



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Special Commission on the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution

Education Subcommittee

State House, Boston 02133

Minutes– Virtual Meeting Education Subcommittee Meeting November 28th, 2022 -- 3:00pm

Members Present: Representative Roy, Casey Cullen, Tom Moreau, Michael Comeau, Abby Chandler, Scott Casper, Ryan Woods, Catherine Allgor, Paula Renkas; Guest: Jonathan Lane

Opening Roll Call

Chair Roy called the meeting to order at 3:02pm and welcomed the members. He then called the opening roll call.

Discussing with members topics the subcommittee may want to discuss & Curating a list of people/organizations the subcommittee would like to have speak at future meetings

Chair Roy asked members what topics and resources the group may want to keep in mind and bring in for future meetings.

- Jonathan Lane talked about the role his group Revolution 250 plays throughout the state. Education is a mandate, and they work with the MA Council of Social Studies, Professor Bob Allison, and host various summer seminars. Works with groups around Boston Tea Party, including the Ships & Museum, Revolutionary Spaces, and DESE. Works with K-12 educators about underrepresented voices and helping teachers to engage with this topic. 250th not just about big events and individuals, but also every town's records
- Michael Comeau stated local records are an untapped resource
- Catherine Allgor recommends MHS Staffer Dr. Alyssa Tardif, who coordinates History Day in Massachusetts, have an infrastructure that allows us to reach students across MA. National History Day, months long project, teaches not only history, but also the skills of a historian. Good use of money and capital, to engage the teachers, MHS shepherds around 6000 students through the program with two staff members

- Abby Chandler: Phi Alpha Theta, history honors society. Reaching out to network of advisors would be a good way to reach students at college level. National and Regional conferences, because so many in MA have chapters, each one has an advisor. Maybe Revolutionary War themed conference for students.
- Catherine Allgor: There is so much good history-based programming in MA, Scott Casper and MHS run some of it. For Subcommittee speakers, would not want it to be scholarly, want it to be people who will train teachers, train college students, leveraging infrastructure that already exists. Scaling up these things will require money.

Chair Roy stated that the goals of subcommittee should be to identify resources are out there, see how to leverage exists infrastructure and make recommendations to the full commission request for money to finance these ideas.

- Michael Comeau: Looking at teachers professional development , have teachers come in using the proper resources, materials and resources. Low cost to no cost approach by using archives. With that, looking to use archivist lens of the Black experience during the Revolution, and important use of primary resources. Chair Roy asked if Michael Comeau can outline what is available to the committee from the Archives. Michael Comeau said yes he will.
- Casey Cullen: National Conference of Social Studies coming to Boston in 2024, leading the local arrangements committee, bringing 4000-5000 teachers to MA in 2024, at the Hynes Convention Center.

Determined by the Subcommittee that there are four main buckets to look at when considering the mission of the Education Subcommittee:

- K - 6th Grade
- 7th - 12th Grade
- College
- Adult
- Great need for K-6 curriculum and resources, and how do we make it applicable to all communities, education isn't a monolith, many different ways to leverage these different opportunities.
- Tom Moreau: Bring somebody in from DESE, getting people to come in and talk about PDPs how they fit in, explaining how curricula fits in the framework fits in all of this, and where the leverage points are. Also, a curation process, examine curriculum materials used in local schools across the country to identify best curriculum materials out there
- Civics projects that are required by recent legislation to get students involved, some money that goes to districts, different type of civics project
- Casey Cullen :Getting Social Studies department for DESE before subcommittee and the Mass Civic Learning Coalition (MCLC)
- Paula Renkas: Town history records, local historical societies provide us with a lot of information, see what they have to offer
- Jonathan Lane; Adult learners, Bob Allison can speak to Harvard extension school Road Scholar program. Also, involving high schoolers to recreate the MA Provincial Congress, in Fall of 2024. Talk with MCLC about that

- Scott Casper: Worcester has a continuing ed program for older adults, programs all over the Commonwealth and may be an existing infrastructure to tap into
- Ryan Woods: For Adult learners, you have the family history community. New England Genealogical Society does many programs with great attendance including events on the Boston Tea Party and Black Soldiers in colonial conflict. Also, not strictly genealogical, events like a Samuel Adams biography presentation, free and open to the public. Also have a partnership with GBH, so some programming published on their platforms.
- Chair Roy: Adult history camps that take place, what is the reputation of that group?
 - Abby Chandler replied: good reputation, great way of getting hold of adult learners, most of the people who attend are there for the love of history.

Setting frequency of subcommittee meetings/Possible future dates

Chair Roy proposes a 6-week timeframe for Subcommittee meetings, so that the group would meet two times per Full Committee meeting. The focus of speakers in these meetings will be on the “how” to do something, for the various buckets and groups that have been realized

- Chair Roy: Members of the Legislature need to be informed of what is happening, and why they should invest the Commonwealth’s money into these initiatives. These recommendations should then help the full Commission make those asks.
- Casey Cullen asked a question about restrictions in partnering with non-profits -- Chair Roy stated that the Legislature works with nonprofit groups all the time, if they are a resource and they can add value we can bring them in.

Closing Roll Call

Chair Roy called the closing roll call at 3:56pm. All who were present for opening roll voted, except for Abby Chandler who left previously.