

**Montana Financial Education Coalition
Board of Directors' Meeting**

Friday, October 24, 2008
Montana Credit Union Network
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

(Action items in Bold)

Present: Karen Smith, Kelly Bruggeman, Marsha Goetting, Bruce Brensdal, Bob Vogel, Kelly Chapman, Laura Henton, Jolene Bach, Heather Keller, and Sue Woodrow.

Attending by conference call: Karen Nebel, Kaylee Porter, and Variny Paladino (National Jump\$tart Western States Regional coordinator).

A quorum was present.

MFEC President Karen Smith presiding.

- 1) **MFEC Board Resignations.** Karen reviewed the director resignations received during the last year due to job changes, retirements, and job responsibility changes. Resignations were received from Maria Valandra (First Interstate Bank), Norm Millikin (MCEE), Janet Harper (MCUN), Bob Pyfer (MCUN), Diana Fiedler (OPI), and Linda Henry (replacing Lindsay Daehlin from homeWORD).
- 2) **MFEC Director Replacements.** The board discussed a number of organizations that may offer good representation on the MFEC board, including OPI (**Bob Vogel will contact Linda Peterson**), Montana Legal Services (**Karen Smith will contact Michelle Hauer**), the Montana Indian Education Association (**Sue will contact Carol Juneau**), the FEFE Program (**Marsha will contact Nicole Chinadle**). The board also discussed the value of appointing an educator to the board. Directors are encouraged to bring forward ideas for this director position.

In addition, Jolene Bach has replaced Tom Jacobson as the director representing Rural Dynamics, Inc./CCCS MT.

- 3) **Review of Bylaws.** Karen raised a number of bylaw provisions for discussion and possible amendment. Following discussion, the board unanimously approved a motion for the following summarized provisions to be added or amended (**Karen will ask Bob Pyfer if he will draft the amendments**):
 - Director attendance – the Board will meet a minimum of four times per year. Directors are required to attend a majority of the meetings. Participation by conference call will constitute attendance. Directors may appoint representatives from their respective organizations to attend on their behalf, although consistency in representation is strongly encouraged.
 - Voting by proxy is permitted.

- Maximum number of directors will be reduced from 25 to 20.

4) **MFEC Board Officers Election.** The following new officers were elected by motion, with new terms to begin November 1, 2008:

- Jolene Bach – President
- Sue Woodrow – Vice President
- Karen Smith – Treasurer
- Kelly Bruggeman - Secretary

5) **2008 Workplan Review.** The following summarize the key highlights from the board’s workplan review:

- **Goal One, Objective Two** - deleted from the workplan Discussion Item: “Develop A Shared Teacher Program Pool”
- **Goal One, Objective Two** – Jolene will explore the possibility of currently committing one of RDI’s Americorp VISTA volunteers to work part-time as the MFEC coordinator, with the possibility of committing a full-time VISTA volunteer to this role beginning in July 2009. This would allow Jolene, as the new MFEC president, to have a VISTA volunteer working directly under her supervision serving as the MFEC coordinator. **Jolene will report back to the board as to whether this proposal can be implemented.**
- **Goal Two, Objective Four** – the board revisited the issues surrounding the term “partner.” Variny provided information about other Jump\$tart coalitions and how they label “partners, “members,” etc. Bob Vogel suggested the term “Friend of MFEC.” The board also discussed how to better communicate benefits of being a partner, friend, etc. **Jolene will contact Karen Anderson from the California JS to find out how they encourage partnerships.** As part of this discussion, social networking opportunities such as utilizing NING, FaceBook and My Space were also discussed. **Kelly Chapman will send information to the board about setting up a site in NING.**
- **Goal Two, Objective Five – Local Chapters:** Karen provided information about the Missoula Financial Educators’ Alliance and a new local group in Billings focusing on financial education. Sue noted that we need to be more proactive about ensuring that information and links for these types of local initiatives are put on the MFEC website.

Local Workshops: In addition, the board reviewed the format and interest shown in the four MFEC foreclosure workshops conducted in December and January. It was agreed that this format seems to work well, and that there would likely be interest for more foreclosure as well as investor workshops. A working group was created to begin planning local workshops on these topics: Bruce Brensdaal – chair, Karen Nebel, Laura Henton, Jolene Bach, Karen Smith, and Sue Woodrow. **Bruce will organize a planning call.**

- **Goal Three, Objective Three** – Karen shared information about the “211” service, and the board concluded that it is not a good fit for the MFEC. Accordingly, this item was deleted from the workplan.

- 6) **National JumpStart Update.** Variny provided a brief overview of initiatives, leadership changes, and events for the National JS. She encouraged attendance at the April 2009 JS Coalition Leaders' Conference in Washington D.C., and noted that there are discussions about hosting a Western States JS Leaders meeting in San Francisco in early 2009.
- 7) **National JS High School Survey.** Bob V. raised an issue about the challenges in recruiting high schools for the JS Survey. Of particular note, some school districts require permission at the district level for participation in surveys, which is a problem in recruiting school participation given the fairly short turnaround time to solicit participation. Variny noted that JS has heard that this is an issue in several states, and will raise this concern at the national level.
- 8) **Strategic Planning Session.** Karen discussed the need to hold a strategic planning session in the near future, and suggested that the board should utilize an outside facilitator to work with the board in this process. **Janet and Maria will provide contact and cost information for potential facilitators to Karen. Karen will send out a Meet-o-Matic notice to set a date for this session in late August or early October.**
- 9) **Helena Education Foundation.** Karen noted that she will be facilitating a "financial education" discussion table at the *Great Conversations* event in Helena in November.
- 10) **America Saves.** Kelly B. shared information about Yellowstone County's participation in the "America Saves" campaign. The board agreed to follow the progress of the county's initiative and add the initiative to the MFEC website.
- 11) **Financial Education Programs.** Kelly and Marsha shared, respectively, information about Susan Beacham's new program components, and the "Sammy Saves" program.

Before adjourning, the board thanked Karen for her leadership over the last two years. We are privileged to have Karen working for us and with us, and are grateful she will be continuing to serve with us on the MFEC Board.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Woodrow
Secretary pro tem

