend only CMTE Session instead of full day's registration. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSONS RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified. | - | - |

F. GR CHAIR

CAROL ANN BLANK

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| DISCUSSION | The national committee is committed to create an electronic forum for regional GR Chairs to communicate with each other. The community may take the form of Yahoo, Google, etc. Nothing new to report for states other than PA, NJ, and NY. B. Abrams explained that although the constituents overlap it's important to have a variety to best represent members. E. Abbott requested information about contention when requesting unanimity. If the advisory council is voting then there could be division with no action taken. She inquired if a fifth member is requested to avoid split decisions between four members. Further discussion ensued about unified positions and collective vision. Clarification was requested about consensus wording. B. Abrams explained potential confusion when CBMT considers only one level of certification (MT-BC) when other organizations have adopted tiered practices (e.g., professional and advanced level practice). Regardless of decisions the information still has to be approved by CBMT and AMTA Boards. Board members discussed the background of financial weight bearings. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | Motion to postpone discussion until an accurate document is provided by NJSTF and there is a direct communication from NJSTF Chair – Kathy Murphy; E. Abbott. Motion carries. The vote will take place later at conference – see Addendum. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified. | -- | -- |

G. PR CHAIR

MEGHAN HINMAN

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| DISCUSSION | M. Hinman provided report related to requests for PR Materials. She purchased a LCD projector. She will pursue other options for portability of presentations. C. Shultis is still researching the legality of signed confidentiality forms for photographs. G. Behrens questioned the portability and accessibility of current presentations. This year there is an appealing PR Presentation within the host conference hotel's lobby. M. Hinman finally created "What is Music Therapy?" presentation accessible through the internet. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | Motion for M. Hinman to purchase the DLP projector for \$450 plus tax; G. Behrens, motion carries. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Purchase DLP projector for utilization at the next AMTA/MARAMTA Conference. | M. Hinman | AMTA Conference in November 2010 |

H. STUDENT AFFAIRS ADVISOR

SUE HADLEY

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| DISCUSSION | S. Hadley shared that her mentor, Joke Bradt is supportive and a great friend to answer her questions. Because of high costs S. Hadley proposed for applicants to electronically send materials for scholarships then she will be able distribute electronically to judges. The winner of the Graduate Scholarship is Lauren Smith; there were two Sophomore Scholarships, and two Junior Scholarships. MARAMTS is hoping for more club scholarship requests. There were twelve applicants to <i>Jenny Shinn Scholarship</i> with six interviews. During conference students will collect money for Jamaica Field Service Project to purchase school and music supplies. MAR Passages will occur at Slippery Rock University and the conference theme will be "Your Stepping Stone." She will continue to have MARAMTS Executive Board Members archiving materials on flash drives to lighten workloads. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | Motion to put SAA as signature on signature card and Treasurer of MARAMTA; S. Hadley. Motion passes. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified. | -- | -- |

I. TREASURER

ELAINE ABBOTT

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| DISCUSSION | E. Abbott thankfully reported that there is nearly \$19,000 remaining in the operating budget line with a large amount of anticipated dues. The Vanguard Account only grossed one hundred dollars. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified. | -- | -- |

CAROL SHULTIS

J. HISTORIAN

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| DISCUSSION | C. Shultis brought copies of the Clive Robbins' DVD and played it on her computer. She will clarify with the company that created them since a slight, buzzing noise was heard. An introductory portion with background music was previewed by Board Members. She drafted policies for her position and will continue working on an authorization form. She wants to continue informing members on how to be historically appropriate. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| Inquire with an attorney about the legality of the drafted consent form. | C. Shultis | ASAP | |

J. NEWSLETTER

MATT PHILLIPS

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| DISCUSSION | M. Phillips will send more reminders about submitting reports. Felice has been helpful as the web coordinator. Advertisements are going well within the newsletter. There is a difference of submissions between tangible newsletters and recent electronic newsletters. A lot of the information is redundant with the MARAMTA Website. Board members clarified that many regions have newsletters. M. Phillips is curious whether they will be able to access statistics for the number of people accessing the newsletter. "Constant Contact" will be researched for distributing e-newsletters in bulk sizes. G. Behrens questioned privacy policies for multiple people to access. E. Abbott offered to talk with M. Phillips to confirm payment of advertisements. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| M. Phillips will research <i>Constant Contact</i> and bring it to the board members during the summer conference call. | M. Phillips | Summer Conference Call | |

K. ARCHIVIST

ELAINE ABBOTT FOR SR. DONNA M. BECK

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| DISCUSSION | This past semester Katie Myers, student archivist purchased two external hard drives for the MARAMTA Archives in order to scan and file the documents that have been reorganized over the last two years. K. Myers set up the hard drives, started to scan the older regional newsletters onto the hard drives and reorganized them according to year. In addition, K. Myers added the yearly financial records to the archive. Continuation of this project will be further developed as the second semester proceeds. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | Other University Schools and clinicians were requested to send pictures and news of their specially highlighted activities and community outreach in Music Therapy to the Archives at Duquesne University. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified. | -- | -- | |

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. CONFERENCE UPDATE

NINA GALERSTEIN

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| DISCUSSION | The next Conference will occur in Saratoga Springs, NY March 30 th – April 2, 2011. Lots of historical landmarks and food picks are located within the hosting city. The rooms and exhibit hall space will be limited. M. Viega provided updates about potential spots within Maryland in 2012. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified. | - | - | |

B. FINANCES

A. 2010 – 2011 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET REVIEW

ELAINE ABBOTT

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| DISCUSSION | E. Abbott explained that MARAMTA is financially healthy this year. Newsletter advertisements need to be reviewed. The 2011 Conference has a higher spending budget anticipating increased costs. All of the budget requests were satisfied for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year. The remaining budget recommendations from the finance committee were reviewed with board members. She requested budget reallocation for \$300.00 imported into legal line from another budget line. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | Motion to approve the 2010-2011 Budget as presented; K. O'Grady. Motion passes. Motion to reallocate \$300.00 from general reserve to legal line for the unexpectedly increased insurance bill from AMTA; E. Abbott. Motion passes. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| None identified | -- | -- | |

Motion to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes; E. Abbott. Motion carries.

ELAINE ABBOTT

B. TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY REVIEW & CHANGES

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| DISCUSSION | The changes will include other transportation methods and will be brought to discussion again during the summer conference meeting. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified. | -- | -- |

C. CONFERENCE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY REVIEW & CHANGES

ELAINE ABBOTT

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| DISCUSSION | B. Abrams explained equity issue and tardy arrivals to Assembly. G. Behrens suggested a pledge for assembly delegates to sign and date their understanding. The policy should be based upon history with tardy excuses. D. Benkovitz mentioned that D. Polen and G. Verhagen are working on similar documents. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified. | -- | -- |

V. Good and Welfare

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| DISCUSSION | B. Abrams shared a point of clarification about board members and assembly delegates. G. Behrens clarified that once two policies are drafted for part-time membership and decreased student membership fees. B. Maclean shared that music therapists are planning a trip to Ireland. If interested then contact her for details. R. Kaplan thanked the EB for allowing her to attend the meeting. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | None. | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None identified. | -- | -- |

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| MOTION TO ADJOURN | G. Behrens |
| MEETING CLOSED | At 11:45am |
| NEXT MEETING | 5:45pm on March 25, 2010 at the MARAMTA Conference in Pittsburgh, PA |

ADDENDUM:

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| Conference Call Minutes | March 25, 2010 | 6:55 pm | |
| MEETING CALLED BY | Deborah Benkovitz, <i>President</i> | | |
| TYPE OF MEETING | Executive Board Meeting | | |
| FACILITATOR | Deborah Benkovitz, <i>President</i> | | |
| NOTE TAKER | Gretchen C. Benner, <i>Secretary</i> | | |
| ATTENDEES | Kristen O’Grady, <i>President-Elect</i>; Gene Behrens, <i>VP for Membership</i>; Nina Galerstein, <i>VP for Conference Planning</i>; Elaine Abbott, <i>Treasurer</i>; Meghan Hinman, <i>Public Relations Chair</i>; Carol Shultis, <i>Historian</i>; Carol Ann Blank, <i>Government Relations Chair</i>; Brian Abrams, <i>Past President</i>; Barb Maclean, <i>Parliamentarian</i>; Sue Hadley, <i>Student Affairs Advisor</i>; Brian Hunter, <i>AMTA Historian</i> | | |

Agenda topic

I. NJSTF Update

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| DISCUSSION | <p>K. Murphy submitted to MARAMTA Executive Board for approval via e-mail. There was lengthy electronic discussion about the words unanimous versus consensus. The task force felt that the word should be unanimous so that there would be no need for individual phone calls to legislators. This would help the board to work better and open the door for dialogue.</p> <p>B. Maclean inquired about the task force’s recommendation. S. Hadley inquired about consensus implying discussion. She expressed misunderstanding the need for unanimity versus consensus. B. Abrams reviewed discussion from earlier meeting that in this situation the majority rules dynamic may not work the best. K. Murphy explained that they are trying to avoid a minority’s voice. The phone call ended at 7:05pm.</p> <p>B. Maclean explained her concern that MARAMTA is guided by <i>Robert’s Rules</i>. <i>Robert’s Rules</i> talks about a majority vote. If “unanimity” was adopted then it would deviate from <i>Robert’s Rules</i>. The task force consists of four members and if there is a stall with two members versus two members then the timing may delay an urgent issue. B. Hunter characterized issue that guidance must be given to four people that advise the Task Force. He expressed from a parliamentarian’s perspective that a group must have unanimous agreement. <i>Robert’s Rules</i> allows for groups to enact standards of rules – standing rules. He is not familiar with a prescription of unanimous agreement other than jury trials. His biggest concern is what to do when four people do not agree. B. Hunter mentioned that a fifth member may be added or a special rule may be instilled so that a designated person is the tie breaker, such as the regional president or chief officer. He finds the wording of unanimity extraordinary. B. Abrams explained the history of contingencies concerning problems related to consensus voting on this particular Council. He questioned whether members must come to a true consensus and argued that a majority vote is not necessarily a true consensus, and that, on this particular council a true consensus is important—not merely a majority vote, overriding a minority voice. D. Benkovitz shared that there must be give and take with meeting in the middle. She shared that the word covers people’s points of views. B. MacLean shared that it is stifling that the uncommon voice must change her or his initial perspective. Further discussion ensued about the divergence between entities. There may be a conundrum with pre-notice of a unanimous vote. G. Behrens shared that the unanimous sounds like it will force a perspective. B. Abrams responded and offered an alternative view that it will encourage agreement, which is necessary in this particular Council. Discussion also included the need for due process.</p> |
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Motion to strike number seven from the document “decision within the Advisory Council will be made unanimously with the intention that all parties are heard;” N. Galerstein. Motion failed. Motion to keep the word consensus; G. Behrens. Motion passes. Motion to add an eighth point about creating a policy for working together as a board that everyone has to sign off on as a council; G. Behrens. Motion carries. Motion for NJSTF to draft the policy mentioned in the eighth point – relevant language and present during the summer conference call; C. Blank. Motion carries.

| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
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| None identified. | n/a | n/a |
| MOTION TO ADJOURN | G. Behrens; motion carries. | |
| MEETING CLOSED | At 7:45pm | |
| NEXT MEETING | March 26, 2010 at MARAMTA Conference in Pittsburgh, PA | |