

Vermont Education Health Initiative (VEHI)

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2018
By Conference Call

Present by phone: Tracy Wrend, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Jeff Fannon, Martha Gagner, Nicole Mace, Mark Hage, Laura Soares

Members of the Public: Darren Allen, Christopher Hood

The meeting was called to order at 1:58 p.m., by Chair Tracy Wrend, with no objections.

Authorize and Act on Engagement of MMR, LLC to provide VEHI Governmental Relations Services through the end of June, 2018

Tracy Wrend recommended the VEHI Board engage MMR, LLC to provide government relations services from now until the end of June, 2018, as outlined in the agreement provided to all Board members for review. The cost of these services is \$20,000 and funding is to come from FY 18 education funds allocated to the new health plan transition. The goal is to assist VEHI in providing accurate, factual and complete information regarding VEHI and to ensure VEHI has input into any legislation which will impact VEHI's ability to meet its Mission and obligations to our membership.

Martha Gagner made a motion, seconded by Nicole Mace to enter into the services agreement with MMR as presented.

Board members and trust administrators commented and asked questions.

- Jeff questioned why VEHI would engage a lobbyist at this time when we never have before.
- Laura reminded the Board that VEHI engaged a lobbyist, Charles Storrow of KSE Partnership, in 2016 to advance legislation to allow VEHI to continue its Mission in service to membership.
- Tracy recommended the Board ensure VEHI takes an active role in the proposals being considered and that accurate and complete information is provided regarding VEHI and its Mission.
- Mark asked when the process for selecting a firm was initiated and how the firm was selected. He also requested a written chronology of the timeline, individuals involved, and the decisions that led to the recommendation to engage MMR.
- Tracy Wrend contacted attorney Rob Halpert after the April 9th Board meeting when the VT-NEA proposal to replace VEHI was made public. Mr. Halpert made the recommendation of the firm.

- Jeff Fannon requested, and the Board supported, getting written confirmation from MMR that they do not have a conflict due to any other client relationships. Laura Soares will follow up on this request.
- Elizabeth Fitzgerald expressed her perspective that the VT-NEA proposal is not aligned with Jeff's fiduciary obligation to VEHI.

The motion passed by roll call (Jeff Fannon opposed).

Public Comment: Christopher Hood joined the meeting after it started and was provided the opportunity to comment. Mr. Hood asked where the funding to engage MMR was coming from and what VEHI's revenue sources are. The current FY budget has funding available for education related to the transition to new health plans to support these services. All VEHI's revenue is from premium contributions. VEHI collects premium contributions from the member municipalities. VEHI has some investment income as well.

Other Updates:

Laura Soares informed the Board that Manager of Finance Chris Roberts will provide March financials to the Board no later than tomorrow, and that the current estimates show the use of over 4.2 million from reserves in FY 18 due of the underpricing of the current plans.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Laura Soares