December 2023 Meeting Minutes for Green Mountain Self-Advocates

I. Meeting Details

Meeting Leader: Lisa Rudiakov, Board President

Date: December 18, 2023, Time: 10:05 AM EST, Location: on Zoom

Background Information: GMSA Officers and GMSA staff met virtually on December 17, 2023, for 75 minutes to prepare the agenda and meeting slides. As accommodation for board members with a disability, notes are recorded live on Google Slides by Max Barrows and Karen Topper and displayed on a shared screen by GMSA Staff. Click here to review the Google slides used for December 18, 2023. Staff monitor the chat and read comments from board members who prefer to type to communicate.

II. Members Present

We had a Quorum with the following 15 board members in attendance:

1. Christopher Dubeau
2. Erik Johnson
3. Gary Vyhnak
4. Heather Raymond
5. Jennifer Rainville
6. Levi Gardner, Vice-President
7. Lisa Rudiakov, President
8. Marjorie Burns
9. Taylor Terry
10. Tesha Thibodeau
11. Whitley Draper
12. Lehana Guyette
13. Ocean Streater
14. Nicole Villemaire, Secretary
15. Chad Cleverly, Treasurer

III. Absent

- Skye Peebles (excused)

IV. Call to Order

Agenda: President Lisa Rudiakov started the meeting at 10:05 AM EST.
Everyone introduced themselves and provided an update on local group activities. The meeting agenda was shared on screen and read by Lisa R. Chad C. asked that we discuss the agenda items listed but in a different order. Click here to see the agenda on slide #1 of the GMSA Board Meeting 12.18.23 slide document. The board members approved the agenda.

Minutes: Nicole V. reviewed the November minutes. GMSA staff clarified that an unexcused absence means a board member did not text, call or email to let us know they were unable to attend a meeting. Erik J. made a motion to accept the November 27, 2023, minutes as written. Seconded by Whitley D. Motion passed.

V. New Business

Financial Report: Chad C., GMSA Treasurer, presented a financial report. He reviewed the Balance Sheet and Statement of Activities (profit and loss) for the period ending 10.31.23. Chad explained why some categories were over or under budget. Answers to questions were typed in red text and displayed on the shared screen for all to see. The reports are included on slides #2 through #4 of the GMSA Board Meeting 12.18.23 slide document. In the future, GMSA will send financial reports a week before the meeting. Levi G. made a motion to accept the financial report. Marjorie B. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Retreat: The officers proposed that the Board should have an overnight retreat in March 2024. The purpose is to do strategic planning on expanding peer mentoring and hiring more staff for the new 5-year grant to work with high school students. For more details review slide #7 of the GMSA Board Meeting 12.18.23 slide document. Levi G. made a motion for the GMSA board members and
officers to hold a 2-day retreat at the Killington Grand Hotel in March 2024. Seconded by Erik J. 14 board members voted yes, and 1 board member abstained. The motion passed.

VI. Old Business

Conflict of Interest Policy: The board reviewed the GMSA Conflict of Interest Policy. It was read line-by-line. Last month the board recommended adding photos and boxes with examples. These changes were made. The 4-page policy is on slides #5 and #6 of the GMSA Board Meeting 12.18.23 slide document.

Jennifer R. made a motion to accept the updated Conflict of Interest policy. Seconded by Levi G. The Board unanimously approved the updated policy. The motion passed.

Voices and Choices Conference Committee: Lisa R. reminded board members that our conference committee meets the second Monday of each month from 10:30 to 12:00. Use the GMSA link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/905238684

See slide #8.

VII. Other Items

Health Issues: The board reviewed a list of health issues. They completed a poll to pick 4 topics they wanted more information on. See slide #9 for list of health issues.

Announcement: UVM is looking for people with disabilities who have done medical appointments with Zoom or over the phone. See slide #10 for details.

The next board meeting is on January 29, 2024, from 10:00 to 12:00.

VIII. Meeting Ends

President Lisa Rudiakov adjourned the meeting at 12:05 AM EST