PSMLA Executive Council Meeting  
via Zoom  
Sunday, January 23, 2022 2:00 p.m.


1. President Isabel Espino de Valdivia welcomed ExCo to the Zoom meeting, in particular new members Katy Geare and Mary Musselman as well as Rich Madel, Silvina Orsatti, and Natalie Puhala who are presenting proposals today.

2. Peer Mentoring Program—Rich Madel
   a. Rich made available in advance an outline of the Mentoring Program and would like to know the extent to which PSMLA is willing to work with the program.
   b. Rich’s recommendation: Since there is only 1 in-person meeting due to the large geographic area of Pennsylvania, he suggests
      i. It be held at the PSMLA annual conference and that PSMLA take over the overhead of the mentors and mentees including
         1. free registration to the conference
         2. pay for the publication needed (approximately $30)
         3. perhaps a breakfast meeting for them
      ii. Perhaps PSMLA/Conference Committee could recruit sponsors to pay for it.
      iii. A budget of $500 is requested to cover the costs for the first year.
      iv. Perhaps speakers could be brought in to interact with the mentors and mentees.
   c. Responses to questions
      i. If possible, the mentors and mentees would be in the same geographical area. As the proposal includes an in-person meeting 1 time per month which could be 1 on 1 or a classroom visit, this would be advantageous.
      ii. Rich’s vision is that the PSMLA Professional Development committee with the chair and committee together would assume overseeing the program. It would be an advantage to have the persons overseeing it rotate with the chair and membership of the committee. Rich is willing to work with the committee to get the program off the ground.
      iii. Comment: It would be an advantage to support new WL professionals, particularly since the number of graduates in the field is declining.
      iv. Rich’s recommendation would be that the mentee would have the opportunity to reapply after the first year though the mentors would only commit to a 1-year obligation.
      v. What happens after the 1st year? Is there any follow-up?
      vi. Some of a guiding process for the mentors is addressed in the Mentor Application.
      vii. There are 3 phases at the end of which the mentors and mentees submit a reflection on that period.
   d. Motion by Mike Bogdan: We approve the peer mentoring program as described in the document that Rich has shared. Seconded by John Grande. Motion passed.
3. 2023 Conference Proposal—Silvina Orsatti, Natalie Puhala, Debra Faszer-McMahon
   a. Seven Springs will be the venue (after having requested information from multiple SW PA venues.)
   b. November 2-4, 2023
   c. Reset – Recharge – Reconnect: Rediscover yourself in the language teaching community
   d. Retreat-like, lots of amenities, great meeting facilities, possible excursions, competitively priced
   e. 1 hour from Pittsburgh, easy and quick access from the Somerset and Donegal exits of the PA Turnpike
   f. Motion to approve by Wilma seconded by Karen.

4. PSMLA Mission and Vision presentation—Mike Bogdan (Strategic Plan Committee)
   a. Jen, Junko, Cherie, Christina, and Mike worked on updating the mission statement, updating wording and creating an infographic.
      i. Graphic is simple but has a lot of content.
   b. Committee motions approval of this new mission statement and infographic. Seconded by Isabel.
      i. Perhaps use intercultural in place of multicultural.
      ii. Motion amended to make said change.
      iii. Motion approved.

5. Jan brought ExCo up to date on the issues at hand at Greater Latrobe School District where the administration is considering offering only 1 language in-person and offering French and German online only. Jan will do a workshop with the World Language Department February 18 entitled “Empower, engage, and energize your students, your program, yourselves”.

6. Cherie and Wilma indicated that webinars will be offered in February as part of World Language Advocacy Month.

Meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Stewart
PSMLA Secretary