

**West Allis-West Milwaukee Education Association
Executive Board Meeting
February 4, 2004**

Present: Lynn Herbst, Laurel Key, Michelle Knaflic, Chad Lehman, Beth Ludeman, Monique Mistele, Dale Mrotek, Sandra Nass, Kathy Poppa, Gary Stewart, Julie Stringer, Barry Thompson, Sandra Topper, Linda Ziefle.

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. at the UEP Building.

The minutes were approved with a correction to note that Herbst will resign from the Grassroots Committee only after finding a replacement.

President's Report: Lynn Herbst

- .The raffle to benefit the Lyons-Martens' family is going well.
- .Reminder about the Blood Drive at Frank Lloyd Wright on March 3.
- .Thanked Sandra Topper for Scholarship Fund work and the delivery of the t-shirts and sweatshirts to the January RA, despite being ill.
- .Due to Parent-Teacher conferences, the Labor Management meeting has been changed to 3:30 on February 25 at Parkway.
- .Teachers will receive a DRAFT of the 2004-2005 calendar and a joint communiqué at the February 9 faculty meetings.
- .With regard to PI 34 and the mentoring component, teachers interested in mentoring should note that the Sally Ride Academy will include a mentor training class.
- .WEAC's Political Action Committee indicated the main local political action issue is the re-election of David Cullen.
- .Discussion regarding Jill Miller's email suggesting that a John Edwards' campaign worker come to speak at the next RA. Suggestion that Crisis Committee set an open date in April or May at the UEP for members of the entire West Suburban Council to attend an open forum including representatives from any/all candidates or their representatives. Referred to Cathi Probst/Crisis Committee.
- .Shared a letter from the Republican National Committee which highlighted the federal tax cuts and the ESEA (NCLB) education law.
- .Discussed the continuing MIT - WEAC controversy.
- .UEP Building meeting will include a proposal to change printing cost charges from 10 to 20 cents for color and from 3 to 10 cents for black and white.

Vice President's Report: Cathi Probst

.Absent

P R and R: Secondary : Cathi Probst(absent)/Sandy Nass

- .Sandy Topper moved and Kathy Poppa seconded move to executive session at 4:27 p.m.
- .Sandy Topper moved and Linda Ziefle seconded move out of executive session at 4:32 p.m.

P R & R Elementary: Gary Stewart

- .Some issues have been settled.
- .Receiving fewer telephone calls. Believes the communication model is being used to resolve issues when possible.
- .Nass also noted positive resolutions to meetings.

.Herbst commented on good working relationship with Superintendent.

Negotiations: Beth Ludeman

.Joint communiqué will be issued and the DRAFT of the 2004-2005 calendar will be released at the February 9 faculty meetings.

.Noted that the calendar is a part of the contract and is NOT set in stone until the contract is ratified.

.Discussion about possible calendar changes. Nass indicated it is a tentative agreement among the parties.

.Question about how parent teacher conferences are selected was explained by Nass. The District determines the range of weeks and the number of days/nights and the buildings decide the specific dates for their buildings.

.Question about people retiring under the old contract and if their retirement benefits will be altered if a new contract is signed this year. Nass explained that reducing benefits usually happens in the future, not retroactively.

.Ludeman commented on the fruitful and creative manner in which the bargaining is proceeding.

Membership: Linda Ziefle

.Final building rosters will be sent out just before the March elections.

.Membership changes will be sent to WEAC in order to secure full representation at the WEAC RA in April.

.Appreciates assistance in tracking people who go on leave and return in order to maintain up-to-date records for dues purposes.

.West Suburban Council President: Linda Ziefle

.Will attend WEAC February 7 meeting regarding New Business #9.

.Will attend WEAC Board Meeting on February 20. Let her know of concerns to take to the meeting.

.Will attend Jefferson Jackson Dinner on February 14.

Treasurer: Dale Mrotek (Interim)

.Explained the budget, including Executive Board expenses, communications model training fees, balance of account.

.Explained that many expenses are end-loaded.

Political Action: Laurel Key

.Outlined the WEAC political action plan to support David Cullen.

Beginning September 1, there will be a kickoff for his campaign with a UniServ goal of \$500. On September 8, each building rep will receive a packet at the RA. From October 4-21, money will be collected and on October 22, the contributions will be presented to him. Cullen is a supporter of education and this is an important race.

.School board candidate interviews were conducted by the team on January 24 and 26. The candidates running for school board who were interviewed included Daniel Barbian, Edward Keever, Jerry Kucharski, Joanie Luedke, Michael Smith, Susan Stalewski, Marie Williams and Darlene Ziemendorf

The interview team included Laurel Key, Barry Thompson, Jill Miller, Paul Elliott, Pam Hazen, Donna Tanzer, Michelle Knaflic, and Mike Sparacino. The questions asked covered a range of questions related to

education from the QEO to program cuts, health insurance, testing, vouchers, etc.

.The interview team will wait until after the primary is held. At that point, they will meet to determine if a candidate/s will be endorsed.

Legislative: Michelle Knaflic

.Charter school legislation will be voted on this week in the senate.

Members should call legislators and voice their opposition to this bill, which would give public funds to charter schools.

.AB725 is a bill which would take away the requirement for every school District to employ a Reading Specialist. A hearing is scheduled for February 10. WEAC encourages its members to lobby against this bill.

.Herbst called a break at 5:52. The meeting resumed at 6:02.

Public Relations: Monique Mistele

.Thanked Mrotek, Topper, and Popa for work on the Lyons-Martens raffle.

.Press coverage is anticipated for Irving events.

.Mrotek asked that Executive Board members who receive the collected raffle money have the person who collected the money sign off on the amount they are giving to the Executive Board member. This confirms the dollar amounts for both parties.

.Computer set-up problems continue for Stewart and Mistele. Stewart will contact Melka for computer documentation.

Executive Director: Sandy Nass

.There were two nonrenewals of probationary teachers.

.An altercation between a student and a teacher is in the investigative stage.

.Thirty one people applied to retire and received confirmation letters along with benefits information.

.Work on resolution of counting continuous years of service will begin with individuals retiring and then follow through with other teachers affected by this issue.

Directors:

Director: Chad Lehman

.Friends of Education nomination forms are out and due back to Lehman on March 1. The Recognition Dinner is April 28.

Director: Kathy Popa

.Thanked Mrotek for his work on the Lyons-Martens raffle.

.The website will be maintained by Carter, Popa, Lehman and Stringer.

Director: Barry Thompson

.Contacted Jean Ritchie to begin the preliminary planning for the Spring Recognition Party to be held on May 7 at Greenfield Park.

Director: Sandy Topper

.Thanked Mrotek for his work on the Lyons-Martens raffle.

.Will continue to work on scholarship fundraisers with a variety of clothing items.

Elections: Julie Stringer

.Nominations for the upcoming election were received. Stringer has contacted nominees to obtain their acceptance. She is waiting for some responses and there are positions in need of nominees.

Unfinished Business

.None

New Business

.Thompson moved that a local dues increase of \$20 per full time teacher be proposed at the February RA. Ziefle seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition. The proposal will be on the February RA agenda.

.WEAC President Stan Johnson joined the meeting for a brief explanation about the February 7 meeting regarding New Business #9. Local Presidents will gather together on February 7 to discuss their level of commitment from 1 to 3. There is flexibility in a local changing its level of commitment over time. At the state level, local leaders will meet with others at their same level of commitment to decide on activities. Working in this way means that the actions planned will not be "one size fits all."

.Herbst discussed the responses she received about New Business #9.

.Ziefle moved that the association make a level one commitment. Lehman seconded the motion. Discussion followed.
.The motion passed unanimously.

.Mrotek expressed appreciation to Tax Shelter Representatives Paul Nowak and John Shalek for covering the printing costs for the Lyons-Martens raffle tickets and flyers.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Rosenthal, Secretary