

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

March 3, 2004

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. at the UEP Building.

The February minutes were approved as printed.

President's Report: Lynn Herbst

.School Board meetings: March 8: Gary Stewart and Pershing Elementary; March 22: Gary Stewart and Jefferson Elementary School. Beth Ludeman and Cathi Probst said they would try to be available to attend a future School Board meeting if an assigned Executive Board member is unable to attend.

.Anita Wobst is on vacation from March 29 until her return on April 5.

.Shared WEAC award information for School Bell Awards and Outreach Awards.

.Ludeman, Stringer and Herbst attended the WEAC Winter Conference last weekend. Learned about many issues. WAWMEA is ahead of many districts because the ICON communications model is in place. Will try to have Fred Everet speak on the topic of WEA Trust insurance information at a future RA.

.The Journal Sentinel published Ziefle's letter to the editor.

.A member questioned having businesses and individuals, including spouses of teachers, using school mailboxes for advertising. Will review under Unfinished Business.

Vice President and P R & R Secondary: Cathi Probst

.Gave her lobbying presentation to one person on March 2.

.A teacher/student discipline issue is being reviewed.

.A teacher will be transferred to another school and two other teachers' responsibilities will be adjusted in order to accommodate this change.

Elections: Julie Stringer

.Elections Packets were distributed to Executive Board members to take to their schools.

.There is a local election packet and a NEA state delegates election packet. All ballots are due to Central H.S. by 4:30 on March 12, 2004.

.Herbst will send an email on Thursday to explain the elections and voting procedures.

.Ludeman and Herbst have provided a list of recommendations for state delegates.

.Attended the WEAC Winter Conference last weekend. Previewed the WEAC video about ESEA (NCLB) and would like to obtain copies to show to local groups.

.Noted that WEAC is attempting to be open and responsive to all school district concerns and problems throughout the state.

P R and R Elementary: Gary Stewart

- .Age discrimination case will not be pursued based on legal analysis of situation. However, Stewart will talk to Nass about an appropriate follow-up.
- .Patterns of employee absenteeism is being reported to building principals. Discussion regarding use of information by building principals. Question regarding a teacher who had a medical excuse.
- .Will consider writing a newsletter article about how teachers can prepare to intercede or assist if they are nearby and witness a sudden “difficult” teacher/student confrontation.

Negotiations: Beth Ludeman

- .The Bierbauer awards were given to the Kenosha Education Association and to Ron Schultz, Cuba City negotiator, for excellence in bargaining.
- .Continued progress with local negotiations.

Treasurer: Dale Mrotek

- .Miscellaneous income is from raffle donations.
- .Noted that line 36 reflects money that will flow through to WEAC, NEA and West Suburban Council.
- .Line 59 will be covered by Paul Nowak, one of the TSA representatives.

Director: Kathy Popa

- .Kisses from Heaven raffle will be held at the March 10 RA. There are many nice prizes. Plan to present a check to Peggy Lyons-Martens at the next Executive Board meeting. There will be a newsletter article.

Political Action: Laurel Key

- .The Interview team met to discuss the School Board interviews and possible endorsements. Discussion regarding candidates' interview responses.
- .Mistele moved that the Association endorse Susan Stalewski, Jerry Kucharski and Joanie Luedke. The motion was seconded by Lehman. The motion passed unanimously.
- .Key will notify the candidates and the press and announce the endorsements at the March 10 RA.

Legislative: Michelle Knaflic

- .Will have an article in the newsletter about current issues.
- .Discussed Secretary of Education Ron Paige's remarks in which he characterized NEA and teachers as “terrorists.” Go to WEAC online for information and to email Paige. The Cyberlobby makes it easy to contact legislators.
- .Shared PTA parent survey regarding important public school issues.

Public Relations: Monique Mistele

- .Will have an article in the newsletter.
- .March 10 RA is at West Milwaukee Middle School.

.Lisa Colla and Sarah Allen received Kohl Educational Foundation Teacher Fellowship Awards.

.Tom Schutz would like more publicity for school events, possibly including Executive Board member presentations at School Board meetings. Herbst will check with Wachholz.

Executive Director: Sandra Nass (absent; Herbst reporting)

.There were no post probationary nonrenewals.

Tom Reynolds' chief aide has communicated that they would like to work with educators on a variety of issues not related to school financing.

Director: Chad Lehman

.Received Friends of Education nominations. Twelve buildings sent nominations this year. Probst moved that the nominations be accepted. Topper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

.Attached is a list of Friends of Education awardees.

Director: Barry Thompson

.Tom Schutz would like to interview and do newspaper articles about people who are retiring and who would share their teaching career memories. Discussion followed.

.Plans continue for the May 7 Spring Recognition Party.

Director: Sandra Topper

.There will be one more Spirit wear sale this spring. Will include long and short-sleeved denim shirts and tee shirts. Will look into purchasing a quantity of travel coffee mugs.

Unfinished Business

.Discussion about advertising and sale of products and services via school mailboxes and in the staff lounge. Will follow-up.

New Business

.Topper opened a discussion about how elementary school Orientation Day/Open House will be handled next fall.

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.