

**West Allis-West Milwaukee Education Association
Executive Board Meeting**

January 7, 2004

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. at the UEP Building.

The December 3, 2003 Executive Board meeting minutes were approved with a minor correction.

President's Report: Lynn Herbst

.The Grassroots Committee will meet January 15 at Parkway. Due to a work overload, Herbst plans to remove herself from this committee.

.At the December Labor-Management meeting, Herbst presented Dayne and Wachholz with the summary of teacher comments by building regarding how the Communications Model is working.

.Future meetings: PTA Council, January 7: Stringer; February 4: Ludeman.

School Board meetings: January 12: Stringer; January 26: Probst and Frank Lloyd Wright Middle School; February 9: Mistele, Lehman, West Milwaukee Middle School; February 23: Probst and Irving School.

.Encouraged everyone to complete the WEA Trust survey online at www.weatrust.com. It is confidential; participants receive \$25; and the Wellness Committee can receive a grant.

.WEAC 2004 Winter Conference is February 27-29, 2004 at Paper Valley in Appleton. Provides a variety of training workshops and other programs. Ziefle noted that the West Suburban Council has two coupons to save money on the registration.

.NEA Convention is July 2-7 in Washington, D.C. Dale Mrotek is running as a retired delegate.

.On January 14 the RA will be held at Frank Lloyd Wright Middle School.

.Let Herbst know if interested in running or being appointed to Association positions for our upcoming election.

.Madison School District Teachers' Association (MTI) has filed a lawsuit against WEAC following WEAC's refusal to let the South Central Association membership join MTI, after their UniServ was dissolved.

.Herbst read a thank you letter from Anita Wobst for the 30 year anniversary gift she received from the Association.

Parliamentarian and Elections: Julie Stringer

.Ed Doemland will assist Stringer in preparing for the upcoming Association election.

Nominations papers will be available at the January 14 RA. Need to be returned to Stringer in two weeks. Election is in March. Positions include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Directors.

Vice President and Secondary P R & R: Cathi Probst

- .The Crisis Committee will not meet in January, but will meet later to plan activities.
- .A case involving possible nonrenewal of probationary teacher will be examined by Probst, Nass and the teacher.
- .Incident discussed involving a parent, several teachers and an administrator.
- .Incident discussed involving a teacher and the selling of school district equipment.
- .Follow-up on a serious classroom disruption involving an EEN student.
- .Question regarding work schedule of an Early Bird Class teacher and that teacher's participation in CTP at Central.

Elementary P R & R: Gary Stewart

- .Resolution of elementary prep time minutes will be handled by the buildings for the remainder of this year. The time issue will be rectified by the District next year.
- .Discussion regarding two incidents involving parent/teacher/administrator meetings.
- .Discussion regarding starting and ending time of after school meetings which involve travel to another building.

Negotiations: Beth Ludeman

- .Bargaining dates: January 14, January 19 and February 13.
- .Noted that the bargain has not been contentious, as was alluded to in previous years.
- .Bargain did not start until September due to state budget issues. Many meetings have been informative regarding health insurance, the budget, and other factors.
- .Last spring's survey has been used to work on tentative calendar. Calendar will likely be released soon.

Treasurer: Dale Mrotek (Consultant)

- .Association dues for income tax purposes will be printed in the newsletter. Teachers working January-June, 2003: \$354 and September-December, 2003: \$242.80 for a total of \$596.80 for teachers who worked for the entire (2003) year.
- .Explained December budget.

Political Action: Laurel Key

- .School Board candidates include Daniel Barbian, Edward Keever, Jerry Kucharski, Joanie Luedke, Michael Smith, Susan Stalewski, Marie Williams, and Darlene Ziemendorf.
- .Candidate interviews will take place January 24. The primary is February 17.
- .If the Association decides to endorse any candidate(s), Key will notify Herbst, who will inform building reps at their home email address prior to the February RA. All members will be asked to participate in a Lit Drop on the behalf of any candidates which are endorsed.

Legislative: Michelle Knaflic

- .Legislative report for December was not in the Newsletter, possibly due to a computer crash. Will re-submit it for publication in next Newsletter.
- .There will be federal government easement on some NCLB regulations for special education.

.Some states have refused federal money in order to exempt themselves from NCLB.
.Some states are filing lawsuits against the federal government due to the financial burden of NCLB.

Public Relations: Monique Mistele

.Noted successful hats and mittens program at West Milwaukee.

West Suburban Council President: Linda Ziefle

.Will write a newsletter article to explain how to become a delegate to the Democratic Convention, July 26-29 in Boston.

.John Sage will give a financial(tax) presentation for teachers on January 20 at 4:30-6:30 p.m.

.On January 21, the West Suburban Council RA will be visited by the WEAC Uniserv Relations Committee. All Association members may attend.

.Gale Gonzales (WEAC) will meet with the West Suburban Council on January 27 to consider political action activities in West Allis.

Membership: Linda Ziefle

.Updated building rosters will be sent out by the end of the week. Lists will be used for upcoming election.

.Will write a letter to a teacher resigning at the end of the semester to request WEAC dues.

.Plans to resign as Membership Chair at the end of this year. Ziefle will present recommendations for filling the position.

Executive Director: Sandy Nass

.Issue discussed regarding a probationary teacher who will not be renewed.

.Issue discussed regarding a probationary teacher on leave and how to handle resulting complications.

.Age discrimination suits were forwarded to WEAC Legal. Legal's response is being sent to the individuals involved.

.December Retirement Forum was successful with 130 people attending.

Directors

Director: Chad Lehman

.Friends of Education nomination forms will be out next week. Due back to Lehman at the end of the day, March 1. One person per building may be nominated. April 28 is the Recognition Dinner.

Director: Kathy Popa

.Displayed Lyons-Martens Benefit raffle flyer and ticket design. No raffle authorization yet. Cannot proceed without one. Nass will check into this.

.Needs to meet with committee to complete work.

.Raffle timeline: campaign in February and raffle drawing in March.

Director: Barry Thompson

.60 Minutes will present a program about the Houston School District and their test results on January 7, 2004.

Director: Sandra Topper

.Sweatshirt order is expected to arrive and be distributed at next week's RA.

New Business

.Discussion regarding the Dottke School request for a monetary contribution to the "Can You Dig It" fund to improve the school building's appearance.

.Topper moved that in order to promote our community involvement, all future donations requested and granted will be presented to the party and photographed for publication at a designated RA meeting. Probst seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Unfinished Business

.Herbst discussed the top five strategies for increasing member involvement:

1. Hold some type of a social function.
2. Hold RA meetings back in the District.
3. Experienced, non-probationary involved Association members should each mentor a new member.
4. Advertise our successes and promote the positive, both in the Newsletter and on our website.
5. Encourage more direct communication by building reps at their schools.

.Discussion regarding some things which are already being done and things which could be done. Ludeman suggested tying together 1,3,5 into a beginning of the year social to bring together seasoned building reps and new teachers. Topper suggested an Association picnic on one of the New Teacher Inservice days. Ludeman volunteered to organize the event and Topper and Mistele agreed to assist.

.Herbst noted point 5 needed to be addressed directly with the building reps in order to have their input.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Barbara Rosenthal, secretary