Missouri Holocaust and Education Awareness Commission Meeting

September 1, 2023

ZOOM

M I N U T E S

Attendees: Dee Dee Simon, Commissioner

 Devy Goldenberg, Commissioner

 Lolle Boettcher, Commissioner

 Rabbi Yosef Landa, Commissioner

 Sam Devinki, Commissioner

 Dana Humphrey, Commissioner

 Brad Prager, University of Missouri

 Cammy Goucher, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

 Travis Plume, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

 Laura Vedenhaupt, Department of Higher Education

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Dee Dee Simon who asked for a moment of silence to remember all who suffered during the Holocaust.

Dee Dee requested permission to deviate from the agenda to introduce Travis Plume who took Bart Washer’s position at DESE. Laura added that this was her last meeting as she was retiring and that a new designee would be taking her place.

Sam Devinki provided the Mission Moment by reminding everyone of the Commission’s mission to educate about the Holocaust. He stressed the need to teach the lessons any time we have an opportunity whether it is to a group of teachers or to an individual. This is our job and we need to avoid politics when doing so.

Rabbi Landa will give the Mission Moment in November, followed by Devy and then Dana.

Minutes from the September 1, 2023, were approved. Lolle Boettcher made the motion and Devy Goldenberg seconded the motion.

**Committee Reports**

Education

Devy Goldenberg reported on several upcoming events at the Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum as well as USHMM programming. Sam added that his foundation sent eighteen teachers to the USHMM in July and they retuned very excited to take their learning into their classrooms.

Legislative

No report, but Sam Devinki shared news of a community in Kansas that recently held a meeting about adopting the international definition of antisemitism and it was a heated meeting.

Holocaust Education Sub-Committee

Lolle reported work of the sub-committee continues with a planned meeting the next week with partners Helen Turner from the Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum and Jessica Rockhold from the Midwest Holocaust Education Center.

Dana reported that she will be attending the first CHEC conference in February 2024 and will report after that meeting.

**Old Business**

Website Development

Dee Dee thanked Laura for all her work with Studio 2108 in getting the Commission website material up and running. She asked for volunteers to continue the work as Laura is retiring. Dee Dee asked Cammy to add a link to the site on the DESE page for the Commission. The Commissioners thanked Laura for her dedication to the Commission and wished her well in her retirement requesting she remain a friend of the Commission.

Yom HaShoah

Legwork and contacts for a Yom HaShoah program were reported by Devy, Lolle and Dee Dee. After several minutes of discussion, Lolle and Devy agreed to spearhead this effort and will have more details to report at the next meeting.

Holocaust Education Professional Development Workshop

Dee Dee reported the contract for the hotel has still not been approved but we are moving forward with the training in hopes it is approved in the next few weeks. Cammy reported 25 teachers have already been contacted to participate in the pilot program and are ready to begin. Dee Dee is working with Studio 2108 to set up a registration page with a link to the hotel registration. Participants will need to give a credit card to hold the room and in case of a no show, but the Commission will cover the hotel fees for them.

Additional Commission Members

Dee Dee emphasized the need to have a full Commission as we are now a working Commission and the workload is getting heavier. Jessica Rockhold from the Midwest Holocaust Education Center has recommended someone, and Helen Turner from the Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum has filled out an application. Dee Dee will contact Kyle Aubuchon in the Governor’s office for help as well.

**New Business**

Commission Database

Dee Dee asked for help with creating a database of contact information as we move forwad with professional development for teachers and Yom HaShoah programing. Laura stated that she and her replacement could fill this need for the Commission. Dee Dee will send her the data we currently have to get started.

FY 2024 Allocation

Dee Dee reminded the Commission of the allocated funds which need to be spent before the end of June 2024 to help with implementing the mandate. The focus this year is on teachers by providing in-person training and resources to teach the Holocaust. In addition to training, Dee Dee is exploring having on-demand training available on our website. She is looking into a possible partnership with Nine PBS and JM Ducey Educational Consulting and will report back at the next meeting.

DESE/Commission Communications

Dee Dee reported she will be having biweekly meetings with Travis to ensure an open line of communication with DESE. Travis has offered a meeting with the Commissioner, Margie Vandeven and Dr. Tracy Hinds to discuss the mandate and areas of responsibility.

One suggestion offered by DESE was to have the Commission partner with another institution (e.g. a university) to make our arrangements and avoid all the layers of approval. This would be at a cost of 10% of our allocation. After much discussion Brad and Travis will make some inquires and report back at the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned by Dee Dee with a reminder that the next meeting will be November 3, 2023 via ZOOM.