

**Volunteer Tennessee**  
**Quarterly Commission Meeting Minutes**  
Virtual Meeting via MS Teams  
January 28, 2021

Members in Attendance: Chairing: Donovan Robertson\* (proxy for Kriesky), Andrea Hill\* (morning only), Tina Hodges\* (morning only), Michael Hogan (TDS&HS) (morning only), Wanda Perry\*, Kane Reeves\* (afternoon only), Jason Scott\*, Terry Silver\*, Tracy Van de Vate\*, Amy Walter\*, Betty White\*, Eileen Wollam\*

Guests: Patrick Maloney (Teach for America-Memphis), Allison Moore (Relay Graduate School of Education),

Members not in Attendance: Stephanie Davis\*, Brittany Debitz-Barker\* (TDOE), Bobby Graves (TDM), Marjahna Hart (TDCS), Rick Kriesky\* (proxy), Buddy Lea (TDF&A), Heidi Leming (TBR), Greg Lyles\*, Lee Moten\*, Carol Oglesby (UTC), Nancy Schelin (TDEC), VACANT (CNCS, TDoH, TDHS, TDLWD, DMHSAS)

Staff: Shannon Duke, Neelam Gupta, Monica Hodges, Stephanie Houghton, Jim Snell, Daniel Sparkman

Quorum count: 10 (with proxies) of 25 (13 is quorum). (\*) indicates voting member

Chair Donovan Robertson called the January 28, 2021 board meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Jim Snell provided an explanation of how to conduct legislative education visits and an overview of the board member materials for Day on the Hill. The meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m. for board members, guests, and staff to transition to their first appointments with legislators.

Chair Donovan Robertson reconvened the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

Attendees participated in a brief round of introductions.

Discussion turned to feedback from Day on the Hill. Patrick Maloney and Allison Moore were happy to be a part of the Day on the Hill visits and have the opportunity to create awareness around their specific programs. Program staff commented that the legislators were very interested in their programs and issues around education.

Jason Scott mentioned that the focus area of the legislators aligned with many of Volunteer Tennessee's focus areas including K-3 reading.

Several board members indicated that legislators were very engaged throughout their meetings. A number of board members had visits to run over time due to the legislators' interest in Volunteer Tennessee.

Several state representatives and senators also indicated that they were supportive of VT's request for an additional \$35,000 to fund the Tennessee Serves portal. Tracy Van De Vate inquired about the inclusion of the \$35,000 request to Volunteer Tennessee budget. Jim Snell said that the status of the additional request may not be released until the Governor's State of the State address in February.

Amy Walter mentioned that the phone calls may have not been as engaging as a virtual visit. Board members, who partnered with program staff for meetings, indicated program presence enhanced the meeting. However, a few legislators did not know about the Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards.

Overall, board members were happy with the Day on the Hill process and materials provided. Jim Snell mentioned that the General Assembly was not in session this week, and this could have decreased the number of legislators available for phone calls and visits. The board had mainly positive interactions.

Jim Snell asked that board members include any requests or follow-up needed from the legislator visits in the follow-up form, which was previously provided.

Since there was no quorum, Jim Snell suggested that the minutes of the last meeting be voted on at the next board meeting. Chair Donovan Robertson agreed.

Jim Snell provided a brief update on the 2022-2024 State Service Plan process. Jim Snell plans to reach out to each committee for discussion about the 2022-2024 State Service Plan.

The next board meeting will be on May 21, 2021 to be held virtually.

Donovan shared a reminder about completing board meeting evaluations via a Survey Monkey link that Jim will send.

Donovan called for a motion to adjourn. Jason Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Eileen Wollam. Donovan adjourned the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

*Minutes prepared by Shannon Duke, Volunteerism & Training Manager, Volunteer Tennessee.*